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(A True story of Human Endeavour)

## AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

— **Roop Chand**, Branch Manager,  
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**D**onation has been highly appreciated and praised in Indian culture. It is believed that those who give donation in one birth surely get its return in the next birth. It is also said that the best donation is that which gives direct help and succor to the recipient.

This story that I am going to narrate pertains to one hot afternoon in summer season of the year 1988 and it is relevant to the topic under discussion. Those days I had just joined as Hindi Assistant in National Insurance Company Limited and was posted at Delhi Divisional Office No. 2, situated at Jhandewalan. Two persons came to our office asking for donation. One of them was blind whereas the other person who accompanied him was carrying one receipt book. They told that they had come from a Hostel for Blinds being run by some philanthropist somewhere in East Delhi.

They also approached our Assistant Divisional Manager for help. The officer was a

directly recruited officer who apart from being honest, and efficient, was also a kind and considerate person. He asked the blind person what he wanted. The blind person started explaining the purpose of their visit; meanwhile the other fellow went to approach some other employees of our office. The blind person, who was named Krishan Lal\*, informed that they had been running the Blind Hostel not inspired by philanthropic intentions alone. When asked how much money he got out of the donations received from people, he informed that he received only about Rupees thirty daily.

Krishan Lal also told that he was pursuing B.A. The officer categorically asked him what help he expected from him. He told that he faced problem regarding text books, as only a few text-books were available in Braille. The other alternative was that he could listen to the pre-recorded tapes for which he needed a tape-recorder. The officer assured him of all

possible help and asked him to come the next day. He noted down the address of their hostel.

Curious to know how they put up and managed their lives, he reached the hostel situated in an unapproved colony of East Delhi, after office hours, in the evening. Someone had started the hostel for the blind persons where about ten inmates were staying those days. Satisfied by the whereabouts and the genuine requirement of Krishan Lal, the officer accompanied him to Karol Bagh market the next day and gifted him a brand new Philips tape recorder which cost about Rupees seven hundred. The officer helped the poor young man from time to time by providing financial support as well as other assistance.

Once, when the person got very depressed due to his problems and poor financial position, he even entertained the thoughts of committing suicide. The officer then helped him emotionally and mentally, by providing him motivation and by sharing with him some points of divine knowledge which he had learnt from the teachings of the Brahma Kumaris, as he was their staunch follower. The depressed fellow got inspired and then continued his further study. Ultimately, he passed B.A.

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to control sugar level. And I have started eating bitter gourd which I used to hate earlier.

More importantly, I started waking up early in the morning and started walking for one hour. And walking in the morning has made me realise that the world is immensely beautiful. Now, I get to hear the temple bells ringing and the birds chirping which I had missed till now. Not only has it helped me to control my sugar level but it has also helped me to reduce my waistline. And I feel energetic too.

When the heart wants to give in to temptations, shouldn't the mind be able to control? I take inspiration from Gandhiji's anecdote. Now, I tell those who say they can't control their diet that if I could control my diet and change my lifestyle, anybody can do it. My colleague stated that in her house nobody likes to eat bitter gourd. It was suggested by another colleague that a pinch of salt be added to the bitter gourd and the water squeezed out later, to remove the bitterness. I told her that if the bitterness of bitter gourd is removed then one is eating it only for the sake of eating; all the nutritional benefits are lost. How much we pamper our taste buds! In the process, we tend to forget that taste buds are just one part of our body. I have learnt an important lesson. There's no harm in eating tasty food but one should not make that a habit.

I now appreciate the saying "Be the change you wish to see in the world" with much more confidence and empathy as I have myself followed this and have seen successful.

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deeply appreciate this project, as it prepared me and gave me the experience of being with none but the One in a unique scene of drama. Thank you Baba, 'Thank you' to the divine family and 'Thank you' to the organisers of the project! Thanks to sisters Dipti and Pratibha from South Africa! This scene also made me understand what souls go through when they are placed in detention. I now understand their pain and sorrow and of how they are ill-treated and denied of their human dignity during such times!

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Soon thereafter, he got a permanent job in transport department of a State government.

I salute the indomitable spirit of the blind person who realized his goal despite many hardships. The officer mentioned in the story is Mr. Ranjit Singh Fuliya, who was my immediate boss in that office. He became instrumental in helping me also, in very dramatic circumstances. Such stories of genuine help offered to really needy fellow beings go to prove that all is yet not lost and mankind can certainly hope for betterment.

(\*Name has been changed, to maintain anonymity.)

### MAKE THE BEST USE OF OPPORTUNITIES

Usually, we give a lot of excuses for not doing things. Our words are then 'if only...' or 'some other time'. So even if we have the capability to do it, our capabilities are wasted, as they are not used at the right time. And we don't really experience success at that time. Whenever a situation demands something, which we feel is beyond our capability, we need to tell ourselves that the situation has come our way as an opportunity in order for us to use our capability. So when we believe in ourselves and our capabilities in this way, we will be able to make best use of opportunities.