

Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.  
I remember him in this lonely prison.

*How could he extend his hands of blessing towards me?*  
*How could I get in touch with him?*  
*On which morning?*

He introduced me to many paths of politics in our country.  
I also remember my eye operation in the operating theatre  
at Calcutta Medical College.  
Since the operation I have begun to use glasses.  
I dropped out from study because of my illness.  
Then I fell behind in my schooling for a few years.  
I had nothing to do.  
I had no work.  
I did not study.

Everyday I was drawn towards the Swadeshis, native activists  
for freedom.  
I became fond of Subhash Bose's party.

At that age, I realised that the English have no right to run  
this country.  
I attended the meeting of the Swadeshis.  
I travelled between Gopalganj and Madaripur.  
The Madaripur sub-district's chief warned my grandfather.

My experiences as a boy should have prepared me for the consequences.

*People who disrupt a good initiative, ultimately deserve trouble.*

When we were students we used to collect rice as aid for poor students.

We looked for accommodation for poor students.

My interest in activism grew and grew.

*How I could be a daring boy..?*

But illness hampered my study for four years.

I thought, if an opponent party member beats any member of our party, we should punish the attackers.

*How could I become the powerful leader of this daring group?*

People complained against me to my father.

Bengal's Chief Minister A.K. Fazlul Huq and Labour Minister Suhrawardy made a visit to Gopalganj.

I was the leader of a volunteer group.

Hindu boys began to revolt and engage in non-cooperation.

What was the reason?

The Congress Party had asked them not to cooperate.

Why? What was the reason behind it?

Mr. Huq is a Muslim, Mr. Suhrawardy is a Muslim.  
For the first time, I realized, I was disappointed.  
I had not thought of this before, I could not figure it out.  
I could not even imagine it.

*Hindus and Muslims are the same people, we are equal.  
What is the difference between us?*

Mr. Suhrawardy noted down my name and address.  
After his return, he sent me a letter to which I responded.

The Police arrested us and imprisoned us.

My first period in jail was in 1938.  
That was the fate of the Bengalis.  
If someone captured any of our party members, we would  
bring him back with a strong fight.

In 1939,  
I met Mr. Suhrawardy in Calcutta.  
After my return to Gopalganj from Calcutta, I dedicated  
myself to expanding our party.

Despite my illness, I passed my exams.

*How could I study?*

I spent my time in politics, in meetings.  
My father did not have any objection to sports and politics,  
but he wanted me to concentrate on my studies as well.  
I was convinced that we must establish Pakistan, as a state  
for Muslims.

Otherwise, the Muslims would not have freedom.  
I was convinced by whatever the Azad newspaper wrote.

In 1941,  
The Convention of the Chhatra League in Faridpur was  
attended by poets Kazi Nazrul Islam, Humayun Kabir, and  
principal Ibrahim Khan.  
The government declared Section 144, we all realised that we  
would not have any freedom unless we established Pakistan.

Despite their time as students ending,  
student leaders continued to occupy posts in student  
organizations —

*What could be expected from such leaders?*

In 1943,  
Bengal was witnessing a dangerous famine.

Thousands of hungry people were migrating towards towns  
from villages.

They had nothing to eat.  
They had no clothes to wear.  
The English had cancelled all trips by boats and had seized all  
the storage for paddy and rice.  
Businessmen were using the situation to chance their luck and  
exploit people.

They sold one packet of rice for 50 taka, when the original  
price was only 10 taka.  
Ordinary people were abandoned on the streets.

They were half-fed.

They were un-fed.

Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy was Supply Minister,  
and thus he gained a poor reputation with people.

Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy tried his best, and opened gruel  
kitchens in villages.

He collected rice, wheat and flour.

The English thought “if people die of hunger, let them die.”  
Support for war was the first priority, goods required firstly  
for war.

After that, if there was any empty space left on trains, it could  
be used to carry food for people.

For shame! For shame! For shame!

The evil British who created such famine in Bengal.

Following the advice of Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy,  
leaving my study, I engaged myself to save famine-affected  
people.

I helped take care of hungry people day and night.

My health collapsed.

I had married Renu in my boyhood,  
but we had our ceremony for sleeping together on a bed of  
flowers in 1942.

Thus then, Renu took care of me and I recovered.

*How could I forget it?*

*If your pledge in life is true, you will not lose.*