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Square Petals Clobal Webzine

HealthyLifestyle Immunity

Flavour Special
Peanut Almond Sheera

Short Stories
The Beginning

Cool clicks Half Rainbow

Personal Development
Dare to beYou

Poems Fantasy vs. reality Fairy Dark forest Kavita Top Trends
Society
Perfect Parenting

Literary Bytes Selflessly Self Centred

Art Canvas painting

Event SquarePetals Writers Awards 2019-20

CoverStory Nancy Quinn

Award Winning Wildlife Artist & Western American Author



presented to

Shashwat Johri CEO SquarePetals

In Recognition of Outstanding Professional Achievement & Contribution in Nation Building

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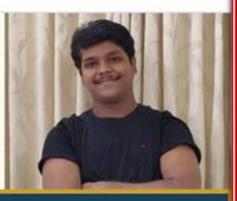








LONGEST ONLINE BEAUTY PAGEANT Mrs. Gujarat T20 12 NOVEMBER 2019 - 10 APRIL 2020



RECORD HOLDER

SHASHWAT JOHRI

WHAT

LONGEST ONLINE BEAUTY PAGEANT

WHERE

VADODRA (GUJARAT) INDIA

WHEN

10/04/2020

APPRECIATION – SHASHWAT JOHRI

December 19, 2020 | Appreciation





Shashwat Johri (born on August 12, 2000) of Vadodara, Gujarat, is appreciated for organising the Mrs. Gujarat contest online. He was the Director of operations for the online event conducted by EsquireVJ, a multifaceted global business company. A total of 29 women contestants from the state of Gujarat had registered, participated and completed the contest rounds including video introduction, interviews and talent showcase. The contest began on November 14, 2019, and the top five winners were declared online on April 10, 2020, as confirmed on November 10, 2020.

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FROM THE DESK OF **Editor-in-Chief**

Hello Dear Readers.

Happy New Year! This year has come with the hope of normalcy in our beautiful world as we have the vaccines now, for safety against Covid -19.

So here is the January 2021 edition of SquarePetals Global Webzine, with warm wishes for good health, happiness and a prosperous year, good health and happiness. Lessons have to be learnt though; let us appreciate our planet by taking care of the environment and being compassionate towards fellow humans and the animals as well. It matters and our deeds invite it all, be it blessings or the curse of a pandemic.

SquarePetals has come up with lot of positivity, with the awards and honors, to mark the beginning with accomplishments and big motivation for a glorious year ahead. We are committed to provide insight and opportunities, and the spread of knowledge with the spirit of togetherness.

So, keep smiling & keep shining on.

Love & regards.



Sansriti Johri Editor-in-Chief

















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Everyone needs love and companionship. I learned at a young age that sharing myself with those who are forgotten benefited both me and the creatures I helped."

This lifelong interest in animals and nature was soon expressed in her art. "I wasn't very good at first. My father died before imparting his skills to me, but I believe I inherited his natural talent. As a result my artwork continued to improve until by age seventeen I was selling paintings locally. By now my family was living in

Florida and I was in college. Art sales alone could not support me, so I acquired various jobs, including singing professionally in night clubs. Two years later I was offered a fulltime position in state conservation law enforcement."

This job provided opportunities to work with and study exotic animals being imported to Florida. In her spare time Nancy took birds and reptiles into the schools to educate children. "My job allowed me to interact with a menagerie of rare species, including leopards, monkeys, snakes, lizards, and birds of prey. It was dangerous, fascinating work. Even when handling animals in captivity I respected the fact they were wild and unpredictable. Though I tried being careful, I was injured a few times. For example, I once had an opportunity to work with a young

Nancy Quinn is an award winning wildlife artist and modern American western author who focuses on inspiring and entertaining people through her writings, paintings, and online presentations. Maintaining a positive outlook is no easy task, especially for Nancy, who suffered her first crisis at age six when her father, a popular artist, was killed in a car crash.

"It was the same day men first landed on the moon, yet for me it will always be the day my world went dark," said Nancy during a recent interview. Perhaps because of her sense of loss, Nancy started befriending stray animals, nursing the injured and sick back to health. It was a tradition which still continues. "In my books I describe my relationship with dogs and horses that nobody else wanted.

Bengal tiger. As our time together ended, his play became aggressive and he nipped me on the ankle! Thankfully I've always balanced caution with a hefty dose of humor, otherwise I would be too afraid to approach any animal. I've never let fear hold me back."

Nancy's demand as an artist increased to the point that she gave up law enforcement to concentrate fulltime on art. Her reputation as a wildlife artist grew until tragedy once more struck. In the span of a year her health dramatically declined, her marriage failed, and her mother died. Devastated, she found herself once again alone in the world. "I was back in that dark corner from which some never emerge. I had to choose whether to remain there or emerge back into the light. I chose light." Her health issues lingered, but she improved slowly, incrementally. "I was

another job to pay the bills. I thought this was my life from now on and I resigned myself to it, but I refused to give up." Then one day, five years later, "I met the man of my dreams. He loved me in spite of my health issues. Bill was a former Air Force officer who now operated a tree farm. He asked me if I minded living in the forest. Minded? I loved the idea."

It was serenity for a few years as they started a family. Then an opportunity came for Bill to return to active duty, but it meant moving to Washington, D.C. "It was a tough decision, but financially it made sense because Bill could retire in six years if he took the assignment. I sadly bid farewell to our oasis in the woods and settled into the hectic suburban life around Washington." Nancy made another tough decision; she put her art



able to create some art, but I had to take

career on hold to focus on her family, but

destiny was about to intervene again.

"I was at home with my daughter watching television when a news bulletin broke in. The reporter's face was ashen as she announced the Pentagon had just been attacked. The date was September 11th, 2001. I clutched my

daughter desperately. Oh God, my husband's there. Is he alive?" Minutes passed like hours before the phone rang. It was Bill, alive and unharmed. "I wept with joy before realizing other wives were not as lucky as I, and I started to cry for

them."

Days turned into months, then years, but at last the time came for Bill's retirement. They had no desire to remain in Washington or return to Florida. They wanted a new life in Montana because of its beauty and uncrowdedness. With their two

children, they began a crosscountry journey to their homestead on a mountainside, and with it, exciting new adventures. They were pioneers of the modern west, and like their 19th century predecessors, they had much to learn.

"We wanted a pastoral lifestyle, something calmer, less hectic. We endured a steep

learning curve during those first few comical, dangerous years as we adapted to frigid snow and ice in winter, followed by the summer antics of our nearest neighbours - owls, ospreys, hawks, eagles, deer, elk, moose, cows, foxes, coyotes, wolves, chipmunks, rats, skunks, badgers, cougars, and bears.

Whenever I mentioned our misadventures to friends and family, they were baffled by our choice of frontier living,

so I began writing detailed explanation stop them."

Encouraged by friends, she chronicled these stories in memoir, Go West, Young Woman! She included photos and illustrations of wild animals they encountered. Thus began a new career path for Nancy, who found writing was not as easy as telling stories. It took over a year to finish the

manuscript. The next hurdle was finding a publisher. "After fourteen rejections I was very discouraged. I had

no literary agent and I felt alone and adrift, but I believed my writing had a purpose, so I kept trying." The next publisher she contacted accepted her book and it went on to win the Will Rogers Medallion Award for excellence in western writing.

A sequel followed, Stay West, Young Woman!, and now her latest book, Still West of

Nowhere! Continues the saga. "During the first four days of its release it remained on Amazon's best 100 seller's list in the Family and Humor category. This surprised me because the book was never advertised."

Some stories are poignant and occasionally melancholy, but mostly they are humorous. Instead of darkness and despair, hope is the constant theme in her writing. "I write from the heart and celebrate family and what family can accomplish when they stand together. Through our personal experiences I want to encourage others to pursue their dreams despite the hardships they encounter. Readers tell me they feel like they are a part of my family when they read my stories. It's inspiring to know my writing provides such

intimacy."

Nancy continues to reside with her family, dogs, and horses on their mountainside where she also enjoys baking, decorating, party planning, ribbon dancing, and fruitless attempts to master the guitar. She remains actively painting and writing about her experiences living in the modern, but still very wild west.

Visit Nancy's website at www.quinnwildlifeart.com and subscribe to her YouTube channel. You can find her on Facebook.

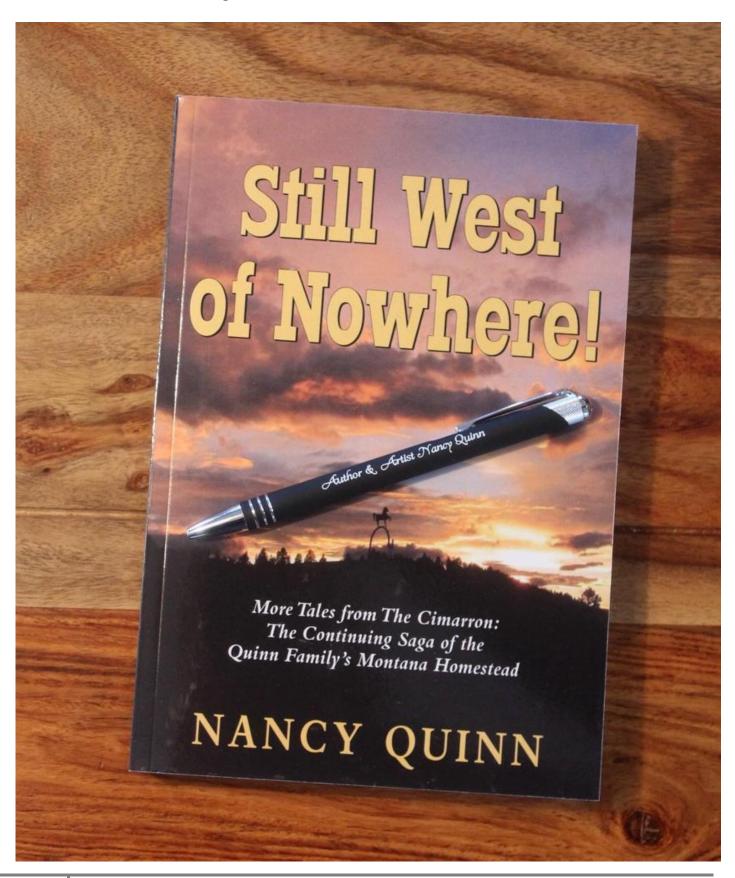
An overview to the theme of the books written by Ms. Nancy Quinn:



https://youtu.be/4diL7oKige4

It introduces the viewer to the theme of my books. The views are amazing from the

mountain top and she has learned how to pilot a drone to capture dramatic footage.







IMMUNITY

If an intruder tries to enter into one's house, he is pushed out forcefully using muscle power. Immunity is similar; the germs (bacteria or virus) that cause disease are like invaders and immunity is the power in our body cells to fight out and throw out these disease causing germs or the pathogens. Our body functions are systematically distributed among different cells and organs, and the IMMUNE System should be functioning properly so that we stay healthy and free from diseases. No matter how well all the organs may be functioning, but if the body cells do not provide protection against pathogens, then an infected organ will cease to perform which can be even lethal. We all have seen it happening to people during Covid-19 pandemic, the lungs in this case get badly

infected!! It is time now that we humans must realise how important immunity is and that we have to concenter towards the immunity level boosted, as there seems to be a struggle for survival and it is always 'survival of the fittest' as per laws of nature.

We are all born with a certain level of natural immunity, which is the 'innate immunity'. Then we are further blessed with immunity in another form, i.e. the passive immunity which is transferred from a mother to her new born through mother's milk. This is the reason why mother's milk is recommended by doctors for six months as it boosts the infant's immune system and keeps the baby safe from illness. But there are germs all around, in the environment, which keep us attacking life long, and therefore we acquire artificial immunity by means of vaccines against specific diseases for defense.

How does a vaccine work, is an interesting mechanism. The white blood cells (WBC) in the blood are actually the fighter cells that protect us against disease germs, just like the soldiers on the border fighting our enemies. Now, the soldiers posted at the border are pre trained for the war, only then they can handle it. Similarly, the fighter cells in the blood also

the invaders get in. A diluted or de energized pathogen stream which is made to enter into our body. The strength of the germs in a vaccine scaled down very low, so that it won't be able to harm us. Meanwhile, one type of WBC termed as 'phagocytes' kill these germs after identifying the antigens (foreign body), whereas the 'lymphocytes' which is another



require pre training, to be able to identify the pathogens in the first place, then tag them and finally get them killed. I addition, they also make up for any little bit damage done already to the body before finally the germs have been removed. There are specific cells doing their job for the purpose, and vaccines are sort-of training dozes for the body cells in order to prepare them to keep ready before

group of cells in the body, store a memory of identifying same cells if they enter again anytime after that. To simplify it, I will say that the fighter cells in the human body are not just trained after that, but become equipped as well with ready antibodies. Antibodies get attached to the surface of these germs, thus labeling them to be caught by the phagocytes among other healthy cells of the body. The

killer cells or the T-cells, which is another group, can now spot these germs and finish them off, thus saving any damage to the human body.

Antibodies also function to neutralize any leftover toxins by the disease causing germs
before they got eliminated. So this is the
disease fighting mechanism after acquiring
immunity with vaccines. It was the brilliant
thinking of Sir Edward Jenner, who first
invented vaccine against the dreadful small
pox disease. He had observed that some
women who used to milk cows had developed
cowpox on their hands and surprisingly these
women got saved from killer disease of small
pox those days, while the others suffered. He
then concluded that if cow pox germs were
injected into people, their body will

understood that it would save them. I sometimes wonder, what is more difficult for a genius, is it to discover or invent something beneficial for the humanity? Or, it is to convince them that it is meant for their good and well being only and they should get over narrow minded resistance to a change. I personally think it becomes a double task and the latter part is more tedious. Even today as we are waiting desperately for the vaccines against Covid-19 to roll out, we must be grateful to Sir Edward Jenner, as many other killer dissuades are countered using his idea of vaccination.

Talking about our innate immunity with which we are all equipped right from birth, we have to remember that it is supplemented with the passive immunity of mother's milk. So



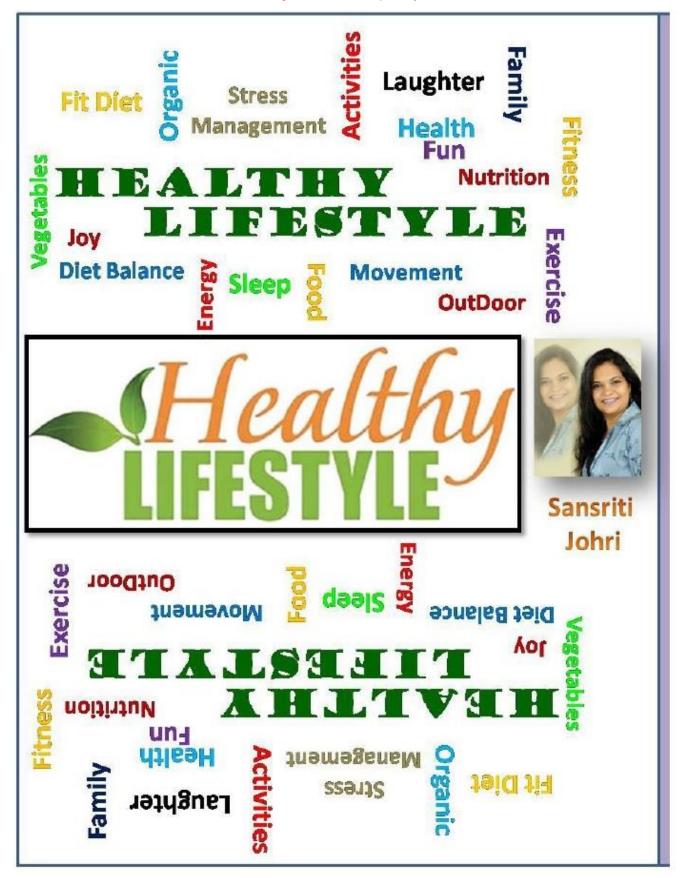
keeping in minds the very crucial immunity concerns. Nature has provided us with many immunity boosters and we must incorporate these in our daily meals. These immunity boosting spices are ginger, garlic, turmeric, black pepper, cinnamon, bay leaves and cloves. Adding these spices to food not only adds aroma but also improves our natural immunity. Many immunity booster drinks can be prepared using basil leaves, and even tea, specially herbal tea containing Guduchi is an immunity booster, specially lemon tea rich in vitamin C. In fact Vitamin D is indispensible for maintaining the immunity level and therefore it is advised to stay out in the sunlight for around fifteen minutes every day, either during morning or in the evening hours before sunset. Vitamin D deficiency directly affects our immunity level, we have to be cautious to take supplements as per doctor's advice in case we are not getting sufficient sunlight dosage in the day to day hectic schedule. Certain immunity booster foods that I can think of are drumsticks and Indian gooseberry (amla), and then there are many herbs for which an Ayurveda expert can be consulted. Also, exercise and yoga aid in improving immunity as the oxygen supply enriches our cells and makes them strong. It also helps in proper blood flow which again is very good for immunity and the body.

So, the points to ponder for immunity concerns are;

- 1) Immunity is not visible, but its effects are. Do keep in mind that it is important to be disease free for a happy life, and therefore immunity counts.
- 2) It is good to take Amla preparations and include drumsticks in your food.
- 3) Lime tea or herbal tea once or twice a day.
- 4) Do not forget your daily dosage of sunlight.
- 5) A refreshing tea made of turmeric with basil leaves, ginger and lemon is very good in the evening.
- 6) We should include these spices in your food: Black pepper, cinnamon, cloves, garlic, turmeric and bay leaves. You can also take these as Masala tea.
- 7) Breathe-in fresh air and exercise daily.
- 8) Taking stress will lower down immunity level. De-stress yourself by spending time with your loved ones or your pet, or by watching TV, reading motivational books etc.

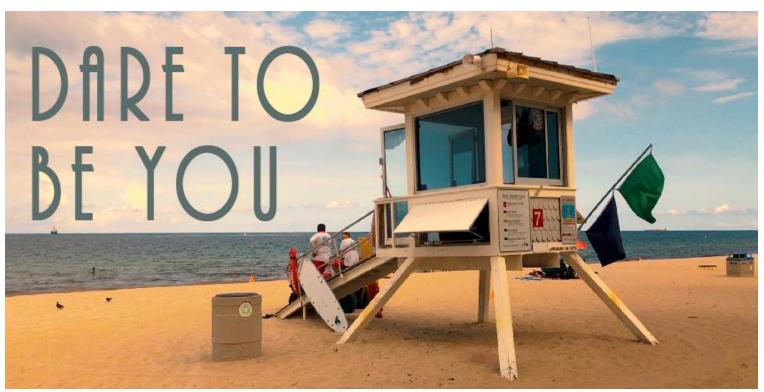


Sansriti JohriAuthor, Editor, Entrepreneur



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DARE TO BE WHAT YOU ARE

Greatness is attached to people who know who they are and dare to be so rather than what others want them to be. If you just think about it, most of the unsuccessful, unhappy and unfulfilled people you see are the people who are afraid to dare, to be what they are. They best way to end up a failure in life is by trying to do something or be something you are not supposed to do or become.

The path to mediocrity lays in conformity.
Resolve to be yourself. Dare to be what you truly are. The world would want to change you, never settle for that. Resolve to be yourself real self. A Congolese proverb asserts, "Wood may remain ten years in the water, but it will never become a crocodile."

No matter how a chicken tries to fly, it can never become an eagle. The lion is useless in the ocean but powerful on the land. The shark is powerful in the ocean but useless on the land. Until you accept and identify who you are, you can never occupy your place in life.

Our world is filled with people who are suffering from identity crisis. Many people go through life without knowing what they are. They try to live a life that pleases everyone and end up becoming like everyone. Every successful person is known for what they are. Until you begin to dare to be what you are, you may never get ahead in the journey of life. Everyone has an identity, a unique trademark that distinguishes us all. A cat can never be a leopard, and a rabbit can never be a rat. They are all unique in different ways. It was Julius Hare who said, "Be what you are. This is the first step towards becoming better than you are."

The truth of the matter is that success comes to those who dare to be what they are. They believe in themselves and in what they are doing. If you don't dare to be who you are, you can never grow to be greater than you are. Failure doesn't stand in the path of those who dare to be what they are. It was Carl Rogers who advised, "The curious paradox is

that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change" To be great and successful you must come to a realization of what you are and accept who you are. You must not live your life based on the opinion of others. What others think about you shouldn't limit you from living a life of authenticity.

Dare to be what you are. Don't die a copycat. Dare to be original, don't be a counterfeit. Dare to be yourself not like someone else. Do you know that whenever you try to be like someone else you are killing yourself? You are destroying your image and minimizing your potential. How many great people do you know who are trying to be like others? Whatever is not original will never last. If you want to be outstanding, you must stand out to be original. Frederick Klopstock remarked, "He who has no opinion of his own, but depends on the opinions of others, is a slave. To be dreaming on of becoming a person you are supposed to be is to waste the person you are." Nobody is as disappointed and unhappy as the person who longs all of his life to be somebody other than whom he really is.

The person who trims himself to suit everyone will soon whittle himself away. If you don't have a plan for your own life, you will only become a part of someone else's plan. You can't carry two faces under one hat. Never wish to be anything but what you are. Andre Gide asserted, "It is better to be hated for what you are, than to be loved for what you are not."

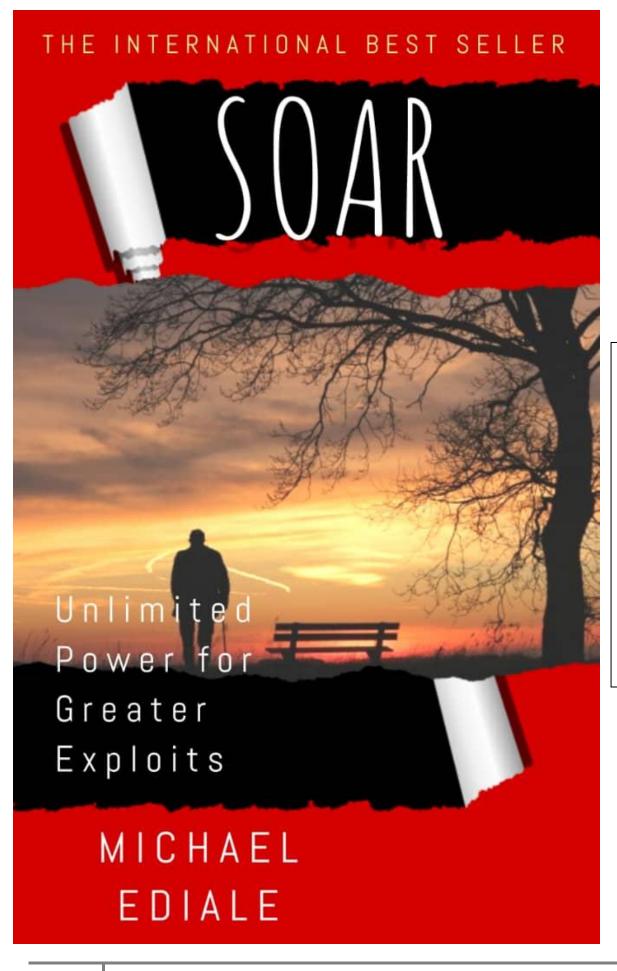
All great things are products of originality. There's no one smarter and better than you. You are created to be unique and original. There is only one life for you - your own. The person who walks in someone else's tracks never leaves his own footprints. Doris

Mortman observed, "Until you make peace with who you are, you will never be contented with what you have." Most of our challenges in life come from not knowing ourselves and ignoring our potential, talent and real virtues.

Most people live their entire lives as complete strangers to themselves. Don't let that happen to you. Leo Buscaglia said, "The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position. "Don't give room to conformity. Never settle for less. Being average places you below the excellence mark. Be fearless and confident to be what you are. The most exhausting and frustrating thing in life is to live it by trying to be someone else. No one can ever become great by imitation. Imitation is limitation. Dare to be yourself. Don't be a copy cat. Make your impression in life to stand out in life. Be a voice not an echo. Be identified with whatever is unique and original. Don't live your life based on how other people want you to live. Rather, live the way you want to live your life. You owe no one anything but being yourself. The beauty of life is living it in your own way. There can only be one Michael Jackson, there can only be one Michael Jordan. There can only be one Pac Shakur, there can only be one Donald Trump, and there can only be one Serena Williams, Messi and Christian Ronaldo. These are great achievers who stood out from the crowd because they dared to be original.



Michael Ediale
Life Coach, Motivator
& Best Seller Author



A book laden with insights, wisdom and ideas that can take you from where you are to where you want to be in life.

Available for purchase on Amazon kindle store.

PERFECT PARENTING

I have been a mother since the past 18 years and in all this time if I have learnt one thing then it is this – THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PERFECT PARENTING.

There will always be someone who has better ideas, better management skills, and better temperament or, it could be a whole new generation who has evolved to do better from the actions of the previous generation. Also, I believe, parenting is a process, it's start point being when our children are born, continuously evolving in our journey of life till the end. In my journey as a parent (longer than some, shorter than most), I have learnt many lessons, some of which I would like to share.

If you ask the children, I'm sure they unanimously love their parents and all, but show me one child who has never complained about their parents. Now don't get me wrong, I am not saying the children are right in their complaints. But wouldn't perfect parenting ensure "complaint-less" children <<lol>

What could be these complaints?

The most common of complaints - Children with siblings have had moments when they felt their parents were partial towards the other sibling.

Probably they're right... Probably they're wrong.

Well, I've had this suspicion all my life that my mum loved my younger sister more than me. And if you turn around and ask my sister, I am sure she'll say the very same thing in reverse.

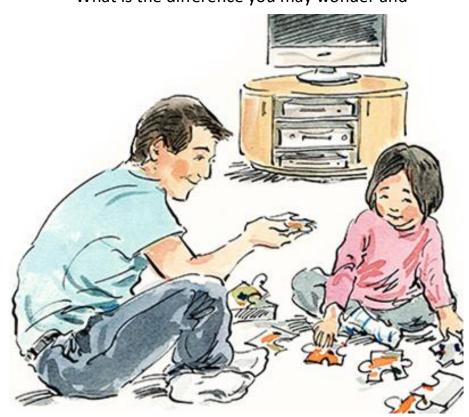
What about single children then? Many a times, we hear that the parents have compared their child with a better peer.

And one would think, since I am aware of this flaw, I would have avoided this land mine.
Apparently not!

I have only one child - a daughter. I have been careful and always tried to avoid this comparison but there have been many instances when my daughter has complained to me that she feels that she is always in competition with her younger self for my affections.

So Lesson#1 - Knowing or being aware doesn't necessarily result in success to avoiding many a parent's fatal flaw – COMPARISON.

I remember this funny conundrum I faced when my daughter was born – should I raise a good child or should I raise a smart child?
What is the difference you may wonder and



why should "being good" and "being smart" be mutually exclusive? However, in today's world this is a sad fact.

For this we need to understand the definition of good and smart.

Being Good – A list of accomplishments attached to attaining this label. The easier ones are morality, honesty, helpfulness, loyalty, etc. They can be achieved and also practiced. The more difficult ones are never hurting others, to be uncomplaining, selfless and some more equally impossible tasks.

Being smart – includes intelligence of course... but also includes survival and the ability to find solutions in the face of problems.

There are problems that can be solved without letting go of your goodness, but what about those problems which arise because of the selfishness of people. If we are to solve those then somewhere or the other we might end up compromising atleast one of the qualities of "being good".

My daughter is of the opinion that "Every good child lives in a bubble". She elaborates that for a child to retain his/her nicety and innocence, they most definitely have to live in the bubble of protection of their guardians, i.e. they need someone else to compromise their goodness for them. Once they step outside this bubble and face the real world – they develop coping mechanisms to survive. And most of these coping mechanisms come with their added disadvantage – i.e. compromise of their goodness.

Sound's logical doesn't it? I am not saying this is true of every situation but you have to agree that compromising is the easiest of solutions which would be the first choice of most.

Coming back to my dilemma, I had decided early on, that I would prefer a good child to a smart child. How "noble" of me? Little did I know!

Silently watching your child being taken advantage of , just because I chose niceness over

smartness is the most crippling of all challenges. And your child being labeled a pushover as a consequence stands second.

Today, I don't know whether it was due to my meddling or due to her surroundings, no one would call my daughter a pushover. So am I sad at my failed attempt at an absolutely good child? No I am not. I am happier that my child is a relatively good child who is street smart and not a pushover. Also to raise an absolutely good person, we have to be an absolutely good person ourselves. And how many such people exist in this world?

So Lesson#2 – When it's a choice between being a better parent and the survival of your child, the latter wins - hands down.

There's perfection and then there's humanity. We, humans, can only strive for being perfect for if we become perfect we would no longer be humans. Also wouldn't perfect parenting result in perfect humans (which is an ironical oxymoron)?

So what if we can't be perfect? We can at least strive to be the best version of our self as a parent. Perfection is an absolute term where as striving to be, is the best is relative. And as I said at the beginning, there is there is no such thing as perfect parenting, therefore, instead of trying to be perfect parents, I think we should try to be the best, as far as possible.



Vidya KrishnarajAuthor, Editor, Content Writer



Selflessly Self-Centered

Every individual who exists on this planet is self-centered; either selflessly or selfishly. In fact I would say that no life existence is possible without being self-centered. But unfortunately this word has been censured in such a way in the society that people take it as an awful act. Well, WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. You are in a brand new year with lots of hope and probably many of you would have pledged a new resolution for this year but if you haven't kept yourself in centre before making that resolution then just put it out of your mind right away.

Centering yourself on what you base your life can never be an awful act. If you centre yourself on someone or something, be geared

up to face miserable conditions very soon. Be self-centered and generous to yourself first before thinking about others. It is a matter of fact that you can't expect others to make you

comfortable every time. First be happy and joyous and then make an effort to share out that with people around you. Remember I'm suggesting you to share out to people, don't be selfish and narcissistic, instead be kind, be grounded, selfless and make worthy contributions for the society. If you fail to contribute anything to the society then certainly you will be called "selfishly" selfcentered person and perhaps some people would take their revenge for this behavior of yours in future. So now it depends entirely on

you whether you want to be selflessly self-centered or selfishly self-centered.

Some people are work-centered, some are spouse-centered and some are children-centered, every individual is centered on something or the other, according to their understanding and priorities of life but if you scrutinize cautiously, you would find all these as momentary possessions. Being self-centered and not giving up the control of your life to others would certainly make your life way easier. Take care of yourself first. Only you are going to be around yourself till your last breath. But remember, be kindheartedly self-centered; NOT selfishly.





AKSHAY KUMAR SINGH Student of 'The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda



THE BEGINNING

"Why are you crying Moin?" Hussain Sir asked.

"Nothing, sir,' his voice broke, "its just—"
"Is it about the competition?" he held Moin's hand in his.

'Y-yes sir!' he stumbled for words. "I've always been good at it."

"I know you are good at writing poems,

"He won only because he is the principal's son." Sir said. "An artist paints because he loves to. A poet writes because he loves to. You must not pay attention to whether people love your poem or criticize it. Write for yourself."

"Right, Sir."

"I'll talk to the principal for another contest, but a different one." Sir looked determined. "This time you'll have to compete with Ms



because you read poetry, more than any student."

"Yes sir." Moin smiled weakly.

"Do you know, Moin," Sir sat beside him,
"when Ms Arifa and I read your poem about
Winter, we were surprised. What Ms Arifa
loved about your poems is the simplicity and
depth. I loved that part when you described a
passer-by for a cup of tea! It was romantic!"
"Really!" Moin stood up from his place. "But
Samad won the competition. I read his poem,
but—"

Arifa and me."

"But sir..." his eyes got wide with wonder.
"No ifs and buts!" the bell rang. "Gather all the poets and talk to them. Let's meet tomorrow, at 9 o'clock!"

Sun was climbing down the building, bidding the school farewell. The sun-stained clouds were painting the garden with gold. The air was filled with the chirping of the students. It's pure pleasure to head homewards after a long day at school.

Moin's house is a ten-minute way. And when there are trees saluting on your way home, what else do you want? But something was worrying him.

'It's a big day tomorrow!' he kicked a pebble. 'But a budding poet against the masters of English is never a win-win situation.'

On his way, he passed a flower stall. Roses, lilacs, marigold and all sorts of flowers were arranged in a pleasant manner. Moin's mind lingered over them for a moment, but then, his mother called.

"How was your day?" his mother carried his bag.

"Not bad," he sighed.

"Is it Samad again?"

"Samad won the competition, and I've another competition with the teachers." "Really?" she smiled, "With the teachers? Wow!"

"I'm not going anywhere today. I have to write a poem!"

He locked his room, pulled out a blank paper and started to think about the subject and the theme.

For five minutes or so, he stared out of the window. The clouds seemed an easy subject. He wrote 3 stanzas and read it aloud. The paper was in the dustbin soon, because it was unpleasant and it could evoke emotions. He mulled over another blank paper. Tired, he read 'Daffodils' by Wordsworth. All of a sudden, the flower stall swam in his eyes, a thing of beauty, and quite naturally, he started writing a poem. The words swam on the page and conjured a waterfall; the most beautiful poem he had written. He ran downstairs and read it out to his dad. "That's a great poem, Moin!" his father got up from his chair. "Who's the poet?"

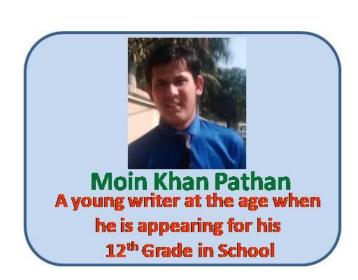
"What! Are you kidding me? This is amazing!"

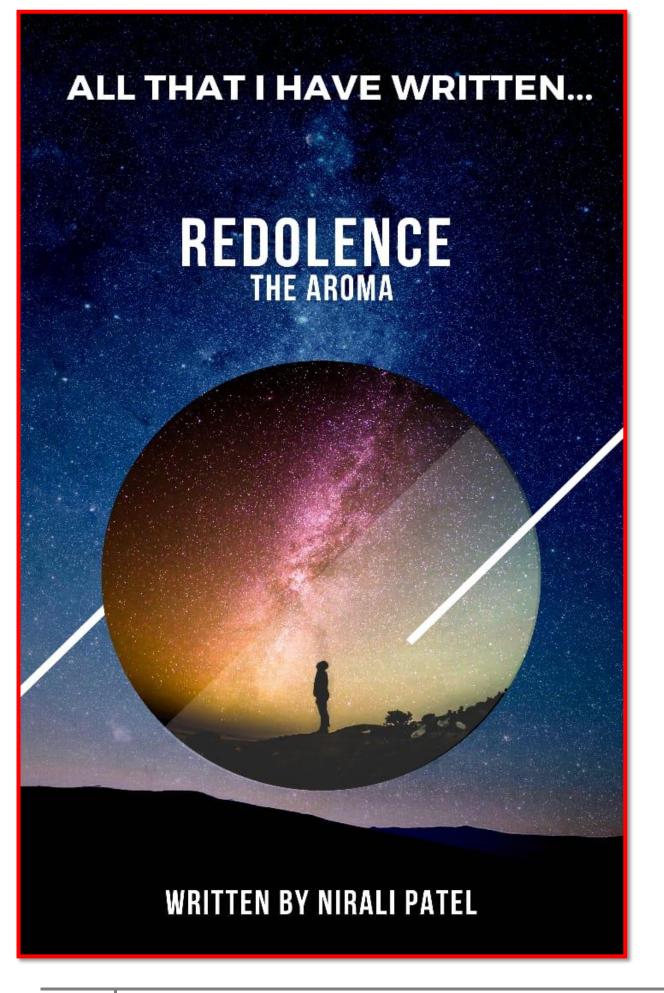
"I am the poet," he smiled.

"Thanks, Pa!"

Next day he read his poem in front of the entire school! Ms Arifa and Hussain Sir followed after him. "It's a pleasure to announce that Hussain Sir's—" "won the competition!" Moin exclaimed.
"No,' Fardin said, 'Moinkhan is the winner! Three cheers for the winner!'

Moin froze as hundreds of hands rose to appreciate the winner of the day. He almost broke into tears. He couldn't believe his eyes. "How is this possible, Sir?" he asked. "Didn't I tell you?" sir said, "You have Blake's words, Frost's simplicity and Byron's truth. Be you! Congratulations!"
"There is always a torch to light your way."





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PEANUT ALMOND SHEERA

Ingredients:
Milk 1/1/2 cup
Sugar 1cup
Almond pwdr1/2cup
(Soak and remove skin, powder it when dry)
Kesar (saffron), a pinch
Ealich 9cardmom), a pinch
Peanut paste 1cup
(Soak in water an remove skin make a fine paste, while making paste, if required, add milk, do not use water)
Ghee 1/2cup
Pista to granish
Fresh coconut 1/2cup optional
Mawa 50 gm

METHOD

Take a pan and add milk, sugar an almond powder and mix it well. Bring it to one boil and then remove from gas stove and keep it aside. Take a pan and add ghee and peanut paste, then saute till pink in colour.

Then add mawa and roast till ghee separates then add elaichi and kesar and mix it well.

Then add milk and cook till it is thick.

Then serve in a plate and granish with pista, serve hot.



Falguni Thakkar Award Winner Chef & Author of Hand to Heart

FANTASY VS. REALITY

Once upon a time
There was a little girl
Who went on adventures
Where she flew with fairies
And fought against dragons.
She wanted to stay forever
In that make-believe world
But had to leave it behind
And face a different battle
Against Maths and Science.
Now she delves into reality
And hopes to go back
To those pleasant times
While questioning herself
To stay in fantasy or face reality.



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Fairy



The Universe
At standstill sudden,
The sky burst
The Earth at halt.
The bird starts chirping,
The breeze stops flowing.
The humankind whispering,
Who is this amazing??
A musical laughter spreading
A sweet-sound listening.
I am FAIRY
Sent by ALMIGHTY,
To love my devotee
Who is waiting for me
For centuries and centuries....



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DARK FOREST



Living in the DARK FOREST
Without dearest and closest
No moonlight
Giving illusion of horror night
Waiting for sun to shine
Waking with a hope to rise W
Flowers to blossom
Returning to memories so awesome
Blessings and Love will heal
The more positively we deal
You are a warrior
Corona will disappear
With disgust and fear
Happiness will flow
As the corona phobia will go

Days are not far
When you will be near
To lead the life with cheer
And let optimism reappear
Missing those days so loving
Wanted the clock to stop ticking
Let people think
ne By filling in the blank
For relationship definition
Forming their opinion
Let us not care
What they do or say
Let us play
And enjoy
Until the death departs us!!!



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.. Kavita..

Shall I call you tree of Oak Standing with might and pride But minding well you are Sweet sixteen I dare not call you that Like a blow of wind you are Present around us leading us with Firm hand and moving about all the way You are our guiding light Brightening world around us You have a way with words You say everything with glaze The one who understands it is successful The one who doesn't prefers the full moon better You teach us values And make us believe in us Though I question always if do you ever teach Oh, what can I write for you Your name itself states poems



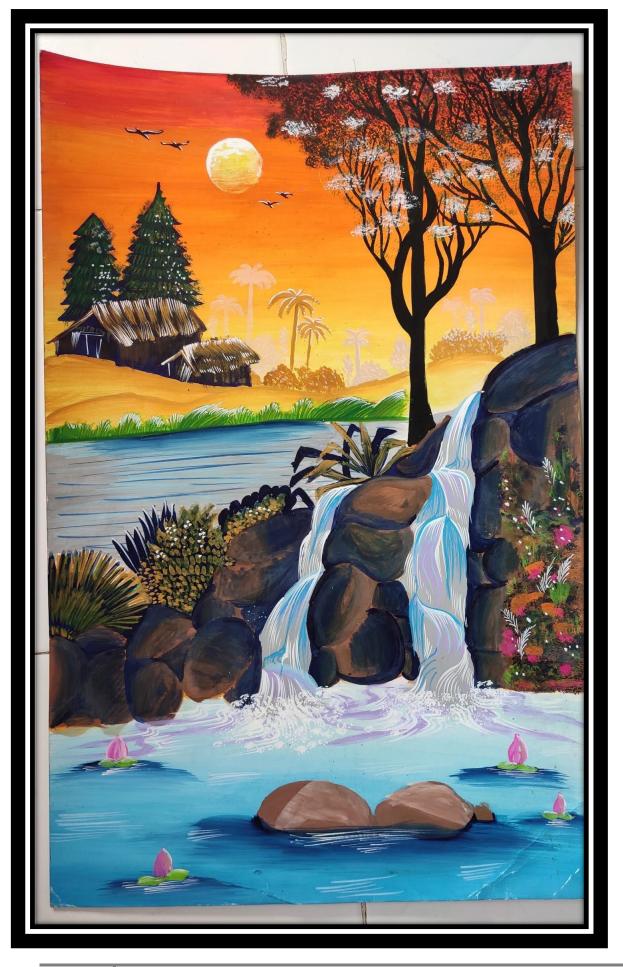
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Canvas Painting



Ms. Anushree Amish Saraiya
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Coo Clicks



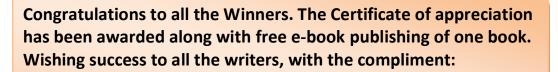
FUERTEVENTURACanarias Island in Spain



By
Ms. Smita Sharma



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