

A NATIVE PIONEER IN IT SECTOR



Rosina S Khan

In Memory of:

My Dear Dad

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Contact: promisingfuture73@gmail.com

Preface

This short fiction story describes the biography of my wondrous Dad who was, in fact, a native pioneer in Computer Engineering. The values and education he gave to his children and the people he worked with are immeasurable and know no bounds. He literally touched so many lives that a whole lot of who still remembered him attended his funeral service. It was, in fact, a grand funeral. The news of his demise was on radio, TV and newspapers. People flocked to see us and console us. It was a great loss for all the rest of us to bear the tragedy but God gave us the strengths to carry on, follow his footsteps and do the things that would have made him proud.

His spirit is a part of our daily lives and especially, he shows up in our dreams at night. He was a terrific person indeed while he was alive, which is why we still miss him more than enough. May God let him rest in eternal peace.

If you have a Dad you are proud of, you would definitely be interested in reading this story. Go ahead, start reading right away and enjoy a fabulous read!

With love,

Rosina S Khan

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Dad's Transformation

Dad was brought up as a little child in a village in the southern part where his entire clan lived.

There was an interesting competition going on between my granddad and Dad's uncle. They both took on a bet that their own son would excel better academically and that they were going to make the best out of it.

It turned out that Dad had more caliber and genius than his cousin. He always ranked high in his grade classes and continued to make his way up the ladder of success. My granddad was happy with his son. At age 10, he sent his son to a boarding school in the city and that was when Dad was detached from his family for good. Yet Dad was enthusiastic about his parents' choice and loved to excel in his studies. Of course, there were challenges and so he made friends with an older friend who always solved Dad's tidbit problems and Dad gave him tips in return.

Soon it was time for Dad to study in the university. As he began to attend classes, he came across a good scholarship for studying overseas.

But he still needed some extra money which my granddad catered for by selling off land.

The timid and withdrawn guy (my Dad) was finally making his way for overseas. He had never been abroad and looked around and stayed aware, gathering up courage and self-confidence. When he finally reached his destination, Dad knew he was out of his comfort zone and had just boarded on a life of further challenges. And he made it gracefully. After an engineering degree from abroad, he came back to the country.

Dad's status was now higher than that of before. He got a reputable job and lived in the city. He got involved in several clubs: some social and some in his field of interest. It was through one of these channels, Dad came across a man, who was to alter his life in magical ways. This man became one of his closest friends.

Dad's Marriage

When Dad's closest friend (Let me call him Mr Sattar) was going out of town for training in his field of interest, he invited Dad to accompany him.

They reached the destination in a matter of a few hours. Then Mr Sattar took Dad to his in-laws' home. Dad was soon flipping through the pages of the host's family album to keep himself busy. When he came across a lady's picture, he stared long enough at her in the picture itself and asked Mr Sattar, "Is she slim like that in reality?" Well, Mr Sattar replied, "Yes" and guessed Dad's intention behind querying about it.

Mr Sattar and Dad were going to the in-laws' place more frequently. And soon enough Mr Sattar came up with a proposal for that lady in the picture on behalf of Dad. But Sattar's in-laws' answer was a strong "NO". Dad was not too tall and also he was soon leaving for abroad for his PhD. On these grounds, the in-laws of Mr Sattar did not accept the proposal.

But Dad was too determined, not ready to give up that easily. He knew in order to make his plan work, Mr Sattar couldn't help him anymore. So he wrote a letter to Sattar's chubby, tall and fair wife talking about all his passions for her sister. Well, Sattar's wife melted down on reading that letter and went about convincing her family that Dad would be the ideal partner for her sister. And yes, things started to make progress in their own pace and gradually the answer turned out to be a "YES".

So the great ceremony was soon taking place at Mr Sattar's in-laws' residence with good dinner arrangements as well as modern lighting systems. It was a grand wedding. Dad and Mom got married happily.

Soon Dad was going to pursue PhD studies. And he was on his way overseas once again. Meanwhile Mom got admitted in a university in the city, staying at some relatives' home. Then things were going to take a sharp turn for the couple, which you will get if you follow me up.

Mom Goes Abroad

Dad wanted Mom to join him during the last few months of his PhD. Accordingly her relatives back home helped her to get the visa. A lady who had never traveled a long journey overseas somehow gathered up brevity and started on her journey. People of our country ventured overseas very little those days, yet the airplane crew and others helped her to stay on track. Soon she landed in a foreign land. Dad saw her climb boldly and gracefully down the stairs of the staircase that was attached to the airplane.

They spent six months in this foreign country, doing lots of shopping including groceries because now that mom was here with him, Dad wanted to have home-made cooked meals, rather than dine at the cafeteria. They got presents for people back home. They spent romantic moments together and snapped pictures. Life felt sweet for them. Dad finished off his PhD in Computer Engineering victoriously. Now time to get home. It felt great for both Mom and Dad to return home, sweet home.

After returning to their home country Dad and Mom were living in a guest house in a large complex, newly built and about to complete all the construction. The apartment Mom and Dad were to own had still some finishing touches to give. So Mom and Dad waited patiently and Dad got back to work from where he was on leave.

Soon the apartment was ready; Dad and Mom got in, bought furniture, curtains and utensils and furnished their home into a cozy one.

Mom soon made friends in the complex and had great times chatting with them. She also went away on long drives to faraway places with Dad in their new Volkswagen car. Yes, life seemed good but unfortunately not for long!!

War in the Country

War broke out in the country which was then joined with a rival nation in order to proclaim the country's independence. Everybody fled to their village homes. So did my own parents. Sometimes it was unsafe even in the villages.

People of the country did not have enough arms and ammunition but they believed in themselves that they could win; as they were deprived of various facilities and benefits, their patriotism for an independent nation was very much strong. Adult and young boys trained themselves quickly as Guerilla Fighters and joined in the war. So many lives were lost as lots of gunshots and bombings took place.

Dad and Mom stayed safe in Dad's original village home. But even they got impatient after nine months. After it was declared victory for the country, Dad dared to come to the city to see if the complex where they lived was still in one piece. Fortunately Dad found out that everything was fine and he fetched Mom from the village, and they were one of the few couples who dared to stay in the complex.

Gradually law and order returned to the country. However, at the beginning there was a huge crisis. The country was victorious and had become independent. But all the wealth and assets were looted out. All school and university students suffered from lagging behind in their studies. So many homes were smashed down and so many people were homeless. But in spite of all of these drawbacks, with time it was possible to transform the entire nation to a stable and prosperous status. Mom and Dad were relieved. Dad resumed office as things turned out for the better. Yes, it was good to be back to normal life.

Dad's Work

Initially as I had mentioned earlier, Dad got an Engineering degree from UK and later a PhD in Computer Engineering from France. He was one of the earliest pioneers in IT sector in the country. He worked, after his engineering degree, in a research center in the field of engineering. After his PhD, he resumed his work in the research center.

Soon came a moment when he desired to be a faculty member in the university. And he did. It didn't take him long to be a professor, but he changed universities, each one with better opportunities and facilities than the previous one. In fact he was actually climbing up his ladder of success.

In between he also worked under UNDP and Education Ministry for short durations.

But his final workplace was in a private university where he was given the position of chairman in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

Dad's Four Children

A few years after the war, Dad had me as the family's first child. He was so delighted to have me that he celebrated by distributing sweets to every home in the complex where they lived. A year after I was born, my family had a second child, another girl. After five years there was another addition to the family, still a girl. My younger sister and I wanted a new sister and were very happy to have one indeed! But as time would show, Dad had an inner craving for a son. So it was not until another 11 years later when Mon gave in and gave birth to a baby boy. The entire family was joyous to welcome the new intruder who was going to bring a lot of fun and happiness into the family years on.

Dad had contributed to the family not only by earning reputable income but also taking interest in his children's education. That sure helped all of us find good careers as engineers like him later on in our lives. We followed his footsteps, completely believing in him and his principles and feeling there was no other way. It was ingrained in us and that is

exactly what makes us so successful today. We are indebted to him
definitely.

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