

hassan-farooqi: One in a million!

Amjad Pervez Siddiqi... One in a Million..

When a human being enters this world, they cry, but then they open their eyes, look around, and begin to smile as they recognize their loved ones. From here, the journey of life begins. In this journey, every single step brings a desire for more, a longing to live completely. Up until the very moment of death, the urge to live remains alive and active. On this path, humans encounter pain, sorrow, grief, and physical suffering alongside joy, comfort, and happiness. Much like the cycle of day and night, joy and sorrow keep moving forward. Be it day or night, sorrow or happiness, a human being desires continuity. If the universe stops its flow of day and night, or if darkness becomes permanent, the entire system of the universe would likely collapse. In human life, if grief and pain become permanent, a person finds no escape except despair, and death begins to look like the only salvation. In this world, where there are all kinds of creatures, humans are unique because they possess a combination of body and mind. The human body is broad and vast. When a person's body and mind are at peace, the journey of life is a pleasant one. Peace is a state where the human body is comfortable and the mind experiences calm. Generally, peace is considered a mental state, and mind and body are inherently connected. However, when the body experiences severe pain and the mind suffers from intense grief, it is called a miserable condition. But when a person's body becomes completely useless, yet they are forced to step onto the path of life every single day, that life is no longer a normal journey—it becomes a journey of pure torment. It is like a traveler with blistered feet forced to walk on hot embers. This is not a fictional story; it is a harsh reality. Who is this individual who has passed through all these tribulations, making the world marvel at his resilience, and whose achievements outshine others? That personality is Amjad Pervez Siddiqi. By appearance, Amjad Pervez Siddiqi looks like any other common man, but he is no ordinary person. This individual is a living example of firm determination. He is a hero on a wheelchair, a "One in a Million" personality whose public services and research contributions earned him the title of a hero. To understand how and why all of this happened, let us throw light on his life story. Born in the city of Sargodha, Pakistan, Amjad Pervez Siddiqi was a healthy 22-year-old youth when he traveled to Saudi Arabia for employment, joining Riyadh Bank as a clerk. Healthy, energetic, and working at a prestigious bank, he suddenly met with a severe traffic accident that completely shook his life. The bone of his hip was badly fractured. He traveled across various cities in Saudi Arabia for medical treatment. For 18 months, intensive treatments were carried out in several hospitals, but his health did not return to normal. After dozens of surgeries, he was forced to spend the rest of his life dependent on a wheelchair. This happened in 1981—a time when disability was viewed as a heavy burden, forcing individuals to shut themselves away at home or rely entirely on others. Amjad sahib, however, chose a different path. Instead of choosing a quiet corner that resembled an early death, he decided to face life's challenges head-on. Today, after four decades, when we look at his brave life, we see him standing at a peak that an ordinary, healthy person can only dream of reaching. In 1991, when the banking job ended due to the Gulf War, he started his own rental business. In Saudi Arabia, he established a very successful rental business dealing in heavy machinery. Through sheer hard work, honesty, and fulfillment of commitments, he made a great name for himself. He expanded his business to multiple countries and set up offices. Hundreds of people found employment through him. Amjad Pervez

Siddiqi did not restrict his activities to his business; he stepped into welfare work to systematically support disabled and poor people. He traveled to 52 countries for tourism. He visited various rehabilitation centers across the globe to see how research and medical care were evolving. He associated himself with around 15 welfare institutions and served as an active member and supporter. He had the honor of meeting dozens of heads of state. He was invited as a guest speaker in various countries. He represented Pakistan globally, bringing immense honor to his homeland. Even after returning to Pakistan, he visited hundreds of disabled people in hospitals, giving them hope and turning them into useful citizens. He established free dispensaries and arranged employment opportunities for them. In recognition of his selfless services, the government awarded him titles like "Talented" and "Pioneer" at a national level. Other countries also showered him with countless awards, trophies, and shields, which stand as a testament that Amjad Pervez Siddiqi is not just an ordinary person but truly one in a million. After permanently settling back in Pakistan, Amjad Pervez Siddiqi is now at a stage in life where every word he speaks serves as a complete textbook. He speaks from deep life experiences that are far above standard theories. It is crucial to capture his thoughts in writing so that they remain a "Ready Reference" for the common public. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Amjad Pervez Siddiqi for compiling his experiences and observations in the form of a book titled *Unyielding Spirit*. Readers will notice that the author has not merely narrated his personal struggles but has also referenced the cultures and general trends of various countries he visited. Reading this book gives a vivid account of the psychological reactions, processing, and behavior of people in different countries. It specifically sheds light on how society treats disabled individuals. He has also penned down the global political and geographical changes, including the devastating effects of war. The author has captured the transition of countries from pre-war eras to post-war realities. In these pages, he talks about the economic progress and prosperity of past eras, while highlighting the modern-day downfalls of those regions. This makes the book not just an inspiring story of a Pakistani, but a valuable piece of literature. This work should not be viewed merely as the diary of a disabled person; it is a profound social science thesis that throws light on hidden realities, allowing an ordinary traveler to see the world through a deeply seasoned eye. Therefore, the book *Unyielding Spirit* is highly commendable in terms of its content, narrative style, and expression, making its author truly one in a million.

-Dr. Hassan Farooqi