

First-person: There were Muslims who were closer like sisters; when we were coming, they cried a lot that I could not explain to you .

Second person: How many of your best female friends have you had ?

First-person: I had many; everywhere we went, we were playing. If I say more, I will become emotional and hurt. I know that I miss my female friends a lot. One of my friends came to our home when I left; she used to play in our house till late 10:00 pm. One day, the father of that girl and his son came to our house, and they both were crying after me and asking me why you are leaving. Don't go; come to our house and stay there with us .

Second Person: Did you have children ?

Second person: Yes, I have two sons. They both married in India. One got married six years ago. My son's friends were crying a lot .

Second Person: Where in Kabul you were living ?

We were not living in Kabul; we were living in Afghanistan, in the Nangarhar of Afghanistan. I was born there. Yes, I was born and raised there, although my father is from Laghman, but my husband is from Logar. I stayed for a few years in Kabul with my husband; when things got worse, we left .

In which years did you live in Kabul ?

It's been 30 years of my marriage. I don't know the exact time, but my husband knows the time. I have studied Panjabi, not Farsi .

Second Person: Where did you study Panjabi lessons?

First Person: In Afghanistan, there was a school in Gowradwara that we were going to it. The school was in the main Gowradwara, next to Makahbarat (Network) Square .

First-person: There used to be an Afghan school in Gowradwara. Have you been to that school ?

Second person: No, I have not. I got married and then didn't go to school. My son attended that school; he can speak Afghani (Pashto), Farsi, Hindi and English. He can speak a bit of the Pashaya language as well .

How did he learn the Pashaya language ?

He was first here, then went to Kabul, and from there, he went to Polikhomri. He was then working in a news agency. He learned Pashaya there. I don't know which news agency it was, but he travelled to many provinces .

Why didn't you go with your son to all those provinces?

My daughter didn't go anywhere. They didn't go to school, and they can understand Panjabi. For her English learning, I hired a private teacher who used to come to my home to teach her .

Second Person: How about Farsi? Can she read and write Farsi, and has she learned it in school ?

First-person: She can write little but can speak well .

Second person: Who were your friends that were coming to weddings ?

First-person: Yeah, I had friends going to each other's weddings, not only weddings but also in sorrows .

Where did you live in Kabul and Nangarhar, and what was the name of the Gowradwara ?

Yes, we lived next to the Guru Nanak Gowradwara .

In Nangarhar, there were two Gowardwara; one was Guru Nanak, and the other one was Guru Tat. We were going to both of them. We didn't hand it over to the government; we hired people to look after it. Now, there are no females .

Were you working ?

Of course not. We were not working; we were at home, and our men were going to their shops. My husband had a homeopathic and herbal shop in Jalalabad. We married in Kabul, stayed for one and a half years, and then we got our first baby girl. When the war started in Kabul, our community people were moving in/out to India, and we moved to Jalalabad and got a shop there. We stayed there until we moved here .

On that same day that the Taliban came, we left our house at 04:00 am. We spent 10-15 days in Kabul, and then a military plane came to pick us up .

We came to India and stayed there for almost a year. Then, the government supported us, and we have been here for five months .

How is life here now ?

Life is good here, and there is no fear at all. I was terrified back there when my husband and my son were going to work, and I was alone at home; I was scared that a rocket would hit a house. My husband died in Jalalabad .

So your children also came with you ?

My children already got married. One got married there, and the other got married here .

If Afghanistan becomes normal like before, will you go back ?

Why not? Seeing my country in the news melts my health, and my heart aches towards it. On God! Sometimes, we play our old videos. When I see them, I start crying, and my children tell me, " Mom," we will not play this again. You cry and get emotional .

When I arrived, I got two pairs of clothes; we left our entire house with everything. We left half in Daramsal, and the Taliban went there and burned it. The Taliban went to Karta Parwan Daramsal and burned it. It hurt a lot when I remember my house. I had tried for 30 years to make a house, and they burned it so quickly .

What is your name :

Pharmajit Kaur