

## Muhammad Rafique

Interviewer : Where your father migrated from India in 1947 ?

M Rafique : Actually me family belonged to District Bharat Pur state Tehsil Pahari and village Solpur. Before habitation here we used to live in Village Pathwara India. We had total 22 village of our ( Mewaati) community. Still some of my cousins families are live over there. Elder one is Muhammad Israel and the younger one is Muhammad Ishaq.

Interviewer : Ok let me know about the source of Income of your family before partition ?

M Rafique : According to my father most of the area was fertile and people used to do agricultural activities. Whenever my cousins visit pakistan to meet with we usually discuss about agriculture situation and crops. Still my relatives are engage in agriculture field in India and we are enjoying good relation with them. But there are some problem of water shortage in our ancestral area in India.

Interviewer : Muhammad Rafique if we talk about the relationship between different religious communities in India before partition and specially in your area How was the situation ?

M Rafique : According to my father narration all communities had good relation with each other and co-operation was included as well in social dealings. They used to discuss , enjoy social gathering , attend the festivals of each other and esteem respect for the religion of others. They used to attend the events of each other and support in the time of difficulties . Even i ask once from my father , weather people used to call you Bara Bada ( A word to give respect senior in Mewaati tradition) in India ? He said yes.

But all hindus and sikhs were not good some of them had evil nature and they made serious atrocities on muslim's even didn't ignore children and women. They raped beautiful muslim's women. My Uncle whose name was Andhy khan or Kanwal khan was very famous warrior in the time of partition along with that he was also a very empowered person of that time . He was head of the Tribe . Once in the days of partition a muslim guy cracked a joke to my Uncle that you are a muslim and here you are enjoying a higher status and on the other hand in other areas non-muslims are raping and killing muslim community but you are sitting idle. Is this your leadership ?

That thing really challenged the self respect of my uncle and he establish a large troop of muslim warriors and attacked that villages who made too much atrocities on muslim community. Actually most of our family members embraced martyrdom in the protection of women because the lady was a symbol of self respect and still we have too much respect for

ladies even in the time of Mughal empire King Akbar made the same thing with our tribe and we fought against him just to protect our ladies.

Interviewer : Had you any relatives in Pakistan before partition ?

M Rafique : No we had no relatives in Pakistan at all and our whole community migrated from India to Pakistan. Some people of our community migrated from Kepwara village some of them from Koorra village, Himla village and state of Muhammadpur and some other places.

Interviewer : When you came to know about migration how your family migrated from India ? What was the source of transportation ?

M Rafique : We arrived here in the shape of big Caravan but my Uncle was declared absconder by the govt of India and he fled to save himself in somewhere else. He didn't come with us.

Interviewer : Did you receive any property in claim from Pakistani govt after partition ?

M Rafique : Yes my father had 5 brothers but only four of them migrated and rest of the 2 got invisible and we got huge agriculture land in Pakistan after migration and still we are using that property.

Interviewer : What was your first point of stay in Pakistan ?

M Rafique : According to my father he stayed in Sindh very first in the shape of Caravan. Our family suffered from very tough situation in the early days of Pakistan. We had nothing to eat and even we drank the water of rain during migration, through such circumstances you can imagine the difficulties.

Interviewer : Did your family face any kind of epidemic like cholera was prevailing in those days ? Or any member of your family expired ?

M Rafique : Yes I am getting your point those days were very tough a lot of families and people faced casualties due to different diseases but luckily our family remained safe from any kind of great loss at all.

In the early days of migration my father used to make strings and sell it to resume the life circle of his family.

Interviewer : What about the education of your family ? What was the maximum level of education of your family ?

M Rafique : Actually in our area District Bharatpur the religious education for Muslims was in trend and Muslims had strong belief and respect in high priority for religious education. Nothing

was important for them except faith in Islam. Muslims used to attend the mosques regularly and passionately. You can say me the first member of my family who passed intermediate. Even in India our cousins are not well educated but our generation are really engage with modern studies right now.

Interviewer : What about your contact with refugee camp ?

M Rafique : yes we stayed in camps in sindh in early days even our relatives came in direct contact of Refugee camps but my father was very hard work and managed a proper shelter for us very soon.

Interviewer : Thank you M Rafique

M Rafique : pleasure is always mine