

One Last Time

*"If you are reading this, situations might
be even better than they are well,
first of all things, I am giving you
apology of not contacting or communicate things
properly with you. Showing sudden
showing sudden change in me to Anubhav is none other
than one mistake I committed
and I am still paying
Even if I find you
feel for me I cannot do a thing about it
because my past has tied an unbreakable knot*

Deepankar Sharma

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Unintended Guest

Going somewhere is so much better than being at home that's what I thought while deciding to go to a friend's party. I was still confused regarding going, as I did not know her for a long time but when you get unexpected invitations and attention, then denying never comes into your priority list. Same happened with me; after receiving two to three calls on the party night, Chetna got me convinced to come and explore the atmosphere for some change, which I always lacked in doing. Thing about long journey is "They never affect if you have a Partner by your side just like I had and that were my Earplugs". After hearing few selected songs on repeat mode. I realized that I have reached the nearest metro station of the party location in a surprisingly convenient manner. Unfortunately, this feeling didn't last much long, the moment when I exit the metro premises. Location could itself speak and tell me "Desired Destination is nowhere near this Station". As soon as I was done with analysing the trouble I got myself into that isolated metro location, I called my friend in order to confirm where the hell I was....

Luckily, it did not take her long to figure out my location; after some failed attempts to navigate me through the way, she did what she should have done a long time she used the technology and pinned me the exact location via Google Maps. After 20 minutes, I was in a large banquet although it was an overrated place for an occasion like a "Returning Family member from abroad" but

seeing the affection of everyone for one person made that place appropriate.

As soon as I met Chetna there, I Realized that being a party host is like holding a magnet which only attracts workload. After some formal conversations, she said something which I was very much afraid of listening:

“Listen You talk to my friends they are from our college only make yourself comfortable here, I’ll be back in a Minute”.

After hearing this statement, I knew that it was the second last time I was seeing her, and the last time will be when I would be going out of here.

In such a crowded place, you are left with two options: number one is you can try to mix yourself into crowd and show your interest to the incidents, which you have never heard before, and the second one is you can sit nearest on your favourite food corner.

I chose the second option which was an obvious choice for a person who has just one known out of all is also the party host, so there was no initiative by me to get stuck with her all the time; the regret of coming to an absolute unknown place was about to come before I saw the best place out of all in that hall which was eating spot that was the only place where I did not have to know anyone or listen to anyone’s conversation I just had to go there and pick my favourite dishes, which I already saw from very far away.

After getting my stomach full and roaming around while observing the place, it was meaningless for me to stay there any further; therefore, I decided to take a leave but I could not do that before meeting the person who actually invited me there.

Searching for her in that large hall was not a very good choice; therefore, I called on her number “where the hell are you, have been looking for you all over the place”; immediate wordings of mine could not be anymore sweet, but the reply which I got in return gave my statement a tough competition

“who the hell are you” I rechecked my phone screen to see if I have called the right person and yes I did but why is she not recognizing me while having this thing in my mind, I improvised my speaking into more convincing tone to make her realize who (the hell) I was. Well before I could complete my sentence, she replied “want to meet you come at the entry gate”; after hearing it, I got some relief as I was heading towards her location and I could finally leave this lovely unknown location filled with mostly all unknown lovely people; with all these thoughts coming into my mind, I realised I have reached the exit gate but what else I realised was “she wasn’t there” as soon as I took out my phone to call her received her call instead.

“Are you wearing Black?” and after hearing that I was a bit confused because as much as I remember, I already met her “yes like you don’t know” that’s all I could say before call got disconnected, and I received a strong pat on my shoulder “does anyone talk to their friends like this?”

And she was not my friend, she was someone else interrogating me like I was a fugitive

“Sis where were you, can you stop taking my phone without even asking ?”

Suddenly, my saviour cum friend arrived at the scene.

Now, it was all very much clear to me.

That unknown voice and weird interrogation was not being done by any ghost or short-term memory loss suffered friend of mine it was Chetna’s sister, while I was thinking about all this, I heard a very familiar voice,

“Next time talk to your friends with at least some respect and...” before she could complete,

“Come on Sis he is my friend and our guest don’t threat him like this”, while my friend yet saved me again I looked at that frightening human being who was not that scary anymore

“Alright Chetna if you say so”,

btw I am Tripti, Chetna’s younger sister (with elder’s attitude, I added up in my mind with a huge smile on my face).

After all these bitter-sweet incidents, I could not think of anything else than leave from that place, and this is how I became an “Unintended Guest”.

No Space for Gaps

So after an amazing reception from Chetna's sis, texting or calling her was not an option to be considered (maybe her sis pick up the call again :p) but, however, receiving her was. After 3–4 days of absence from her call logs, I got added up there.

“Looks like Hangover from the party hasn't gone yet”.

Chetna cuts the silence that was present between us for days:

“I was Busy Preparing for my Exams”, I added up.

“I guess you are forgetting that we are in the Same College”.

She never sounded more confident.

How could I actually tell her the real reason for not calling her after that night (i.e. I am afraid of her younger sis).

After some of the apologies, which were all from my side, and usual chit-chats, a meeting arrangement was set up, and since I was too egoistic to call her (according to her), it was me who had to sponsor the lunch. And I didn't regret it one single bit as owed her the pleasure of that delicious food in her family party that night; I was okay with sponsoring the lunch, and the another factor for going out was the location which was decided unlike my expectation; she chose a place which was very nearby to my place. The best part about going to the nearby place is “we don't have to worry about being stuck in the traffic or entering already filled Train like Metro”;

besides having these advantages, there's also a disadvantage. You have to act as a navigator all the times (which I wasn't very good at). After meeting at the nearest metro to the destination, I gave the idea of walking to that place since it was not much far away; opposite to her real personality, she got convinced without arguing.

Being confident is one thing, but when a person is overconfident, it always leads him/her to terrible situation. Even after her continuous demands of opening the navigation, I didn't bother to open it. Not opening "Maps" during the entire walking was my unattractive example of overconfidence and even that realization took a bit more time than it should had.

"I am the actual inspiration to all these Navigation Software", I proudly said while pointing at the location.

"Well No wonder why my Navigation Software is always corrupt", she taunted while making me realize we are in the wrong place.

Before I would feel anymore guilty and embarrassed, she added: "Well this is place which has food and fine-dine let's go here only".

"No today if we will eat, will get it done at your desired place only", my inner confident voice communicated. After a silent yet intense face-off, she asked curiously:

"Which Navigation we are going to use this time Real one or the Corrupt one".

Me being the actual culprit, this time I didn't waste much time in opening up my navigation app on my phone.

Although the desired place was not very far away, if we were not lost "We will easily reach there in 5-10 Minutes", I said in order to cut the silence.

"Only if you will not use your Brain and allow the GPS to get the job done".

In any other situation, I would have used my brains just to reply her on this beautiful taunt, but since this time it was my actual fault, I found it better not to say anything on this.

Walking and talking are healthy until you get confronted by some real facts

“Tripti was telling me a lot about you”.

Here comes the elephant in the room (or I should say on the road where we were walking).

“Are you in the intention of eating alone”, I said after putting all the sarcastic tone in order to cut the conversation short and sweet.

“Well Tripti said sorry to you, she thinks that She over-reacted that night since she had too much work to care of and...”

“She Poured all that on me”, I interrupted with some confidence before she could complete.

Well, I was surprised as well as satisfied after hearing this much deserved apology.

Before I could express myself on the statement, which I heard, I realized that according to the GPS, we have reached our location

“Finally” Thanks to

“Yeah you’re welcome”.

“I meant GPS not you”.

And since it was the actual helper, there was no point in arguing and I entered the restaurant with some amount of relief but that relief did not last much for me since the restaurant in which I was sitting with this comfort charges a lot for that.

But it was the place which was chosen, and I was fool enough not to search about it before actually coming; therefore, I decided to compromise with the situation.

While I was analysing the financial statements, she said:

“Why didn't you call me for so many days?”

It was the question that I was trying to avoid since the beginning but now, there was no chance of doing that.

“I was a bit busy, class tests were going on”, I replied with some added randomness but when I checked last time, you were out of town with your family, and it was the time when I realized the need of almonds in my life (how could I forget what I told her earlier) before I could improvise what I said earlier.

She continued:

“Ever Since you came, You seem bothered and acting weird if there's anything from my side please tell me”.

This wasn't the first time when I tried to push someone away from me just because of some silly reason as this, but it was definitely the first when someone tried to talk me out of it, and I wasted no time to clarify her my side.

After hearing some more reasons why Tripti was responded to me that way, I realized Chetna was the one with whom “There was no Space for Gaps”.

Expressions Speak Louder than Words

Sometimes when trouble comes upon people, we can at least try to prevent it but what can a person do when he/she invites trouble by all their intentions?

I wish I could answer the question if I would have not done it myself.

Whenever we are happy, we should always try to share it with maximum number of people that's what I always heard and tried to implement.

By that time, Chetna became one of those friends with whom I could share all of my happiness, and the basic reason for her being one of those special friends was:

“She was my only friend at that time”.

It was a bright day of winter and before actually reaching our college, we decided to liberate ourselves from the college for that day and go out instead. After some place discussions, no final place could be decided, since we both were not so much habitual with the bunking part. But Chetna knew someone who could actually accompany and help us as well for a quality time out. Tripti was the one who was specialist in that Department

of Exploring Cool Hangout Places, that's what Chetna meant and that was the name I never expected especially in terms of exploring and having a good time. Surely, I had no problem with she gave both of us a company as we had no other better option as well. Especially after I knew that she found herself guilty for the way she literally threatened and treated me, I wasn't left with any awkwardness with her. After few station exchanges, I and Chetna were waiting for Tripti in front of her college and she arrived with some really unusual happy expressions of which I was not aware of, and especially after our first meeting. She apologized to me so I had no problem in greeting her "Hey Trips", I offered my hand with maximum smile on my face.

"My name is Tripti" she replied, and her facial expressions were no less than a politician who's shaking hand with her opposite party minister.

It was only the second time she was meeting me so maybe that was the reason behind it, I convinced myself.

Since it was a winter's bright sunny day, the weather was demanding something such as hot chocolate, and luckily, Tripti knew the perfect place to get it from.

After a short journey from metro for two to three stations, we reached a coffee shop which had some delicious coffee fragrance coming from inside, and I was very much happy with the place where we would be having a hot chocolate, but what I was not happy with was the way Tripti was interacting with me and that was none. Whenever there are three people together at a time, there's always a chance of one person having no idea about the conversations the other two have, and the exact was happening with me. Even though I shared a very special bond with Chetna, I simply could not interfere in between their sister's relation. After Chetna went to give the order since self-service board was present there, so I was prepared to wait for that coffee for sometime, with that uncomfortable silence between me and Tripti.

That's why I wasted no time in starting the conversation with her who was clearly more interested in her phone.

So how's life? I asked an uninteresting question with some really curious expressions.

"Umm good ..." she answered before I actually completed my sentence and got back on her phone which was clearly more interesting than me.

By the way, I really appreciate your initiative of apologizing to me. I did another try of grabbing her attention, and this time I succeeded she immediately stopped operating her phone and looked at me with some very questionable expressions.

And why would I do that? She became more curious than I ever was in that entire conversation.

Because you were absolutely rude and bad to me in that party remember?

Maybe she has forgotten about our first encounter (I really hope she could).

I tried to make her recall.

Listen I don't know what you are talking about but regarding that night, you absolutely deserved it as you clearly don't know how to talk to your friends. Now, what I really want is not the hot chocolate but rather Chetna to come and defend me against her younger yet sparky sister.

After some awkward silence, a voice broke in and cut the silence:

"Guys Hot and Sweet Chocolate is here..."

Hope that would fill some sweetness in your sister as well, and now, the situation was very much explainable to Chetna but still, she asked:

"What happened between you two, now?"

Her voice tone could literally tell that she was expecting this.

Can you kindly make her remember the time when she asked you to apologize to me from her side because I think she has forgotten fully about it ... I said with a confident tone.

It was the first time in the whole day when there was something more important than hot chocolate for me.

I cannot wait to break her unrequired ego (my evil inner self spoke in the volume where only I could hear).

“Yeah Please Chetna Please Make me remember”, Tripti said with some sarcasm and confidence added to her statement.

And now, it was the time for the truth to be revealed which was supposed to come from the judge of the situation, Chetna.

All the spark and excitement which she had throughout the day was all lost in the shadow of truth as she put the hot chocolate cups on to the table and nodded her head slowly while looking at me.

It was the moment when I realized that even a strong word such as awkwardness can mean so low in some situations and while looking at Chetna that was the time I also realized how “Expressions Speak Louder than Words”.

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