

## Sheikh Gulam Hussain

**Interviewer:** Basically, this is a research program for the university students. So, would you please allow us to interview you?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Absolutely, yes.

**Interviewer:** So, kindly tell us that what were the situations and conditions at that time.

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** The environment was already not going well because Hindus had snatched everything from the Muslims. Hindus have had divided the areas from the snatching point of view and from killings aspect and it was trending there. Because we were kids at that time. Our family men were also ready to defend them as well. So, we prepared every sharp weapon we had with us including axes and knives. There was a town of Sikhs named Nainsukh, when reached to an area near Nainsukh, we saw that all the Sikhs were grouped in one having guns and swords with them. We passed through then and then after a few steps away from them, we started running. The next day we came to know that the army of Dogra Raja is on the way with seven cars, left from Hathiya area so that may block the groups of Pakhtoons. In that instance, all the Muslim families gathered at one place to move from there towards our destination.

**Interviewer:** The area where you were basically living, you were all Muslims living there?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Yeah, we were all Muslims. Basically, the Hathiya area was basically belonging to Hindus. There were all Hindus except a couple of houses of Muslims, but here in our area there was no hindu at all and also a couple of other areas were occupied by the Hindus.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember, was there any camp for these Hindus or Sikhs?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** No, no there were no camps at all, actually there were not allowed to set camps there anywhere. Everyone was just running here and there to safe his or her life from each other.

**Interviewer:** So, the maximum of Hindus or Sikhs were moved towards Srinagar.

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Yes, they were moved towards Srinagar. A few of them were killed. People, who kept staying in this area, were killed.

**Interviewer:** As the division was declared and done for both Muslims and Hindus, then why there were killings started, why they not moved to their areas without creating any problems or issues like killing everyone in their ways?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** As you know, there were Hindu-Muslims conflicts. Even these conflicts were not before that division, but when this thing declared that division is gonna happen, then they Hindus stolen everything from the Muslims even a single knife as well. So, the prejudice was there even before division matter. Even the British troops were also in support of Hindus in case of killings of Muslims and there was no relief for the Muslims in case of protection.

**Interviewer:** Anything you remember or if you recall your memory from any perspective.

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** As we were kids at that time, so we had not witnessed anything more than that because were not allowed to go out of our houses in any case.

**Interviewer:** How do you come to know that country is now divided?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** It was already circulated in the area that was a separated Nara for both the nations. As even we were kids, but still there were voices in ears from the surroundings that it will be divided and separated one day.

**Interviewer:** So, you have seen the entire environment before and after the partition, what do you think that this division proven good for both the nations?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Obviously, it was a better decision, because Muslims are a separate nation with their own dignity from Islam's perspective. I would must tell that even Azan was not allowed to speak in the Hindus era, even Muslims were not allowed to construct a Masjid, but the Muslims were still very much emotional from the point of view of Islam and they declared that we will see who will not allow us to construct a Masjid there and why we are not allowed to consider a few area to be covered for Masjid's construction. Still Hindus forced the Muslims not to construct. So what the Muslims were permitted to construct a Masjid was that the Masjid will be constructed with no roof on top and with only three-wall with fourth one wall neglected.

**Interviewer:** You mean this sort of difference was there between the Muslims and Hindus.

**Interviewer:** So you think that this was such a right decision from the Muslims point of view, of division.

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Yes it was, but yet it is not completed yet as you can see the occupied Kashmir now, that had to be the part of Pakistan. So I also must say that many mistakes also happened during the division where a couple of other areas are now also the part of India including this Kashmir as well.

**Interviewer:** Anything you remember besides that?

**Sheikh Ghulam Hussain:** Well, whatever environment, what were killings we had witnessed at that time, I shared it.

**Interviewer:** So sir, thank you very much for that.