

Fareed Ahmad Paracha: The Life Journey of Amjad Siddiqi

Although I have had few direct meetings with Amjad Siddiqi, it is an undeniable fact that whenever he joined our gatherings or delegations in Saudi Arabia, he stood out. Unlike the faces of ordinary patients or disappointed individuals, his face always radiated high morale, joy, and a deep sense of belonging. Recently, right here in Lahore, a meeting took place on September 25, 2022, at the Mansoorah Committee Room, during the launch ceremony of a book titled *Aasman Se Direct* (Direct from Heaven) by Saudi Arabia's famous poet and intellectual, Dr. Chaudhry Riaz Ahmad. On this occasion, Amjad Siddiqi gave me his autobiography, *Unyielding Spirit*. *Unyielding Spirit* is the saga of 40 years of Amjad Siddiqi's life. It is an unbelievable tale, where every single word reflects determination and unwavering trust in Allah. Amjad Siddiqi is a dynamic personality. He belongs to a respectable family from Phularwan, District Sargodha. He was a student when he went to Saudi Arabia in search of livelihood, and he secured employment there. Everything was progressing beautifully when a sudden car accident changed his life entirely. On his way back from performing Umrah and visiting Madinah Munawwarah, he met with an accident. Because he was pulled out of the vehicle carelessly by local people, his spinal cord fractured. At the age of 22, he became permanently paralyzed. Ninety percent of his body became disabled. From the chest down, his body was not only incapable of movement, but it completely lost all signs of sensory perception. The best hospitals in Saudi Arabia could restore only 10% of his upper body's movement after many treatments, but the rest of his lower body remained completely non-functional. For such a patient, even turning over in bed requires an assistant, and a single day of life feels like an exhausting burden on the shoulders of others. Such a condition leads to dependency on family, friends, and society. Our unfeeling society often treats such individuals with indifference. "When the tree falls, everyone rushes to cut it down," goes the saying, and the light of true sympathy fades away into formal pity. In such hard times, instead of changing his circumstances, his family and social ties fell apart. Amidst these conditions, Amjad Siddiqi spent his life with immense patience and courage. His disability became a barrier on one side, and the journey of pain began on the other. This journey includes severe physiological pain, deep wounds on the skin, and the psychological torment of long medical treatments that pierce a person's soul. Amjad Siddiqi's path presents physical suffering on one hand and supreme courage on the other. Allah's mercy and his own absolute willpower became his ultimate support system. Amjad Siddiqi proved the truth of the poetic verse: "I want to stay alive despite the accidents, Even if the paths of life become incredibly difficult." Living up to this truth, his life passed through stages that seem completely unbelievable. While seeking a job on a wheelchair, he used to wheel himself manually for 13 to 15 kilometers every single day. Once he secured employment, he proved his competence and hard work to his superiors so thoroughly that instead of being a liability, he earned promotions. He eventually stepped into business, built an international trade network, and successfully traveled to 52 countries on his wheelchair. Anyone looking at Amjad Siddiqi today cannot even imagine that this man is physically non-functional. His efforts caught the attention of international organizations, earning him many honors and awards. His work has been widely featured across print, electronic, and social media platforms, projecting his highly successful lifestyle to the entire world. The publishers

deserve high praise for printing Amjad Siddiqi's autobiography, *Unyielding Spirit*, so beautifully. The book is a masterpiece in terms of its continuous narrative flow and structural order. Amjad Siddiqi's life story serves as a guide for young people, a source of light for those trapped in difficulties, and a blueprint for hope. For healthy individuals, it acts as a mirror to cultivate gratitude toward Allah for the blessings of health. We pray that Almighty Allah grants Amjad Siddiqi a long life filled with health, and may He accept the trials faced by His servant as a source of high status in the hereafter. Ameen.

— Fareed Ahmad Paracha