



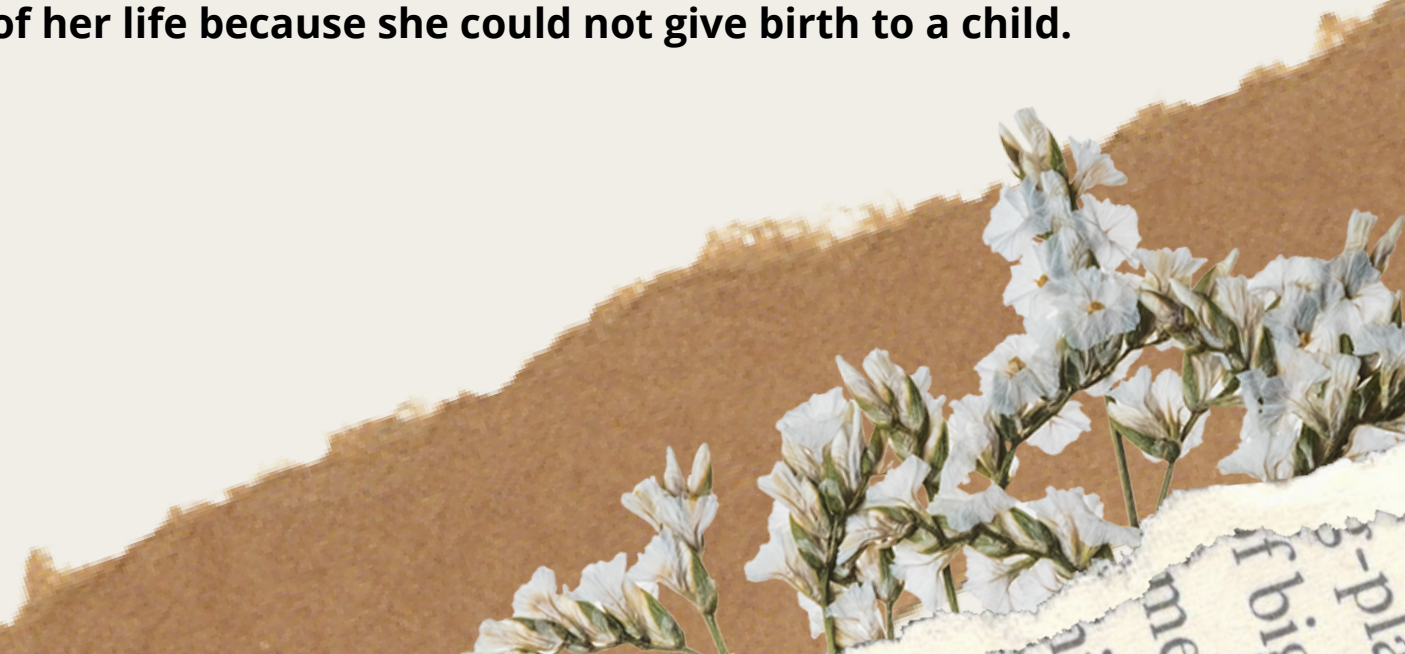
# Muniba Mazari

The world is full of inspirational people, everyone has a story of their own. This story is about a woman who had no idea after the accident her life will change and now her life made her who and what she is today. This woman who always believe that sometime problems are not too big that we cannot handle but we are too small to handle them and finally at the end, we all realized that happiness does not come from success, money, and frame. It came with gratitude. Let us start the incredible life story about Muniba Mazari's and how she ended up getting to where she is today.


Muniba Mazari's is an activist, anchor, artist, model, singer, and motivational speaker. She was born in Rahim Yar Khan (Southern Punjab), Pakistan on March 3, 1987. She belongs to a very conservative family, a Baloch family, where daughters never say no to their parents. She studied at the Army Public School and later she attended college in her native hometown for a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts). In 2006, at the age of 18, her father wanted her to get married and all she said was "If that makes you happy, I will say yes." and of course, it was never a happy marriage. Her husband was Khurram Shahzad who was a former air force official and now a commercial pilot. In 2015, her husband divorced her due to her physical condition.

Two years later, on February 27, 2008. She was traveling from Quetta to Rahim Yar Khan with her husband and they got involved in a car accident, somehow her husband fell asleep, and the car fell in the ditch. Her husband managed to jump out and save himself. She said "she was happy for him" but she stayed inside the car and sustained a lot of injuries. Her whole ribcage fractured and because of the ribcage injury, her lungs and liver were severely injured. She could not breathe and lost renal bowel control, that is why she had to wear the bag wherever she went, but the worst injury that changed her life completely was the spine injury. The three vertebrae of her backbone were completely crushed and that made her paralyzed for the rest of her life. The accident took place in a far-flung area where there was no first-aid, no hospital, no ambulance. She was in the middle of nowhere in that topped car. Many people came to rescue her. They dragged her out of the car and while they were dragging her out, she got the complete transaction of her spinal cord. There was a four-wheel jeep standing at the corner of the street. They said, "Put her in the back of the jeep and take her to the hospital which is 3 hours away from this place." After that, they threw her at the back of the jeep, and they rushed her to the hospital but that is where she realized that half of her body was fractured, and half was paralyzed. She finally ended up in a hospital where she stayed for two and half months. She had multiple surgeries. "Doctors have put a lot of titanium in my arm and in my back to fix it. So that why people in Pakistan call me the Iron Lady." She said with a sweet smile. Those two and half months in the hospital were dreadful for her. One day, the doctor came to her, and he said "Well, I heard that you wanted to be an artist, but you ended up being a stay-at-home spouse. I have sad news for you" and that is "You won't be able to paint again" but she stayed quiet. The next day doctors came to her and said, "Your spine injury is so bad that you won't be able to walk again." She took a deep breath and said, "It is all right" After that doctor again came to her and said, "Because of your spine injury and the fixation that you have in your back, you will not be able to give birth to a child."

That day she was devastated, then she asked her mother "Why me?" And that is where she started to question herself why she was even alive? What is the point of living? And she will be incomplete woman for the rest of her life because she could not give birth to a child.







Her mother said to her “This too shall pass; God has a greater plan for you. I do not know what it is, but he surely has.” Those words were so magical that they kept her going. She was trying to put a smile on her face all the time and was hiding her pain, which was there but all she knew was that if she gave up, her mother and brothers would give up too. She cannot see them crying with her.

One day she asked her brothers “I know I have a deformed hand, but I am tired of looking at these white walls in the hospital and wearing these white scrubs. I am getting tired of this. I want to add more colors to my life and want to do something. Bring me some colors, bring me some small canvas. I want to paint.” So, the very first paint she made was on her death bed where she painted for the first time. That is how she spent two and a half months in hospital. Never complaining or whining but painting. After that she was discharged and went back home but she was unable to sit, and doctors wanted her to lie down on the bed straight for not six months or 1 year. She was bedridden continued in the one room for 2 years and looking outside the window thinking there would be a time when she would be going out with her family and enjoying nature. That was the time when she realized how lucky people are, but they did not realize. She even said that “There was a rebirth day that I celebrated.” After two and a half years, when she was able to sit in a wheelchair, that was the day when she had the rebirth. That day when she sat in the wheelchair for the first time, knowing that she would never leave this, knowing that she would not be able to walk for the rest of her life.

“That day when I saw myself in the mirror and talked to myself, I must accept myself the way I am. The sooner the better.” So, she applied the lip color for the first time and after she erased it and said will crying “What am I doing? A person in a wheelchair should not do this. What will people say? Clean it up.” But she put it again, this time she put it for herself because she wanted to feel perfect from within, and that day she decided she would live life for herself. She will not be that perfect person for someone. After that she began to fight from her fears.

She planned to write down all her fears and how she faces them one by one. Do you know what her biggest fear was? “Divorce by her husband” and after a few years she did set him free.

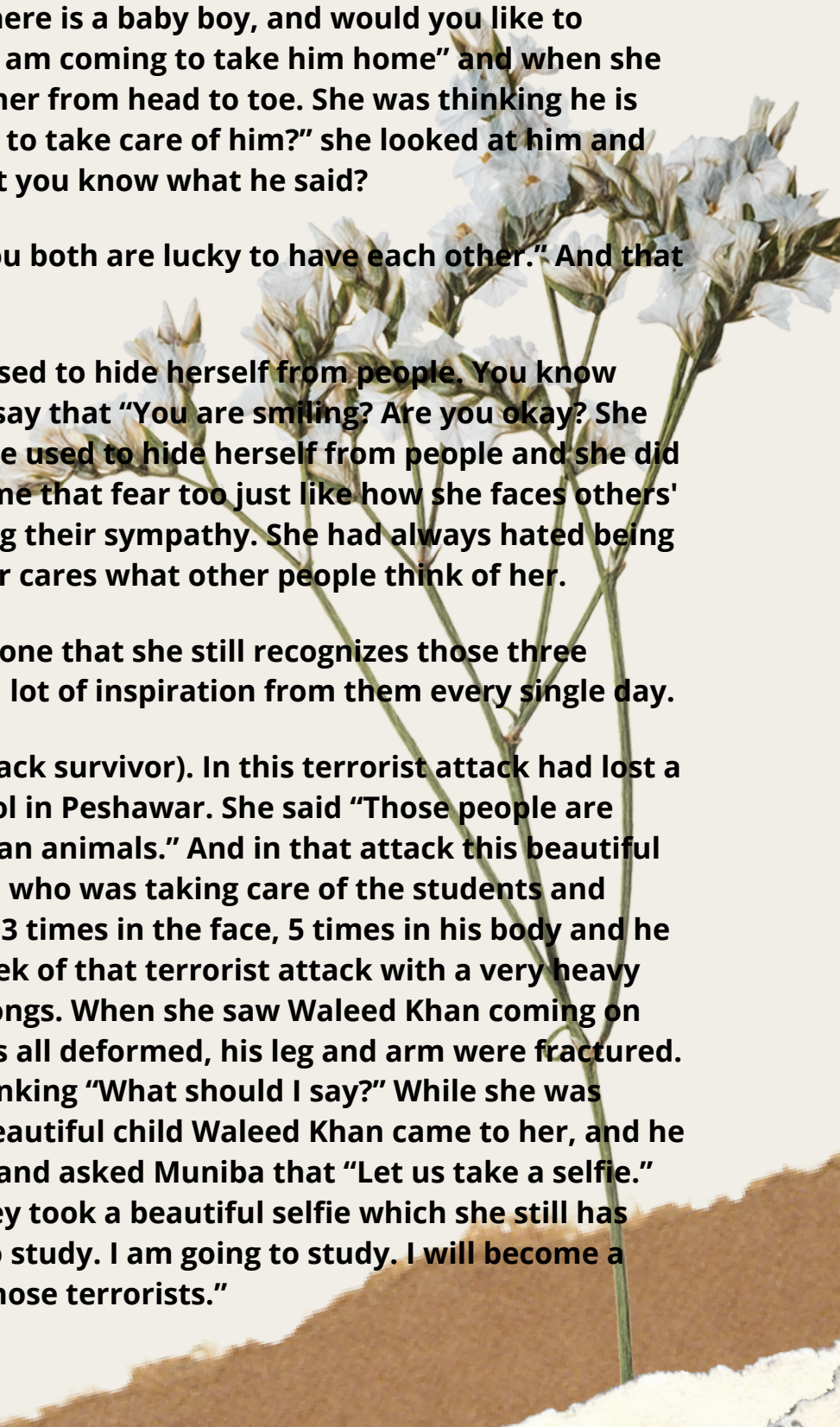
Her second biggest fear was not being able to give birth and be a mother, and that was quite devastating for her but then she realized there are so many children in the world all they want is acceptance. So, she thought there was no point crying, just go and adopt one, and that is what she did. She gave her name in different organizations, different orphanages. But she did not mention that she was in a wheelchair dying to have a child, and she waited patiently. Two years later, in 2011 she got a call from an exceedingly small city in Pakistan, and they said “Are you Muniba Mazari’s? There is a baby boy, and would you like to adopt?” and she replied “yes, yes, I am going to adopt him, I am coming to take him home” and when she reached there. There was a man sitting and was looking at her from head to toe. She was thinking he is going to say, “She is on the wheelchair and how is she going to take care of him?” she looked at him and said, “Do not judge me because I am on the wheelchair.” but you know what he said?

He said, “I know you will be the best mother of this child, you both are lucky to have each other.” And that day, Nile was two days old and today he is 10.

Her third biggest fear that she had was facing people, she used to hide herself from people. You know why? When she used to smile, they used to look at her and say that “You are smiling? Are you okay? She was tired of this question being asked “Are you sick?” So, she used to hide herself from people and she did not want to see the sympathy in their eyes, but she overcame that fear too just like how she faces others' fears before. She started going out in public and not minding their sympathy. She had always hated being accepted as a different person in the world, so she no longer cares what other people think of her.

She started telling people her story and she even told everyone that she still recognizes those three people in her life who changed her life completely and got a lot of inspiration from them every single day.

The first person she said was “Waleed Khan” (a terrorist attack survivor). In this terrorist attack had lost a lot of people and this attack happened in Army Public School in Peshawar. She said “Those people are barbarians. They do not see people. They are even worse than animals.” And in that attack this beautiful boy Waleed Khan, who is her real-life hero, was the proctor, who was taking care of the students and keeping an eye on the students. Those barbarians shot him 3 times in the face, 5 times in his body and he fell. She was asked to give a speech in the school after a week of that terrorist attack with a very heavy heart, she went there and she spoke, sang a few national songs. When she saw Waleed Khan coming on the wheelchair for the first time in front of her. His face was all deformed, his leg and arm were fractured. He could not talk because he lost his teeth and she kept thinking “What should I say?” While she was juggling with the word, what to say, what not to say. This beautiful child Waleed Khan came to her, and he said, “Are you Muniba Mazari?” She replied “Yes” he smiled and asked Muniba that “Let us take a selfie.” And with that beautiful toothless smile of Waleed Khan, they took a beautiful selfie which she still has with her, and he even said “The terrorists wanted me not to study. I am going to study. I will become a doctor one day and this is my way of taking revenge from those terrorists.”





Another real-life hero is her son Nael Mazari (Muniba's son). She learned so much from this kid. The first thing is patience. How to be patient. Nile knows his mother Muniba cannot walk. When he knows that his mother is different from the other women. When he knows that his mother cannot go out and play with him. He knows how to stay calm. Nile loves football and the very first time he got the football, he was 4 years old. He was super excited and said "Mom, let's play football." And kept the ball in front of Muniba feet and he said, "Lets kick it!" That day she felt disabled. She said, "I cannot kick the ball" He looked at his mother and said "Well, that is all right. Your legs are not working but your hand does, let us play catch the ball." That day he made her realize that "When you think your glass is half-empty, but the other half of glass is still full."

And the last person is the woman who made her realize that heroes have no gender. The woman who believed in her even when she was completely at the words of despair where everybody left but she was there, and that woman is her mother. Every time she looked at her mother without saying anything. Her mother used to look at her and said "This too shall pass. God has a bigger plan and one day you will say that: Oh my god, that is why God has chosen me." Her mother never cried in front of her. Her mother always said that "There will be haters, there will be naysayers, there will be disbelievers and then there will be you proving them wrong." Whatever she is today it is all because of her mother's support.

She started to paint, and anchor shows in Pakistan. She has even received 100 inspirational women of 2015 (BBC), 500 most influential Muslims of the world, First Pakistan UN Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, Forbes 30 Under 30 in 2016, The Karic Brothers Awards 2017 in Serbia by The Karic Foundation. Everyone has their plan and wants to go as per their plan, if that does not happen, they give up. But she said "I never wanted to be on the wheelchair, never thought of being on the wheelchair. I was always aspiring to do bigger things but had no idea that I had to pay the price to be where I am today."

"It is okay to be scared, it is okay to cry, everything is okay, but giving up should not be an option" she said. "Everyone always says that failure is not an option, but failure should be an option because when you fail, you get up, and then you fail, and then you get up, and that keeps you going. That is how humans are strong." Nothing is perfect in this world, everyone is perfectly imperfect, and that is perfectly all right. Everyone was sent here not to become the perfect people. Those people who tell you how to look perfect, even those people are imperfect. Only the perfect eyes can see that. "You must listen to your heart; you do not have to look good for people. You do not have to be perfect just because other people want you to be perfect." Society has made very weird kinds of norms to look perfect and great. For men, its different. For women, its different. She said, "Why everyone thinks too much about what other people say?"

She asked a question "Do you know what makes you prefect?"

Then she said,

"1). When you make someone smile."

"2). When you try to do somethings good for the people around you."

"3). When you feel Somone's pain, and how beautiful pain is that it connects you with people."

That is why she always say that "I am in pain, and that is a blessing in disguise for me."

People usually ask her "Why she smile all the time?" but nobody sees her cry all night because she is a human and must keep the balance. She smiles all day because she knows that if she smiles, she can make people smile, that is what keeps her going.

"Be grateful for what you have, and you will always end up having more" This line is so magical that it changed a lot of people life.

It is hard when she says that "She cannot walk and always wear this bag, but I have to keep going because never giving up is the way to live." Live your life fully, accept yourself the way you are, be kind to yourself and only then you be kind to others. Love yourself and spread that love. Never give up. I have learned a lot of things from Muniba, her all single words are so powerful, she is a great motivational speaker. Somehow at some point of our life, we lose hope and do not know the actual way of living life, but she is the true inspiration and a great motivation.

