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## **Quake Impressions**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of Oct, 2005 Pakistan got hit by the worst ever natural calamity in its history. The count of the total dead remains unknown but is likely to approach 40,000-50,000. A big part of N.W.F.P and almost all of Azad Kashmir got hit, millions became homeless. Out of these ashes of death we have seen the revival of the human spirit. The Pakistani nation has shrugged of its comatose spirit and has come out in the millions to donate and do voluntary work.

On that fateful Saturday when I went to see if there was anything I could help in at the Margalla Towers site, I realized that I had been beaten to the site by hundreds of people of all ethnicities represented in Pakistan. My lasting memories are of a man on a bicycle hurrying to the crash site carrying bed linen and a mattresses on his shoulders for people who had been left homeless, and of a laborer in work clothes buying dates for the survivors. The expressions of these people showed concern for their fellow man and a determination to help him.

Since then, I have been trying to gather money in my own humble capacity. It will never be known how many hundreds of millions of dollars have been donated by ordinary Pakistanis for people who aren't even technically their countrymen.

Yesterday, an eight year old girl, who had found out I was collecting money came to me and gave me her months pocket money and asked me to get the people of Azad Kashmir some food. Strange as this comment may seem, this may be our finest hour yet.