

Syed Saif Ali Shah

Interviewer: Sir, would you like us to interview you for this project of Howard University?

Syed Saif Ali Shah: Yes, Yes, why not. I will try my level best to recall and share the whole memory with you.

Interviewer: Sir, would you like to tell us that what actually was the environment, situations and conditions were during that 1947. I mean, the people living around you and all of this.

Syed Saif Ali Shah: The village where were living, there were no Hindus were living there except one or two families of Hindus. Before the division of 1947 time, people actually were beloved to each other, sympathy and respect was there for each other. At that time, I was learning the tailor art from a one of my cousin. In summer season, we were used to go to Srinagar. So two years I stayed there in Srinagar. In the third year we moved to Jammu. I was just a kid at that time. When I grown up, I was selected in army.

Interviewer: So, when the Pakistan came into being, you were in army?

Syed Saif Ali Shah: Yes, but later some days, I left the army and started living as civil life.

Interviewer: So, what do you think that a country divided into two continents, what are reasons behind that, what all that matters were?

Syed Saif Ali Shah: As you know that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was in congress party initially, so he was very much well known about all the circumstances and issues between Hindus and Muslims. He had seen the attitude of Hindus towards Muslims, so he thought that Muslims can't live in this situation a better life, so a separate country must be defined for the Muslims.

Interviewer: So, how strong the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs were at that time from any point of view.

Syed Saif Ali Shah: Muslims were basically considered to be a weak nation because no one was in the support of the Muslims. Muslims are always hatred by them. There were no jobs or business for the Muslims at all.

Interviewer: So you think that this was the only reason that Muslims were not safe there and they were not given their primary rights of living. Any other thing you remember besides that or what do you think that the decision of having a separate nation was right at that time or whatever?

Syed Saif Ali Shah: Actually, lots of frauds were done to Muslims in this regard from the division point of view. Actually, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was so much sure about that the Jammu Kashmir will be the part of Pakistan because an agreement was officially signed between viceroy and Muslims. Viceroy had agreed on a division of different areas between Muslims and Hindus, but later it was proven that viceroy was actually with the Hindus. It was also said that Viceroy's wife was gifted two gold bricks by Hindus in this regard and took the Kashmir out of that agreement and settled it for Hindus, so it was totally a fraud of agreement. So it is proven that this division was not up to the mark, and what is actually happening in Kashmir, it is all can be seen by all of us.

Interviewer: Thank you sir thanks a lot.