

Tomorrow Never Dies.....! **A Rendezvous.....** By Hasan Nisar

I happened to see many political parties and political leaders very closely. I have also observed unrealistic relationships of workers and political leaders like those of idols and their worshippers, but this was a unique experience for me that I did not see any thunderstorm or earth shattering when this leader came in the room. Everybody remained busy concentrating on their tasks; the only thing said for the sake of my information was... "Altaf Bhai is here" and then I saw a tanned smiling face in front of me. A handshake, a hug, and then a marathon dialogue and interview with a person who has been associated with innumerable realities, myths, and drama, who despite of extremely unfavorable circumstances, put his life at stake, and materialized such a political party, which, for the first time, when, took the oppressed ones, the ruled ones, and the weak ones to the assemblies, was tried to be leveled to none through a huge propaganda as the establishment has the power and skills of turning white into black, and black to whiter than white. This was my first ever meeting with Altaf Hussain, the leader of Muttahida Quami Movement as I have not visited England after 80s and Quaid e Tehreek is living in exile for more than one and a half decade, and after the assassination of Ms Benazir Bhutto this exile has extended as the workers of the party don't want to take any risk on his life at any cost. It is impossible to inscribe the full details of this meeting of six hours long; however, I will share the excerpts of this meeting with my readers. The story of the making of MQM is very vexing, when Altaf Hussain and his associates used to move on bicycles, hungry and thirsty, and people used to toss coins on them sarcastically, saying, "Ok! Make the cost of cyclostyling out of these coins". It also requires having a lot of courage to see the dead bodies of his brother, nephew, and other relatives and the molestation of those dead bodies. Altaf Hussain told me that still his brother and a sister, living in Canada, belong to working class and they are reaping the consequences of the "crimes" of Altaf Hussain. And the biggest crime of his is striving at his best for the middle class and the deprived ones to prevail, as the inaccessibility of the deprived ones to the power corridors sustains the destiny of humility for these deprived ones. When I mentioned some of the well known "allegations", Altaf Hussain said that some of my associates who are present here are with me since their early adolescence, and then it is not the relationship developed under fear but the associations formed through common sufferings these are long lasting and irrevocable. When I am leading this movement while sitting at a distance of thousands of miles shows how deep are the associations of common sufferings, and this is only because we don't belong to heavenly creatures. We have borne these afflictions on our persons. What is poverty and deprivation, we know the reality of these, that we use to hold the handle of the bus in one hand and were holding the books in the other hand, one foot on the footstep of the bus and the other suspended in the air. We lived on chick peas; Is this not enough to prove the loyalty and commitment that I have never offered myself for any post; it is not the ministries, governorships, and presidencies which are my dreams; my dream is the alleviation of the deprivation of the deprived class and just and equal distribution of national resources; this is my target and this is my agenda; and probably this is my crime that I have made it possible practically. We have neither paved the ways to power corridors for feudal lords, industrialists, and capitalists, and nor projected my relatives. I have a strict eye on the

lifestyle of my associates; I live simple and I expect the same from them. That is why that even after getting access to the power corridors the lifestyle of my associates did not change and this is this MQM's culture the country's ruling class is scared of. Can you imagine if this culture flourishes in the whole country, then what would happen to these political pundits, kings, and royal clans? When I spoke on innumerable national problems, international situations, and the future of the country, the thinking of Altaf Hussain was clear and lucid on those issue...that if the actual eligible for the reigns of the country i.e. the common men, the representatives of middle class and the deprived ones cannot come forward then the situation will become more and more grim; the problems will worsen; but if the representatives of public get the leadership in real sense then every difficulty will ease out and every problem will be solved because the attitude of actual eligible would be different, otherwise the foreign accounts and foreign properties holder class whatever has done to the country is evident in front of us. After a while when we came out from the closed room to an open space, I said "some of my friends also want to meet you, can you squeeze sometime for them too?" call them now, Altaf Bhai said happily, and in a short while Khawaja Saleh Rasheed Bhatti and Rana Javed Umer reached there and joined the discussion. In this session other friends were also present when Mustafa Azizabadi recited his beautiful poetry describing the hope and light in future when deprived ones will get their rights and will celebrate their prevalence. Whatever he said in his poetry was very helpful in understanding MQM. After that, late in the night, Saleem Shahzad Bhai dropped me at my apartment near Knight's Bridge. I am still under the aura of the feeling of this altogether different type of political culture and leadership while it is already 72 hours that I left that environment.

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