

Mujeeb ul Rahman Shami:

Column by Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Shami (Published simultaneously in Daily Pakistan and Daily Dunya)

I have not met Amjad Siddiqui, but we have spoken on the telephone a couple of times. When he sent his autobiography, *Unyielding Spirit*, it remained on the table for several days. Although its cover stated that it was an astonishing biography of determination, courage, and high morale, I put it aside as a traditional exhortation to draw attention to the book. When I got some time, I reluctantly picked it up and started turning the pages, but as I read, my astonishment increased. Amjad Siddiqui has now become my hero. If it were up to me, I would immediately award him with the 'Nishan-e-Pakistan'. His book should be read by everyone who is worried about the future. There is no dearth of such people in Pakistan. It would not be wrong to say that their number has increased significantly in the past few years. It would not be surprising if we say that there are many people who are worried about the future and keep others suffering from this disease. Unemployed youth, on the one hand, and even those earning crores and billions do not seem satisfied. They keep making various assumptions and scare and intimidate. Wherever I am asked what our future is, the answer is that our future is in our own hands. If everyone is doing their work properly, is busy building their self, and is planning to move forward, then everyone's future is bright. But if we do not pay attention to our own work and do not stop interfering in the work of others, then our future will not be different from our current situation. The biggest problem of Pakistan is that everyone here is worried about others but does not care about their own work, not ready to pay attention to it. More institutions than individuals are involved in this evil. Instead of fulfilling their responsibilities according to the Constitution of Pakistan, they are eager to take on the responsibilities of others. Be it the judiciary or the legislature, the administration or other state institutions, the transgression of limits has created a stir. This is such a bitter reality that although it is acknowledged, no firm determination is made to correct it. Leaving aside institutions, if we come to individuals, there is no shortage of those who cry about the lack of resources. Amjad Siddiqui was a young man who reached Saudi Arabia in the seventies, got a job in a bank there, and was living a happy life. His mother was busy looking for a bride like the moon when his car met with an accident. This accident changed everything. His spine was affected and he became paralyzed from the chest down. Years have passed since this accident; he has undergone several operations, been treated in several hospitals, and has been treated by many doctors, but his body is still paralyzed. He resumed his job, started a business, traveled to dozens of countries around the world in a wheelchair, and during this time, he got married. God also blessed him with two children, but ninety percent of his physical body still does not work. He started a business in Saudi Arabia and it expanded well, but his love for Pakistan did not allow him to rest. Finally, he came here, started a business, and where did he end up? Now he has written his life story. Every Pakistani should read it and ask himself: if Amjad Siddiqui can change his world, why can't I? If a person whom Allah has blessed with health and all of whose organs are working is losing courage, or becoming disheartened or disappointed with the future, then what is the justification for this? Every detail of the difficulties that Amjad Siddiqui had to go through and the social attitudes he faced is available in his book. Films should be made on Amjad Siddiqui's life,

he should be made the subject of dramas, and everyone from the President of Pakistan to the common man should pay tribute to him. The troops of the armed forces should salute him for setting an example of standing on his own feet and making his own world. Those who fled Pakistan should just read these words. Amjad Siddiqi's Account (Quoted in the Column)"My desire to return to Pakistan grew exponentially. Doing business in another country is not easy, but rolling back or ending the business was even more difficult. I had to wind up everything legally and not leave any loopholes in anything, and especially I had to clear all kinds of transactions, government taxes, and other legal matters very carefully. Alhamdulillah, I had a respected position in the Pakistani community. I was respected everywhere, people used to honor me specially in their ceremonies, and I was also awarded many honors. In those days, a well-known Saudi organization awarded me the 'Talented and Pioneer' Award in recognition of my 38 years of service. This was the first time a Pakistani had received this honor in Saudi Arabia. In those days, every friend I talked to would liken my decision to return to a serious mistake. Everyone had said that business was going well, you were respected everywhere, and you had no problems here, so why did you want to leave everything and go to Pakistan? But the only thing on my mind was going to be to go to Pakistan. Gradually, the issues of leaving were being resolved. I made a pilgrimage to Mecca to perform Umrah. Alhamdulillah, I performed Umrah with great satisfaction and was also able to visit Medina to visit the shrine of the Prophet. I prayed especially for the development, prosperity, peace, and security of Pakistan. Alhamdulillah, I have come to Pakistan permanently with my entire family in 2020. The journey of pain has ended here. The soul has found peace after reaching Pakistan, where everyone is ours. Brothers, sisters, relatives, and loved ones from whom we were separated will now be able to celebrate sorrow, happiness, and joy with our loved ones. And the most important thing is that now I and my children can enjoy fresh and delicious curd, hot gulab jamun, laddu pithi, siri paye, and nihari. No one will be able to stop you from eating hot chickpeas and corn found on the roadsides. Heart to heart, Pakistan; life to life, Pakistan. Long live Pakistan... Long live Pakistan."