

## Mr. Farid Khan

**Interviewer:** Mr. Farid Khan, kindly tell us that at the time of partition, whatever environment you had seen and experienced around you, would you like to explain that for us, that how it was, hindus, sikhs, muslims were living together, all about that.

**Mr. Farid Khan:** Yes, before partition, all of them were living together, but suddenly during 1946-1947, people got evil, then Muslims and Hindus started collapsing each other. Because, in that area, Muslims were in majority, so the Muslims started killing them. They started burnt their houses. Some of them came out of their houses to rescue their lives that there was a river near them, they climbed into the river, some succeeded to rescue their lives and some brutally murdered there during 1947. In our village, there was no Hindu community living there, but there are three or four villages separately of Hindus, but overall the population of this area of our village was majority Muslims. They all came across to each other and gathered in a crowd and started they burnt out their houses. They kidnapped the ladies of them. Some people kept a few of those ladies with them and right now they still have the children from those ladies and a few of them also have those children there in Pakistan. Later, it came to know that a few of them succeeded to rescue them that later came to know by the others as well. So, there were a lot of open killings during the partition, which we are the eyewitness of that. At that time, there was not a lot of infrastructure. There was the only road that leads from Calcutta to Sri Nigar, then from Sri Nagar to Jammu Kashmir. That was on the road source of transportation. Besides that there were no more roads, so the people started moving on their feet, so due to that typical hurdle, they faced a lot of losses. So, these are all the moments, which I am eyewitness of.

**Interviewer:** What would you say, if all that started in a reaction of something or they decided that these people have to move away now, so they started snatching around, what is your opinion about that?

**Mr. Farid Khan:** Actually what was happened is that, in a couple of days, a few bunches of pakhtoons suddenly arrived, and they started raid. They did not make a difference that who was hindu and who was muslim, they started killing them, robbed their jewelry, tear off their clothes, this and that, robbed everything they had. During that all scene, the local people joined them. It came to know that as these bunch of people are pakhtoons and as they are Muslims, so what was actually the concept between Hindus and Muslim already there, it was the concept of believers and non-believers. According to that concept, the local muslim bunches joined the pakhtoons bunches, so all this happened, but when all of those bad people moved away from here, so the arrangements were made by the government, so that some hindus were kept in camps and transport provided to them. When they were transported and there was no community of them there, then Pakhtoons again attacked the remaining people there. In that all scenario, then the military support was taken, and then also Pakistan army was asked to help. As at that time, army was not as much strong or organized. The wise people of the area finally called the army and told them that here people are killing them. Whoever passes through,

they shot them down and snatch everything. So, army played there role and fought against them. After that, army arrested the remaining and then the situation gets controlled.

**Interviewer:** As you told that there the camps were installed for the refugees, so all that was in this area of Hathiyawala or somewhere else?

**Mr. Farid Khan:** No, it was everywhere like away from Hathiya, or Garhi Dupatta, or Chinari, so the area was confined up to Chinari. Away from Chinari around Chakothi area, the all area was occupied by Indian army. So these were only the areas, but that all had not taken too much time, this all process concluded within two months. After that, bunches of Pakhtoons were also controlled by the army, so after that position called normal.

**Interviewer:** What were the situations before 1946, what were the relations between Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus etc?

**Mr. Farid Khan:** Everything was normal; they all were just like brothers. Everyone was peaceful there. No one had any issues with the others.

**Interviewer:** So, as you were 17-year-old at that time, and were school going, so there were also hindus-muslims children in the school, although teachers were all Hindus there.

**Mr. Farid Khan:** There was no issue with anyone at that time and everything in general was normal.

**Interviewer:** What do you think, what actually this division was beneficial to Muslims?

**Mr. Farid Khan:** Well, in my opinion, as a whole, Muslims were not actually benefited, but the elite class of that era became super-elite, those were benefited. General people were not benefited at all. General men were poor at that period of time, and are still poor this time too. At that time, element of corruption was not as much, but now a days it is. All the evil and bad things that are now prevailing in the society were not there during that period of time. So, the bad element of that partition is that, we had a claim and goodwill about Pakistan as our native country that Pakistan will be like a country where we will live by peace of mind and will face no bad heads or people brutality. There will be no comparativeness and we will live like a freedom nation, and we will flourish, and prosperity will come to us and poverty will be alleviated etc. etc., this all happened but just for the elite class. Elite class has almost robbed this land of Pakistan, and has shaken the prosperity of the country. So, the general public of Pakistan has not gained any benefits of that nation division done in 1947, but the current elite class is only benefited, and also they have also filled out the bank accounts aborad and have made the local banks empty. History is witness that till the time of partition, not a single person could not be a general, and now we have a huge number of generals that we cannot create of list of that single seat. Right now, everything of benefits is moving towards the powerful countrymen and there is no other direction of that, so it is resulted now that the

malfunction of the society cannot be corrected all of a sudden in a short period of time. Everything is prevented now, so it means that we say it like there is no solution of any problem. So, there is always needs a revolution, but now a days the revolution itself also has moved away from the backdoor, there is no time of easy revolution because it is going towards the civil war, so when the civil war will happen, then there will be a general assassination. Now days, in the society, if a wise man tries to search and brings the solution to the problems, it gets more and more problematic. As a result, it all lost the actual thing in effort to correct the problem, so glitches are there here. I would like to give you a credit specifically to you people, that you guys are actually doing a bona fide effort that you are trying to do something better for the society, but whether this can be successful or not, it can't be. There is not even a question of that because there are no implementations. No one will at least listen the issues beneath of that; even this all will be irrelevant. You have also a keen eye on the society's behavior and you know that there is a malfunction that this malfunction cannot be repair easily even that all is irreparable.

**Interviewer:** So, you mean to say is that it needs a grand operation for that?

**Mr. Farid Khan:** No, no, listen, I know that a grand operation means, an operation at least from 50 years back, when the people had one thing in mind about revolution and revolution is basically for the betterment of society, means a malfunctioned and decayed system needs a replacement, but now a days replacement is not possible. A benevolent dictator, who has power and coverage to change and correct the society and is beneficial to the society, but it couldn't happen. Now, all the elite classes are multi-facet. The landlords, or tribal heads are now industrialists and capitalists, and they have a lot of layers of responsibilities, so it is not easy to open tied strands. Later on, they get alliance with the ruling classes, defense forces alliance with them as well, and all of this have effects to the society.

**Interviewer:** Sir, thank you so much for sharing your memories with us. It was so good interviewing you.