

Sayed-Fiyaz-Hussain-Gillani: A Masterpiece of True Resolve: Amjad Siddiqi, Around Whom Iron Nerves Revolve

It was a Friday during the severe heat of summer when I got the opportunity to attend an event on a special invitation. The speaker was the renowned motivational speaker and TV anchor, Tasadduq Gillani sahib. The capital of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, was baking in extreme heat. I arrived at the event hall about two minutes before the scheduled time. Upon entering, I noticed that not just Pakistanis but people from outside Pakistan were present in large numbers, which is usually our general public trend. In any case, there was an individual sitting on a wheelchair who was physically disabled. Out of standard courtesy, I exchanged formal greetings with him and moved on. Usually, in gatherings, people try not to speak directly to such individuals about their personal condition. Out of ethical courtesy, it doesn't feel appropriate, because you think talking about it might make them feel an inferiority complex. In other words, you try to avoid adding to their pain. Anyway, the formal program commenced, and Tasadduq Gillani sahib delivered a lecture on how a human being should never lose hope. During this lecture, Tasadduq Gillani sahib shared examples of a few individuals who never lost their courage and resolve, and through constant struggle, became highly successful people. Later, he invited this very individual to deliver a lecture. Now, Gillani sahib was telling his own story. During this time, I met the regional head of Jamaat-e-Islami Saudi Arabia, the respected Hafiz Abdul Waheed sahib. Despite our major social, political, and religious differences in opinions, our personal relationships were excellent. I told Hafiz sahib that the lecture was highly impressive and moved me deeply. Hafiz sahib then told me that the person

speaking was not just a miserable, helpless individual; despite his severe disability, he was a highly successful businessman who had built an exceptional empire. Hearing this, my astonishment turned into deep admiration, and I was so deeply moved that within a few days, I called Amjad Siddiqi sahib, found out where he lived, and went to visit his home. When I arrived, I saw that he was receiving guests, and he himself was managing everything while sitting on his wheelchair. After standard formal introductions, we talked about his past, and I was deeply inspired by his towering courage. After that, some time passed, and I left Riyadh to return to Pakistan. Due to my busy life and professional involvements, we lost touch. A long time later, a friend of mine gave me a book to read, titled Unyielding Spirit. My friend praised the book intensely and kept recommending it to me repeatedly. I assumed it might be some romantic novel or a fictional story, so I asked my friend who wrote it. He told me it was written by an identity named Amjad Siddiqi. My mind instantly raced back to that time in Riyadh, but then I thought it might just be a coincidence of names. Suddenly, a picture of Amjad Siddiqi sahib appeared before my eyes. I immediately searched for his number in my old Riyadh contacts, and lo and behold, it was the exact same Amjad Siddiqi sahib. I spent hours talking to him over the phone and requested his column from the journalist who had published it earlier. Now that I have received all the complete details regarding Amjad Siddiqi sahib, I am left completely astounded at how such a rare diamond is hidden away in this world. Let us zoom in a bit closer to look at this masterpiece of hard work, patience, and resolve. The setting of this journey is Bhalwal, a district in Sargodha, Punjab, Pakistan.

This journey of immense hard work and unwavering patience began in the household of a well-known journalist and cloth merchant, Ghulam Rasul, in the district of Sargodha, where a child was born and named Amjad Parvez Siddiqi. Amjad was the youngest among six brothers. Haji Ghulam Rasul sahib, despite his financial struggles and poverty, ensured his children received an education. Amjad Parvez completed his education, and in the late 1970s, to support his father, he traveled to Saudi Arabia and secured a job at a bank. Through sheer hard work and honesty, he established a prominent position for himself. The entire staff at the bank trusted him immensely. Allah blessed him with a stellar reputation, and the bank management recognized him as their best worker. However, one day, while walking on foot, a car struck Amjad Siddiqi, marking the true beginning of his "Journey of Pain." In this accident, his legs were shattered, and one leg became almost completely non-functional. Yet, Amjad Siddiqi did not let this physical suffering overpower him and continued his professional work. Destiny, however, had an even bigger test waiting for him. A short time later, after visiting Medina to pay respects at the Roza-e-Rasool, his car met with another catastrophic accident. This accident completely paralyzed him, leaving Amjad Siddiqi entirely unconscious. For weeks, he remained confined to a hospital bed, fighting for his life under heavy medications. When he finally regained consciousness, he was met with the devastating reality that three-quarters of his body was permanently paralyzed. His banking job came to an end. In such a situation, an ordinary man would lose all hope, shut himself away from the world, and spend the rest of his life as a burden on his family, battling immense psychological depression. But Amjad Siddiqi was made of different grit. Instead of

surrendering to circumstances or seeking pity, he tied his boots and stepped back into the battlefield of life. On one side was the severe cruelty of circumstances and the emotional insensitivity of society, while on the other side was a physically broken man standing against financial ruins. Amjad Parvez Siddiqi stood entirely alone in this arena, refusing to back down. He initiated a small enterprise, dealing in towels. This was a highly unusual business where the owner, manager, laborer, and salesman were all wrapped into one single physically disabled person. Amjad Siddiqi's strength was not just a mere prayer; it was a practical manifestation of immense hard work and iron resolve. Sitting on his wheelchair, he navigated the chaotic markets of Riyadh, negotiating deals and handling the logistics of his trade. He managed his own cooking, cleaning, washroom needs, and daily survival entirely on his own. Every morning, he faced a mountain of physical challenges, but he rose above them. His physical disability was a massive challenge, but the social obstacles were even harder. The societal behavior, the mocking taunts, and the visual pity of people hit Amjad Siddiqi's psychology daily. Yet, through his unyielding faith and relentless struggle, he defeated these toxic elements one by one. Gradually, his small towel business transformed into a massive enterprise in Riyadh. The business grew to such a peak that he became a major exporter of Pakistani towels. He didn't just limit his operations to Riyadh; he expanded his business branches across multiple cities in Saudi Arabia and opened international offices. Through his commercial success, hundreds of other people found stable employment. Alongside his corporate empire, Amjad Siddiqi actively participated in social and cultural events. He stepped into sports, participating in wheelchair athletic events where the world

recognized the incredible power of his capabilities. He traveled to 52 countries on his wheelchair. He was granted official state protocol in various countries. International organizations showered him with prestigious awards, and he received special honors from the United States of America, recognizing him as a true global hero. When he looked at the millions of disabled people across the world who were living in hopelessness, Amjad Siddiqi decided to exact a beautiful revenge on his circumstances. Instead of letting his personal success make him arrogant, his heart expanded with boundless empathy for humanity. He turned his attention to welfare work. He inspired dozens of hopeless individuals, lifting them out of depression and turning them into proud, self-reliant citizens so they would no longer remain a burden on society. Amjad Siddiqi personally financed their medical treatments and established employment pathways for them.

Reading his book, *Unyielding Spirit*, gives us a direct glimpse into these deep realities. The pages are overflowing with highly emotional and lesson-filled accounts. Let me share one specific event from the book that shows how society reacts to such a struggle. Once, Amjad Siddiqi sahib's car met with a breakdown in a highly deserted, dark area. There was absolutely no help in sight. Instead of panicking or screaming in fear, Amjad Siddiqi gathered his courage, sat patiently in his wheelchair in the pitch dark, and waited for dawn, relying entirely on the protection of Almighty Allah. This incident alone stands as a miraculous testament to his nerves of steel. The book is filled with countless such stories. In short, the life story of Amjad Siddiqi fills a reader's heart with ultimate joy and pride. As a Pakistani Muslim, he has raised our flag high globally. It is now the fundamental duty of our

state and media platforms to project heroes like Amjad Siddiqi on national and international screens, so that our younger generation can listen to his journey and learn how to align their life priorities. Especially for our youth who lose hope over minor financial setbacks, Amjad Siddiqi serves as a complete textbook of practical survival. Dozens of columns could be written on his magnificent personality, but due to space limitations, I must conclude this reflection here.

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