

## **Mehar Muhammad Shafiqe**

Interviewer : you are here on the behalf of your father let me know in which area of the British India your father migrated here ?

Mr Shafique :In the time of partition my father was 7 years old and we belong to Ludhiana British India And after partition they are right in kasur from Ludhiana.

Interviewer :What were the circumstances that compelled your father to migrate ?

Mr Shafique :Basically we have three main religion in the subcontinent the Hinduism the Sikhism and Islam.They live together but they had multiple problems in their communities with each other likewise cow, Muslims believe in to slaughter the cow as sacrificial animal in the name of god where as Hindu considered the cow a God itself. Due to such contradictions between the Muslims and The Hindu started to highlight in the communities at that time.Leadership of time sound better to make separation of these communities in two different countries to make your peace in this region and Pakistan came into being.

Interviewer :Let me know about your source of income in the British India before partition ?

Mr Shafique :we had land in Good quantity Like 30 to 35 acres along with that we had animals like cow and buffaloes.We had good system over there as whole Hindi name of my grandfather was khushi Muhammad And in 1947 he left each and everything in India and arrived in Pakistan with their property documents only. Unfortunately we have not received reasonable and deserving claim of our property. When my grandfather and grandmother arrived on the station of Kasur there was an epidemic of Cholera Prevailing, Fortunately both my grandfather and grandmother became the victim of Cholera and expired.At that time the age of my father was 7 and my uncle was younger than my father.There was a friend of my grandfather named Khushi Muhammad, both my grandfather and his friend had the same name and used to live in Kasur where were the local of Ludhiana. Then the friend of my grandfather Khushi Muhammad took my father and uncle in his custody as a guardian because my father got orphan due to the death of my grandparents.My father had multiple uncles and aunts who migrated from India, all of them never stayed at the same place and spread on the different locations of the Pakistan. Then the sister of my grandfather took my father and uncle in her home that was away from Kasur But after 4 to 5 years my father reverted to the friend of my grandfather along with his younger brother.Both families belongs to different castes but they had the good relations with my grandfather and on the behalf of that good relation then Nourished my father and my younger uncle like their child. The Guardian of my father (Khushi Muhammad ) then filed the case of my father's claim regrading property And succeeded to get the property of 10 acers for my father and uncle. but there was a law at that time the one who will get the property in claim will use the property itself ,the tragedy was that my father was too younger to cultivate that property.To make sure the use of that agriculture property was out of the scale of my father because of his little age and the opponents of my father's guardian

word making complain against the stepfather of my father that he was misusing the property of my father against the rules and regulations of time, Due to such problems the property in the name of my father shrank into 3 Acres. In short we received 3 acre in the claim of 35 acer. We sold out that property after 20 to 35 years Of its allocation to start new business and to purchase the new place for home And we are enjoying a prosperous life right now. about 25 to 30 people of our family expired due to this epidemic and it had its effect region wise at that time.

Interviewer : Had your family faced any kind of of riots in the way ?

No at all, we didn't face any kind of riots but other people faced lot of problems in trains and other vehicles. Both communities killed each other according to the opportunities on different railway stations. Muslims were more vulnerable in this situation and they felt more problems for themselves. Sikhs Killed the whole trains of Muslims and looted the all precious belongings of Muslims who were making migrations from India to Pakistan in the time of partition. What people could have brought with themselves ? except the clothes and some eatables due to long in a journey of migration. If anyone had animals like cow and buffalo along with him it was robbed in the way by Indians. If anyone had any jewellery of gold and other precious things with him they used to robb it in the way. they came over here with empty hands and helplessly. local Muslims population of Pakistan accommodated the refugees who came from India to Pakistan And gradually people started to transfer towards

their relatives and well known people. Yes I remembered right now my three aunts also died due to cholera in the days of partition and the graves of my family members our nearest station of kasur. Only my father and my younger uncle survived from cholera rest of the family members expired. All of them expired in the same month.

Interviewer : Was there any medical or Refugee camp over there?

Mr Shafique : Not at all I didn't hear about any medical or Refugee camp, there Were lot of corpses everywhere on the station and there was no any arrangement by the management to manage such a large amount of Corpses. there were also some of the deadbodies of the sikhs were getting rotten on the railway station of kasur. As you know that every action has a reaction and the Killing of the some sikhs in kasur was the the reaction the Killing of the innocent Muslims. who were coming from India in trains.

Interviewer : So how your father started to earn over here or any business ?

Mr Shafique : He started to do labour first over here and along with that cultivation of the crops on the allocated agriculture land in the claim was the main source of income of our family .Ancestors who migrated here spent a very backward life but they forced us to study more And we did some jobs and businesses in Pakistan for earning.

Now we are enjoying a prosperous life in Pakistan because we took a separate Homeland for us And if we were in India perhaps we could not enjoy the all perspectives of life. Muslims who

preferred to live in India are spending a miserable life under the shadow of danger ,they cant eat beef with their freedom.The one who is going with cow are being killed only because of doubt.

Whatever is happening in India is not hidden from everyone.In my personal opinion muslims who preferred to live in India they made a huge mistake.They should have migrated in this muslim state for the sake of protection.Muslims who never left their properties in 1947 today there selfrespect is not safe in India.What they would do with their properties if there is no self respect for muslims in India.Now their coming generations are not safe in India due to prevailing Hinduism in India.Modi Govt is totally against the muslims and there is no future of muslims in India.Islam is a peacefull religion it doesn't allow us to do extortion with anyone.Evil powers makes first attempt against Islam then we start crusade against them to resond .Overall muslim doesn't like the violence.

Interviewer :So let me know about situation with the ladies of your family members ? Were they remained safe ?

Mr Shafique :Yes' such kind of incidents were happening at that time but the our family members came in the shape of Huge carvan to make sure their protection.Along with that they had their defensive tools with them to deal with any kind of disturbance and danger.Some people traveled on train,jeeps, carts and some of them were on padistrine while they were making migration from India to Pakistan. All carvans kept the ladies in the protection circle but the ladies who were alone became the victim of brutality.We were lucky that we came in Pakistan peacefully and in a protected environment.We used to live in Ludhiyana and very quickly we entetred from Indian Punjab to Pakistani Punjab because the border was near to our home almost.

Interviewer :During migration had your family any kind of defensive tools ?

Mr Shafique :Yes 'definitely we had defensive tools like swords and other things.

Interviewer :What was the ratio of pupolation of different communities in your area Ludhiyana ?

Mr Shafique :Ludhiyan was very beautiful city according to the narration of my father he got education in Ludhiyana till the 4<sup>th</sup> standard of that time.After migration my father enrolled in a high school of kasur.My grandfather was an employer in British Railway.He was educated and he predicted the situation very soon and took descions.My grandfather transferred some of their families before the partition in 1947.Some of our community members arrived in Pakistan before prevailing civil war in British India.

Interviewer :Due to pre-emptive steps of your grandfather your family remained safe from any huge loss ?

Mr Shafique :Yes 'you are right but cholera made strike on our family very well' three of my aunties expired due to this epidemic.Total five members of my family died in single month due to cholera.It was huge loss of our family.And my father along with his younger brother remained helpless.Our relatives who migrated to Faisalabad were not well enough financially.They couldn't afford our living expences .

In this situation a friend of my father Khushi Muhammad as I mentioned grew up my father as a step father.Today we have very good relations with that family and made will us not to do bad with family and always maintain the good relations with them.Today we are following and obeying the will of my father very well even both of us belong to different communities Arrain and Kamboj.We have great respect for that family in our heart and we cant think about to make relations bad with them.

Interviewer : Indeed It was great expression of humanity and muslims love towards another muslim brother

Yes' today we are standing on place just because of them.

Interviewer :Have you any mind to visit your ancestral place in India ludhiyana ?

Mr Shafique :I have visited India twice to visit the shrine of Ajmair Shareef but unfortunately we received very bad welcome and behavior in India.Two persons of our city when went out to india to visit along with us they made an allegation of Spy on them and arrested them & humiliated them at all.We really don't want to visit India even for visit.We are in danger and feel insecure in India.When my brother went out to India to pay tribute on the shrine of Ajmair Shareef Indian oilice humiliated him,Wahtever Indian Intelligence did with our people is unforgotable for us at all .

Interviewer : Thank you Mr Shafiq

Mr Shafique :Most wellcome

