

My Story as a Muslim Immigrant in America
Psychiatry, Social Activism, and Service
Dr. Basheer Ahmed
A Brief Review

I enjoyed reading this book and I recommend this book to all who are curious about the role of immigrants in general and Muslims in particular. There are many take home messages in the fascinating journey of Dr. Basheer Ahmed, a truly global citizen.

We learn about the significant impact the author's grandmother and mother had on his upbringing and the role played by several other role models who shaped his career.

The author pursued a career in Psychiatry and played a significant role in developing several such outpatient facilities which was recognized and rewarded with grant support and many awards and accolades. Dr. Ahmed worked both in the academic and private practice set up in St Louis, New York, Ohio, and finally Texas.

Dr. Ahmed was a major driving force in helping develop and lead several national professional organizations like Islamic Medical Association of North America which culminated in him being invited to White House during the height of the Iran hostage crisis where he shared with President Jimmy Carter the recommendations of the Muslims regarding that crisis.

Dr. Ahmed retired from private practice in 2005 and has managed to develop many centers and initiatives which address the unique health cultural and social needs of the increasing immigrant population in that area. Readers will appreciate the impact of these initiatives and how it has helped change the lives of the 'have nots'. Dr. Ahmed has been a leader in the much needed field of interfaith dialogue and interaction. The community has recognized and duly acknowledged the author's contributions to the society.

In the final chapters the author addresses the question—"why don't the moderate Muslims speak out against violence and terrorism". Dr. Ahmed has added his voice to the many others which denounce terrorism and he offers sound advice to the American Muslim community based on his own positive experience in USA.

This book describes in some detail the story of a very successful Muslim immigrant in USA who benefitted from the opportunities in USA and at the same time he made significant contributions both professionally and socially which benefitted the community at large. Dr. Basheer Ahmed has lived the immigrant's American dream and all of us have benefitted from his contributions in the many areas that he has been active in.

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