

Hiro Shroff

IN PRAISE OF JINNAH

Sahib, ath anna men kiya karega? That was my first brush with Pakistan—or rather, the advent of Pakistan.

That was way back around 1946 and the location was Karachi. I was s' "I a student in Karachi and a freelance journalist.

Jinnah was on a visit to Karachi and the local Muslim League leader thought he would organize a demonstration in favour of the demand for Pakistan on the lines of the Congress demonstrations calling for independence of India from the British.

The Sind Legislative Assembly was on and the local Muslim league leader and a handful of his so-called supporters had gathered inside the Assembly compound. They were raising pro-Pakistan slogans but when a police van arrived and even before the lathiwielding policemen could alight from the van, the mob, dead scared, had fled. This was in sharp contrast to the Congress, where, its demonstrators, faced the lathis and the bullets.

Crestfallen, the local Muslim league leader walked across to the nearby residences of his so-called demonstrators. And here I witnessed what might he called attack is the best form of defence. Before the leader could

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