

Abrar-Tanoli: Big Brother

Before my first meeting with Amjad Pervez Siddiqi, no one could have even imagined that a disabled person could be this courageous and successful. Seated upon his wheelchair, this individual is not a magical character, but rather a profound collection of countless virtues. In life, we hear countless stories of courage and resolve. Most of the time, such characters seem to belong to the world of fictional folklore or stories with imaginary heroes, which writers use to breathe life into their text or increase the interest of readers to decorate their tales. When it comes to those writers, their access rarely reaches real-world personalities like Amjad Pervez Siddiqi. To elevate courage and morale in society, one has to look toward fictional characters, where the element of exaggeration is prominent, rather than real ones. In real life, we rarely come across such individuals. There are few high-spirited gems in this world who, instead of considering their physical disability as a weakness, seek out new paths to success. They do not sing the song of helplessness over their disability; instead, they prove that if a human being stands firm with pure intentions, Allah's nature supports them at every single step. Disability can never block their way. Such individuals climb the steps of progress to become an example of "One in a Million" for others, and that is how the world comes to know them. The real-world character of this seemingly fictional theme is Amjad Pervez Siddiqi sahib, whose lower body has been paralyzed for decades. He was unable to stand on his own feet after his spine fractured during a horrific accident, and his lower body stopped functioning entirely, making the wheelchair his permanent support. In a society where a person is labeled as disabled if they lose just a single finger, Amjad Siddiqi sahib taught me how to work and maintain dynamic energy despite wearing the heavy mantle of disability. He showed me how a person who lacks the capacity to walk or move around on his own feet from one place to another can survive without relying on anyone else's support. In such circumstances, when close relatives and friends also leave your side, society often views such a helpless individual as completely broken, and life begins to look like a terrifying nightmare. In these precise conditions, I affectionately call Amjad Pervez Siddiqi sahib "Wadde Paijan" (Big Brother), and he addresses me by the same title. What does it matter who says what regarding love and affection? Rather than evaluating the relationship through traditional definitions, this title carries a deep emotional attachment—even though the truth remains that he completely fits the title of "Wadde Paijan" in every single aspect. Seeing Amjad Siddiqi sahib makes one marvel in admiration, and it cements the belief that if a human being remains firm in resolve and has noble intentions, then Allah Almighty extends His divine support, and such a person becomes capable of standing tall on their own feet, growing into a highly successful corporate businessman. Siddiqi sahib does not belong to an elite, wealthy family; he hails from a lower-middle-class background. In 1979, with bright dreams for his future glittering in his eyes, he traveled to Saudi Arabia and secured a job at a local bank. He chose the path of continuous hard work, but destiny had a different trial waiting for him. In 1980, he met with a road accident, but that wound healed quickly. The true examination of his life came when, while returning to Riyadh from a spiritual visit to the holy city of Medina, he met with a horrific car accident. He survived the accident, but his disability became permanent. The relatives who had arrived to welcome him back instead fell into deep despair; family members began to distance themselves. Despite undergoing medical treatments for a prolonged period, his lower body remained non-functional. Yet, he confronted the

hardships of life with a wide smile and immense patience. I salute his courage, resolve, and heroic spirit! He never let his disability become a weakness. He faced severe hardships and torments at every single step. In the narrow lanes and chaotic local markets where even a healthy person struggles, Amjad Siddiqi sahib achieved countless corporate successes sitting on his wheelchair. He did not just become a highly popular personality within Saudi business circles, but his name echoed across Pakistan as well. Amjad Siddiqi proved his business mettle by managing several cargo vehicles, working in factories, and establishing a prominent name in the fabric export industry. He introduced himself as an exceptional businessman across Europe. There are many aspects of "Wadde Paijan's" life, but there is one hidden dimension that remains completely invisible to most people—and that is his deeply empathetic, soft heart that beats for grieving humanity. Whether it is a matter of extending financial assistance to overseas Pakistanis facing severe financial struggles or helping helpless individuals who are trapped in extreme poverty, dealing with expensive legal court expenses, or lacking access to proper medical facilities, Amjad Siddiqi is always seen at the forefront. Whether it is providing clean drinking water to remote, backward areas or arranging marriages for orphaned girls, he stands ever-ready to serve at any given moment. Just a few years ago, after spending a major portion of his life in Saudi Arabia, "Wadde Paijan" permanently returned to his beloved homeland, Pakistan, and chose Lahore as his permanent residence, where he is currently leading his life. Siddiqi sahib left behind countless unforgettable memories and deep friendships in Saudi Arabia, especially within the Pakistani community and among social workers, who deeply miss his presence. We pray that his guiding light of humanity remains radiant forever. The fact that he has delivered motivational lectures across hundreds of colleges and universities, traveled to 52 countries on his wheelchair, and emerged as an international speaker speaks volumes about his exceptional stature. Amjad Pervez Siddiqi's corporate and social journey stands out as a brilliant example for everyone. He proved that physical disability can never become a weakness. He established a magnificent, practical template of unwavering resolve and courage for all other disabled people in the world.

-Abrar Tanoli (Social Worker & Journalist)