

World Asthma Day – A tribute to my Father-in-Law

On the occasion of World Asthma Day, I fondly remember my Father-in-Law who very recently left us for heavenly abode. He was a Chronic Asthma patient and had problems associated with lungs, due to which the functioning of lungs reduced drastically and therefore he had to face huge challenges in keeping with his health.

But I am not going to talk about the challenges and the problems that he faced but rather I am going to focus on his persona. When life throws us challenges and adversities, most of us fumble. However, here is a man despite all his health problems always wore a smile on his face. He learned to deal with and to cope up with problems. He was very particular with his exercise regime in the form of walks but despite breathing problems the exertion never showed up on his face. He came across very pleasant greeting and hallowing whoever he came across and spreading cheer around him. He touched everyone's life and tried to make it better.

In any Society you could suddenly find him to be the General Secretary despite he not being the General Secretary. He would find ways and means to connect with the workers in the premises, manage them and at times scold them. The workers never took the scolding seriously because they knew he cared for them.

Despite all his distress he would always remember all important days / events of all the family members. He had his unique ways of recording everybody's birthdays and anniversaries. When our computer system could fails his memory & record keeping never failed him. Just a few days before he passed away, he called to reconfirm my son's birthday. This was not that he has forgotten it but in a way to remind me, lest, I forget.

The other thing that I find very endearing life lesson and which is something to learn or take from him is the ability to contribute at every phase of his life. I am sure in his younger days he handsomely contributed to every aspects of his life. However, post his retirement he became the significant cog in the family and supervised all actions as if he was the manager of the house. He exactly knew what provisions to buy and what the cost would be and thereby he was able to keep a tab on all finances.

He had a distinct way to connect with his seniors, though few and also his peers. He could very well connect himself with all generations and therefore many travelled to Chennai to catch up with him only to go back happily.

In a sense, despite health issues there was no reason for him to be unhappy he choose to focus on the good. He made a CHOICE to be Happy come what may. Rather than fretting or looking for help he found a way to manage himself without troubling or being a burden to others but thereby making somebody's life and the surrounding better. Not only did Flowers bloom when he was around; but so did Smiles !

He enjoyed cricket a lot and I can proudly say... Well played Sir!!

5th May, 2018