

Sarva Kutumbee, Bhaiyo ane Baheno, Kaakao, Maasio, Vadilo, Baalako, Aap ne Jay Shree Krshna.

To all our Family and Friends and all who knew my Father, on behalf of our Family, I acknowledge your presence here today.

Today, we have gathered here to celebrate the life of and to pay our respects to the life of my beloved Baapuji, our beloved Father, Shreeman Champaklal Dajibhai Mistry, whose Aatmaa had departed his body in the early morning of April 1, 2019 - Ekadashi Tithi. Coincidentally, he took birth in this life in Chaitra Ekadashi Sud. In both birth and death he was in the Ekadashi Tithi.

We would like to acknowledge the Family and close friends that have travelled here from UK, Toronto, Ottawa, Waterloo, Fort McMurray and Calgary, and all of our close friends who have made the journey from other parts and Edmonton and surrounding areas.

My father believed that true relationships transcend time and space...it does not matter where we live, how old we are, or what our background is - the aatmaa or soul recognizes the true nature of a person - the other aatmaa - and it does not matter what is the background of a person or where they live or come from.

And as my Father grew and developed in his lifetime, he developed many such of these relationships...

My father's journey started in a small village or gaam in Gujarat, India - Bodali (nearby Navsari) where he was born - the eldest

son of his parents, Swargavaasi Dajibhai Mankanji Mistry and Swargavaasi Kunverben Dajibhai Mistry, who left both left this world many years ago.

At the age of 2 in Gujarat, my father and Daadii maa (Father's Mother) moved to join my Daadaa (Grandfather) in Tanzania - and they settled in Dar-es-salaam, in search of a better life.

And it was here in Tanzania where his siblings were born - his sister, Narmada Daji, and brothers, Laksman Mistry, Raman Mistry, Gurnvant Mistry and youngest Balvant Mistry. He also had another brother who sadly passed away at a very young age.

My father was a practical life philosopher. From an early age, he practiced a certain life philosophy formula that he later crystallized into words and shared with his family and others later on in life. This life philosophy or 3 equations of life, as he used to say, are that:

1. You as an individual equals your path in Life - that is You, your inner Self or Atman.
2. Your Path in Life equals Styā and Rith (or pronounced Rith), which are Sanskrit words which mean the Truth and among other things upholding your dharma, sva dharma or duties in life.
3. When you uphold your duties or dharma, and with the knowledge of the truth or honesty, then they will come, or everything you need to succeed in your path or inner wish will be given to you.

Even before crystallizing these equations of life, as he called them, he had an inborn tendency to practice them. Although my

father and his family grew up in poverty in Tanzania, and did not have much, it did not stop my father from fulfilling his life wishes early on in life.

My father was very interested in playing Cricket. However, to play you needed a team and expensive equipment. Lack of funds did not stop him...he was able to get wooden materials from his father's construction site and he built the Cricket bat and fundraised to get a tennis ball and other materials. He created a cricket team, became the captain of his Cricket team, and then he had organized practices and matches with other teams.

My father also was interested in playing chess, but his family could not afford to buy a chess set. So, instead he carved his own chess set out of the wood of a guava tree, created the chess board, taught himself how to play chess, and became quite good. He later taught his elder son, Bhavin, who became exceptionally good, to play chess. His grandsons, Tushar and Nikhil have also used the same chess pieces he carved.

His life obstacles of poverty did not prevent him from achieving his life wishes, but instead became the inspiration to persevere in life to overcome these life obstacles.

One of the great challenges in his life was his education. My father scored high marks in school and had been accepted into the Ferguson Engineering College, which was a very prestigious college at the University of Pune at that time. However, my father asked my Daadaa, my Grandfather, "how can I afford to go?" And my Daadaa told my father, "is that your problem? It is my dharma to get the funds for your education"- and it was my

father's duty to study only. So my father went to Pune, Maharashtra with very little, but not a single cheque for his education fees was ever sent late to my father by my Daadaa...everything came at the right time.

After my father graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Pune, he got married to my mother, and he quickly rose in the ranks of the largest Construction company in Tanzania to become the Head, Municipal Infrastructure Construction at MECO from 1968-1972.

He had a great mentor, as well, during this time, John Massey, an American working in Tanzania. It was also during this time that my Daadaa had given the responsibility of educating his younger siblings to my father...and in the end, each of my father's siblings became professionals in their chosen fields of life.

My Father then came to Canada in 1973, as our family was in search of a better life. My parents chose Canada because my Mother, who read Reader's Digest, had seen an ad - saying "come to Canada" and she sent in an application without telling my father and it was approved.

Canada was a different life for my parents - who settled first in Toronto. My father did not receive much help initially to be able to obtain a job in his profession, and life was hard for the first few years. But they persevered again and my father obtained a job as an Environmental Engineering Project Engineer at Totten Simms Hubicki Ltd from 1973-1980.

The Toronto area was where my elder brother, Bhavin, and I were born. But we soon after moved to Edmonton during the oil

boom in the early 1980s with the many opportunities for advancement available in Alberta. My father became of the Vice-President Municipal Engineering Dept at Brooker Engineering Ltd. from 1980-1984 and then the president of DME Development Management Engineering Ltd. from 1984-1989 and subsequently was president of his own company, Zircon Projects Ltd., until 2006, when he started to pursue different life pursuits in accordance with his stage in life.

Professionally, my father had also was recognized by his profession in becoming a **Fellow of Engineers Canada in 2012 and an Honorary Geoscientist Canada Fellow in 2013**

My father worked on many projects in his life, but his professional career took a different direction after My Daadaa has passed away in 1989. Through some fortuitous happenings, my Father started to work with a number of Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta, in a project management capacity.

This work progressively culminated in a significant project, the building of the Bigstone Cree Nation - Cree visioned and designed school – called: Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik - which was designed to be a human development center for the Bigstone Cree people.

The Architect of the project, Mr. John Murray, had said that the Bigstone school project became a reality because my Father persisted with his efforts and put a whole team together including the Financing with the Federal Government.

Because my father persisted, this helped to realize the true vision of the Bigstone Cree Nation in this school, which literally looks like a village of teepee classrooms that the Bigstone Cree members took pride in, and that the Bigstone Cree Nation keeps in excellent condition with pride after 20 years as it was a realization of their own Bigstone Cree Vision. My father was, in truth, sent to Bigstone to be a facilitator or project manager to bring all the necessary parts together to achieve the vision of the Bigstone Cree Elders and People to help empower their Cree people to a better future.

It is important to note that my father was able to accomplish much in his professional life while living with a disease called ulcerative colitis, which is a form of inflammatory bowel disease until about 2000-2004, when he was able to achieve full remission.

But professional life was only one facet of my father...who said, when he accepted the second-ever Mentor of the Year Award in 2006 from his Engineering Governing Body, APEGA, **a life without helping humanity is a life of poverty.**

And by that definition, my Father was a rich man indeed.

His social, community and voluntary work spanned his entire life, and at the time of his award in 2016, he had mentored no fewer than 59 people who were a United Nations group made of persons who came from all over the world. He would go on to mentor and life coach many more younger persons and adults.

And he was involved in many significant social and community building activities in his life.

Through his social and community activated conscience, my father helped create and begin a skills and management training program for Africans in Tanzania.

He was a founding member and five-time president of a group dedicated to practicing and preserving the Gujraati-prajaapati culture, language and traditions, and to promoting harmony among cultures in multi-ethnic Toronto - called the Shree Prajapati Mandal of Toronto (SPM). Today there are more than 4,000 members of this organization.

Fundraising at the Edmonton chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of Canada increased from \$60,000 to \$250,000 from 1996 to 2000 under his presidency, which helped to prevent its closure. Many new initiatives that my father started at the Edmonton chapter were adopted nationally including Chapter business planning and a buddy system for executive members, as most involved as volunteers were sufferers themselves.

My father also founded an organization, Prajaapti Vishva Aashram Foundation, to remove generational poverty around the world through education and employability training for students who wish to pursue employable education but lack financial resources to do so. Basically, these students will not be able to pursue education but for the educational assistance offered by the Foundation.

The initial pilot project was completed in Gujarat, India with 10-15 students receiving full or partial vidyaa-daan (or educational assistance) to allow them to complete their education. The philosophy that my father inbuilt into this program was that when

1 member of the family can get employable education, that member can work and uplift the other members of his or her family out of poverty.

The Vidyaa-Daan was also given with the solemn understanding that the recipient would at least, once in their life, help some other person in need of similar assistance, so that the gift of education will be everlasting. My father's spirit will indeed carry on in the future with the sevaa to the Prajaapti Vishva Aashram.

My Father had continuously reflected on his life and had always made efforts to ensure others would not have to suffer the same hardships that he experienced in his life.

My father had lived to serve his family and community to the best of his ever-evolving knowledge and ability. My father had begun life coaching and mentoring from 1996 and continued to the day he left this world...and this is one of the most significant impacts of his life on his family and others who associated with my Father.

This ability to Life Coach and Mentor relied heavily on being able to have a vast knowledge of a subject area and also the ability to relate that knowledge to persons in the current-times, especially for younger persons.

It is this area, where my Father truly was an amazing person. He was always well read and continuously studied wide breadth of subjects throughout his whole life, he stayed current...to continuously evolve as a human being...so that his capacity to serve would be greater, indeed.

While growing up, I saw that my Father had a library of Engineering related matters, but also shelves upon shelves of books related to psychology, history, world religions, spiritual philosophy, health, commerce, law.

He also religiously went on a weekly basis (or more) the Edmonton Public Library, which he continued to inculcate in his many continuous trips to the library with his grandsons, Tushar and Nikhil. My father was also continuously keeping abreast of current events by reading our subscriptions the Edmonton Journal, Globe and Mail, MacLean's and Time magazines, and Readers Digest. Over the past 20 years, we had no less than about 24-30 large bookshelves of books on a variety of topics...almost enough for a small library.

However, the most significant collection books for my Father were what he called knowledge of Life Sciences - which are the books of ancient indian manuscripts in *Sanskrit* and with translations into Hindi, Gujarati and English of *ithihaas*, *puraan*, *upa puraan*, *upnishads*, *vedang* and *veda* of which he had amassed a collection of over 16 shelves of about 1,000 to 2,000 books.

My father gained an in depth understanding of Life through the study of these Life Sciences, which he shared with his family, sons, grandsons and mentees, persons facing life issues or life difficulties and *stnsngees*.

My father steadfastly believed that with the right knowledge you can overcome any obstacle - and with enough knowledge a solution can be found to any life obstacle. And this knowledge is the "Truth" part of his life equations, and the implementation of this knowledge is the "Ruth" part of that life equation, which when put together can help a person overcome a life obstacle and fulfil your inner wishes in your life.

My father devoted most of his non-professional life and retirement to the continued study of Life Sciences and sharing that knowledge to help others to achieve their inner wishes in life, despite any life obstacles that they were facing. He would never give up on any person who sought out his help, no matter how challenging the situation. He was always available to help anyone be in in the morning or late at night, subject to his ability to be awake.

He dearly wished for his sons and grandsons to continue to learn and apply this Life Science knowledge or the "Library" as he called it so that we can fulfill our full potential in life. He would not say that "I am saying this" to us. Instead, he would say that I am sharing the knowledge from my Library, and you can read it for yourself to get the maximum benefit.

Truly, his life wisdom, guidance and true spirit lives on in this Library for his sons, grandsons and all others to be with him in a continual evolution of our life-design-path, as he called it - to make the next day a bit more happy than the previous.

However, despite overcoming a chronic disease of ulcerative colitis through the application of this life sciences knowledge to his own life, and being in remission from this disease for over 15 years, he was diagnosed with rectal cancer in early August of 2018. Things then happened fast as he suffered a major heart attack on August 20 within hours after coming home from a 1st step ostomy surgery.

However, my father did not give up, even though his heart stopped on our driveway and the paramedic brought him back to life. He did not give up when his heart stopped when getting a stent put in - but this time, he restarted his heart himself. He did not stop when the cancer spread, and his treatment options were limited and he was progressively getting weaker due to medications, lack of eating and finally the inability to drink any water.

Throughout this all, my father said he had been given another life, and he still used that time to help life coach or impart life knowledge to those who visited him.

He was much loved by his roommates at the hospital or the nurses and doctors or homecare workers that came to our home for this reason. He always made friends with everyone he met and tried to help all other co-life-travelers achieve their original-design-wish for their lives. It is this original-life-purpose we have that we sometimes forget in this busy, modern lifestyle.

Before I close, our family would like to thank the nurses, doctors and all other health care workers that took such good care of my father at the University of Alberta hospital, in the many Ambulance trips, the Grey Nuns hospital, the Cross Cancer Hospital, who were very excellent, and the Homecare service.

However, there is one person, we have to mention, our Family Doctor in Dr. Brian Fernandes, who could not be here because he is devotedly helping others at his clinic today. Dr. Fernandes has been our Family Doctor since I can remember to the present day. He went over and above all standards of care to help my father, being available to us at all odd times day and night, calling and texting us when we needed urgent help, and checking in regularly, to the very last days of my father's life journey on this earth. Dr. Fernandes, Thank-you from the bottom of our hearts for the care that you gave us and my father...we will never be able to repay you for this care.

The nurses at 5F2 at the U of A hospital were also so very caring in the final weeks of palliative care of my father. Even in his very weakened condition in his last days, my father took a keen interest to listening to the student nurses talk of their future.

I think the final day of my father's life encapsulated one of the life-design wishes in his life. Some family and friends had come to visit from Edmonton and Calgary. The visit was so joyous for my father, as a couple of the young persons who he had life coached and mentored had come to share with him how he impacted their live. The youngest son, in particular, had told my father - that my father had helped him to understand his real self and because of that, he was able to select his chosen field of studies and will be graduating in April.

Although my father was not able to speak at this time, my father was full of joy that this young person was going forward in life in progressive direction, and although it was so very difficult for him to do at that time, he smiled for the first time in a long time, in what would be his last smile in his life journey in this body.

And throughout this whole illness of my father, he kept telling us - you go on with your lives...there is so much to do by each of you, and I am in the best care we have with our excellent health care system.

My Father has been the centre of life for our Family, for my Mother, for his sons and grandsons. Throughout all of the last 9 months, my Mother was devotedly caring for my father's condition. She became his full time nurse, in fact, from the time she saved my father's life by calling the ambulance, right away, right before my father suffered the major heart attack, to the day and night care she gave my father, often at the expense of her own health and well-being.

My Elder brother, Bhabhi, Tushar, Nikhil and all extended family were continuously caring and praying for my father to get better. My Balukaka and Chanimasi would call without fail every day or evening to find out how my father was doing. There were so many family and friends that visited my father and prayed for my father to be cured and continue his life journey...we thank-you from the bottom of our heart.

And so, we may say that my Father is no longer here in this blessed body that served him for nearly 74 years. He always dearly wished to live on, as he told his grandsons Tushar and Nikhil, to be 120 or 130 years old - the maximum possible, so that he could continue to learn and share the knowledge of Life Sciences.

And we might think that our prayers were not answered or our good wishes did not come true from my father...but as we get more perspective over time, perhaps they did come true, but just not in a way we had imagined.

My father loved to help and hear about his family and others, young and old, who were progressing on their life journeys, and fulfilling their inner and true life-wishes...

My Father always said to us, the knowledge he shares for our betterment, does not come from him, but from the Library of life sciences.

And so, he will live on in my Mother, elder brother, Bhabhi, Tushar Nikhil, Myself, and our lineages, all family and friends that he touched, when each of us make devoted efforts to learn and apply this rich knowledge of life sciences to achieve the original life-design wishes, as he called them, for each of our life paths - so we can make life harmonious and the next day happier for ourselves and all others – **my Baapuji or Daadaa is waiting for us in the Library.**

In whatever form my father is after leaving his body now, I know he would say this to us...for the benefit of our current life and next lives to come....keep going on the walk of your life-design path, uphold your sva-dharma in life no matter what...and finally, he would not say goodbye, but instead he will say that we will meet again as fellow life travelers ...in the nearly infinite life travels and journeys that await all of us in the times to come...

Hari, Aum Tat Sat.