

Sheikh Rasheedah Bibi

Interviewer: So let me know where you lived in India?

Rasheedah Bibi: I belong to Amritsar Batala.

Interviewer: what was the name of your father?

Rasheedah Bibi: Sheikh Abdul Majeed was the name of my father

Interviewer: what was the profession of your father in British India?

Rasheedah Bibi: He had lot of fruit orchards in India

Interviewer: you mean to say agriculture?

Rasheedah Bibi: No agriculture was not

He used to dislike agriculture and cultivation in fact he was more interested in fruit business.

Interviewer: How long you stay in India before partition and what was your age in the time of partition?

Rasheedah Bibi: In the time of partition my age was 14 years.

Interviewer: How was your common dealings in British India in your society with the

Rasheedah Bibi: Children's of other communities in Batala?

I was very young at that time and when I heard the rumors about the partition all of our relatives in Batala got disorganized and spread everywhere and then we came to Lahore.

Some members of Sikh community really helped us to make sure the Peaceful escape from India to Lahore and we successfully reached to Lahore in the productions of the members of the Sikh community. The members of Sikh community really helped us and they were really good enough. All 61 not bad some of them were good. They dropped us on the border of Lahore of India Pakistan. As you know five fingers are not equal.

So how was your life going on in British India before partition in Batala Amritsar?

We have no any matter with anyone; all was well everyone was living peacefully over there in British India.

Interviewer: Let me know about your financial condition in British India how it was?

Rasheedah Bibi: Yes it was good enough

There was no poor in our family the siblings of my father was good and well enough.

Everyone had its own everything including buildings homes factories and other places as well.

Interviewer: was there any educated person in your family in British India?

Rasheedah Bibi: The one of my aunt who went out to Bahrain at that time for study purpose. He was well educated in our family at a time he was very young when he went out to Bahrain for study and came back to India after the completion of his study. When he arrived India he got married and after his marriage the problem of partition occurred and he embraced martyrdom in the riots of partition.

Interviewer: Were there any relatives of your family in Pakistan before partition?

Rasheedah Bibi: Yes we had lot of relatives in Pakistan but most of our relative was lived in India Batala Amritsar.

All of my relatives were doing their businesses in different places in India.

Interviewer: I heard that Hindu used to owe to the Muslims and others and after that they receive interest on that loan is it right?

Rasheedah Bibi: We had good terms and condition with Hindus both Muslims and Hindus homes were side by side. We had good relations but unfortunately the same people killed us. They turned into enemy in the times of partition. They thought India is right now in their hands and they can do whatever they want and they killed 8 members of our family my cousins my uncles as well. They gave us a room to stay and when we entered in the room there were 8 dead bodies that were covered with the Cloth. When my mother's saw that dead bodies in that room she really got frightened and started to hesitate. She said to my father that she really don't want to stay over here and we made escape from there. We had doubt that probably they killed that person and they would do the same with us, they were pretended to be good.

Interviewer: Both your brother and father were saved?

Rasheedah Bibi: Yes they were safe but my brother was very young at that time

My uncle and cousin of my father were along with this, we had no knowledge about the intention of the other person. Let me know and incident of my uncle's son. My elder cousin used to say Azan in mosque in Batala and he also led the prayer five times in a day. One day he went out to the most and he said Azan after the declaration of partition of British India, Hindus and Sikhs were not allowed to enter the Muslims most but unfortunately after the declaration of partition nobody was preventing them to enter in mosque, they considered the mosque property of the Hindu and the Sikh. One day when my cousin called Azan of fajar Hindu and Sikh came to mosque and killed him by beheading him due to calling Azan after partition in India, so this was the situation at that time.

Interviewer: Dear I have also heard about serious misbehavior with women's by raping and killing then brutally, is it right?

Rasheedah Bibi: Yes this is straight forward and open myth, they captured the young girls of opponent community and the rushed them into the jeeps and buses and we were not aware about that girls where they went out. There was a girl in our street at that time they also kidnapped her. After the partition of British India we met that girl in Pakistan and we asked her where they took you in India then she narrated the whole story, she said Hindus took me at their home and married with me and I gave birth to four Hindu children there and after partition my father came to know about me and he arrived in India with the authorities and help me to escape from there I left my children over there and came along with my father in Pakistan .Army troop helped my father in this regard, so this is the whole story about that girl. Near Dera Baba Nanak there were lot of corpses of human beings and the color of the river turned into red. It was very big river at all.

Interviewer: your father kept any kind of defensive tool or weapon along with them to protect themselves against any kind of attack of opponent community ?

Rasheedah Bibi:

Yes we had each and everything to Defense ourselves

Interviewer: What was your source of transportation vehicle?

Rasheedah Bibi: The noble people of Sikh community really helped us to make sure our successful and safe escape from Batala. my father was very wise .he had doubt in his mind about the intention of that sikhs ,when this topic was under discussion between my father and

my mother in the meanwhile sikhs got the whole situation that what is running in our mind ? Then that sikhs said we will not do any misbehavior with you and your family we will protect you till the border of Pakistan then my father said ok we have trust on your words. Luckily they fulfilled their promise. There was a Jeep in which we travelled from Batala to Lahore safe and sound.

Interviewer: Did your family receive any claim from the Government of Pakistan about whatever you left in India?

Rasheedah Bibi: No we have not received any claim from the Government of Pakistan in fact my father tried to follow the procedure to get the claim but all in vain. Government of Pakistan never accommodated us in this regard. Yes but our relatives in Pakistan really helped us in this regard to bring our family in the mainstream. We left a huge property in India but we didn't receive even one penny from the Government of Pakistan in claim.

Interviewer: So when you arrived in Pakistan where you lived first?

Rasheedah Bibi: When we arrived in Pakistan we came first in Lahore and stayed few days in Lahore and then left for Hyderabad Sindh and my father started a new business over there of shoes, then I got married in Kasur.

Interviewer: So let me know about the epidemic of Cholera?

Rasheedah Bibi: Yes definitely Kora was prevailing in that days, lot of people died due to cholera, the railway station were filled with the the people who were suffering from cholera.

Interviewer: Have you any knowledge about the refugee camps or medical camps?

Rasheedah Bibi: Different camps were in different places but we were not in direct interaction with the medical or Refugee camps because of our relatives. Our relatives accommodated US very well. Veil was common in our family.

Interviewer: Have you faced any problem regarding the lack of food in the days of partition?

Rasheedah Bibi: No, no because our relatives were there and their accommodated as in this regard very well.

Interviewer: Thanks alot