

Mubashar-Anwar: From ordinary to extra ordinary.

As Muslims, it is our firm belief that no soul was sent to Earth without a purpose. While mankind was honored as the noblest of creations to distinguish them from all other creatures, human beings were also blessed with a sound intellect. Following this, they were permitted to research and ponder, unlocking the hidden secrets of the Earth on one hand, while on the other hand, being shown the correct methods and etiquette for leading their lives. Moving in a third direction, obedience to Allah and His Holy Prophet (PBUH) was made mandatory. In this short worldly life, after granting humans these three guidelines, they were placed into this examination center. Now, it depends entirely on the individual how they spend their life—whether they lead a routine, ordinary life or cross over from ordinary circumstances to perform an extraordinary feat, steering their life in an exceptional direction. In any case, passing through extraordinary circumstances is not within a human being's own control. However, a person's behavior after passing through those circumstances is what makes them extraordinary. Otherwise, billions of ordinary individuals have lived on this planet, only to be buried under tons of soil, and today there is no one left to remember them or trace their existence. Amjad Siddiqi traveled to Saudi Arabia at the age of 22 for employment, adopting a banking job to spend his days and nights like any ordinary person. But destiny had other plans. A traffic accident broke his leg. Although he returned to his banking job after receiving proper treatment, this accident was merely a precursor. A short while later, while returning from a pilgrimage to the Roza-e-Rasool (the Prophet's Tomb), he met with a second, highly severe traffic accident. In this accident, his spinal cord was severely affected. The spinal cord is the backbone of the body, and when it is damaged, it paralyzes the human form—something the writer of these lines is currently battling firsthand. Therefore, I deeply understand the agony of how life completely stalls. At times, even breathing becomes difficult. Nonetheless, a long and grueling sequence of medical treatments began. Over approximately 18 months, dozens of surgeries were performed, but they all proved fruitless. Nearly three-quarters of his body became completely numb and lifeless. He was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life, making independent movement impossible. Seeing his physical condition, the bank management offered him a lifetime monthly pension to end his service. Hats off to the courage of Amjad Siddiqi, who did not let his disability get in the way. Instead of accepting the pension, he insisted on continuing his job. This was only the beginning of a magnificent tale of determination and courage. Gradually moving forward in life, Amjad Siddiqi crossed an important milestone for the sake of continuity in mobility: he modified all the controls of his car to be hand-operated. Despite such a severe accident, he prioritized driving his own car. He refused to let any psychological fear or self-pity overpower him. He worked 18-hour days at the bank. Because of his dedication, passion, and courage—rather than asking for any special concessions due to his disability—he earned the honor of "Best Staff." He traveled to 52 countries using his personal funds, visiting over 1,500 research centers and rehabilitation facilities during these journeys. He had the honor of meeting dozens of heads of state, raising the Pakistani flag high. He also led Peace Marches and Day Parades in most countries. As an Ambassador of Peace, he emerged as a prominent personality. His courage, resolve, and zest for life were not limited to his own person. Instead, he became a beacon of light for hundreds of other disabled individuals, helping them not only return to the mainstream of life but also

managing employment for them according to their individual resources. He is constantly in the eyes of the media worldwide, having given countless local and international media interviews. He has also participated in sports, winning a 12-kilometer wheelchair race. For the welfare of humanity and for the treatment of his own ailment, he volunteered himself for global research. In these efforts, Amjad Siddiqi has undergone up to 30 surgeries. He looked death right in the eye with immense bravery. He did not hold back in welfare work either; instead, at every stage, Amjad Siddiqi opened his heart and showered his wealth on serving humanity. Whether it was contributing to the construction of Shaukat Khanum Hospital, helping earthquake victims, aiding flood affectees, or serving humanity during the oppression and tyranny in Bosnia—Amjad Siddiqi was always seen at the forefront of public service according to his capacity. In 1993, he bid farewell to his banking job to lay the foundation of his own rental business. Through day and night hard work, he achieved great success there too. Driven by a desire to set an example and out of love for his homeland, he initiated a manufacturing industry in Pakistan in 2008. He successfully attracted millions of dollars in investment, not just from himself, but from foreign businessmen as well. Because of this unique stature, he became well-known globally. Various educational institutions organized lectures by Amjad Siddiqi for the training of their students, so that the younger generation could listen to this high-spirited and courageous speaker and determine their own priorities in life. Amjad Siddiqi has won countless awards, trophies, shields, and honors, with Saudi Arabia honoring him for the very first time. His life's journey has never stopped. Even today, he remains busy working 18 hours a day, performing his tasks himself and standing ever-ready in the service of humanity. An accident changed the entire direction of Amjad Siddiqi's life. Otherwise, who could have foreseen where he would be today? Perhaps he would have retired as an ordinary officer spending a routine life at some bank. Life's accidents provide a human being with an opportunity to choose: will they lose heart and courage after an accident, turning their physical weakness into a permanent vulnerability, or will they forge that disability into a weapon to scale heights of greatness? Amjad Siddiqi chose the second, tougher path. This is why the title of "ONE IN A MILLION" was not given to him lightly. Amjad Siddiqi truly deserves this title, as he transitioned his life from "ordinary" to "extraordinary" through sheer determination, courage, and patience amidst pain. To be "extraordinary," Amjad Siddiqi faced highly severe, painful, and unusual circumstances, and that journey continues successfully even today.

- Mubashar Anwar