

AN INSIGHT

I dreamt that I was standing still in an eerily lit underground railway station. People whizzed around me in fast forward, chattering happily and ignoring me - friends, aunts, uncles, cousins ...I tried to say 'hello' but I had no voice. I tried to grab their hands but I couldn't move. I tried to run after them, shriek, scream, ask them to STOP, ask them to hold my arm and take me with them, but I was FROZEN!

Events and scenes and moments shifted and shimmered, jumped with glimpses of places I had visited, fragments of memories happy and sad. The more I tried to focus, the more the scenes and faces merged into one another until I was left standing in the midst of a thick fog.

I could see myself disappear in the fog, become part of it, become thin vapour, I knew I was dead then, and I was trying hard to hang on to just one thought – I'm still here, I'm still here. Then I could not see anything anymore either. All around me was dark suffocating blackness and I felt that I was just a dot. A dot that was trying very hard to hang on to the thought, I'm still here, I'm still here.'

I tried to fight a deep, numbing sleep that was enveloping me.

I wondered what if it's time. What if all that happens to you when you die. Is it you turn into a small dot that is formed into a deep sleep and you can't even hang on to the memory of your existence anymore? And when you are awake, you are already someone else, with no memory of the life you led before.

And there no answers – no angels or Gods to meet you halfway and tell you what it was all about. But sometimes you do! At times you meet people who alter the entire course of your life, answer the unanswerable questions and teach you the true meaning of life. Such angelic species are termed as TRUE FRIENDS and TEACHERS. This article is dedicated to all those who taught me the true meaning of life – Urvashi sinha, Rincy mol, Preeti Sharma and many more. Lakshmibai college completely changed my life and all thanks to our principal and some of my favorite teacher's Geeta arya ma'am, Geetanjali ma'am and specially to Vrishti Singh ma'am (another mom and true motivator and a supporter to me) and also thanks to my sports teachers Seema ma'am and Savita ma'am for selecting me and then feeling proud on my gold medal. Thank you all – who stood tall through all the thick and thin of my life spent in this college.

DEATH IS NOT THE GREATEST LOSS IN LIFE. LOSS IS WHEN LIFE DIES INSIDE YOU WHILE YOU ARE ALIVE.

Celebrate this event called "LIFE."

EHSAAS: EMPATHY TOWARDS 'THEM'

We often come across 'THEM' passing by but we never pay any homage to 'them'. 'They' are the witnesses of our daily lives but we are still forgetting 'them' and triggering off a sense of disrespect for "them".

These ignored and miserable people who are tortured in every phase of their life, are not considered human and a part of society anymore. Rather, they have been given the identity of futile and worthless. This ill-fated people whom I'm hinting at are the aged, old, and sick people, who are today described as a burden, were earlier considered as 'messengers from heaven'.

Attaining internal bliss is the best thing that happens after developing a feeling of love and compassion for these 'heavenly messengers'. This is because caring for the old, sick, weak and elderly people is considered to be the most heavenly deed that can be done by a man. But mankind, in contrast to its name and identity, does atrocious things intentionally, which makes life a burden for others and makes it difficult for them to carry on with life. These black sheep leave them all alone with their problems and agonies, not realizing how they would be penalized in hell, when they would have to lead a torturous and tormented future.

These poor, sick and old people are treated with animosity in today's ego-centric and selfish world. These elderly people have to accept this in their life which is moulded by this ego-centric and selfish world into a very depressing truth.

Anthony Powell said, "Growing old is like increasingly being penalized for a crime that you haven't committed even."

It is unfortunate, however, that whenever we think of old age, pictures of loneliness and neglect come to our minds just because of these fools today. These old age years ought to have been the best years of a person's life but now they have become the worst nightmare for everybody. This ought to have been the final time when one would sit in the shade of nature's lap, relive good old times, and let the bad memories fade...

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History hons. (III YEAR)