

A Tribute to Bireshda

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People face death in many different ways but he faced his painful reality with such dignity and valor. He knew that he was fighting a formidable enemy and yet he still remained very positive until the very end. He has taught us some great lessons on life.

I am talking about the demise of our very dear friend Biresh Khound who passed away at the young age of forty six after a heart-wrenching two-year battle with lung cancer.

I met Bireshda slightly over two decades ago in Duliajan when I joined Oil India Limited as a Production Engineer and resided at the same Executive Trainee Hostel No. 4. He was a Drilling Engineer and I used to visit his well site for production related activities very frequently. Since then, my association with Bireshda grew, which led to increased friendship with him. I still vividly remember our delightful days at the hostel as bachelors, when we used to have endless sessions of rummy and 'adda' until the wee hours of the morning. Bireshda would invariably end up losing, in rummy of course, and become the proverbial 'bakra'. There are so many interesting episodes that happened during our association at OIL and as I reminisce those moments now, it brings tears to my eyes.....Chetiada, Anforda, Ranjan, Pankaj, Jayanta, Vikram, Phani, Atanu, Sanjib, Ramanuj, Moni, Jigmie and many more (whose names are not coming to mind at the moment) who were a part of this golden phase will also share the same feelings and always cherish those wonderful memories.

Bireshda was a man of multifaceted talents. Apart from being a wonderful husband and a doting father, he was a good orator, dramatist and a great friend. He has to his credits of being the Best Debator, Best Actor, Best Director on numerous occasions right from his school days up until his stint in OIL. He was renowned for his instant wit and sense of humour. Those who have come in close contact with him will testify how witty and sharp he was.

From among Bireshda's many good character traits and deeds, there are two qualities that stand out in my mind –

Bireshda was always happy, upbeat, and humorous, greeted everyone with a smile. He was full of life and his positive attitude was contagious. Bireshda's openness and straightforwardness were some of his special qualities. He could tell everyone what he thought and felt, without having to worry that he might offend them. Because of his loving, non-judgmental attitude, people appreciated his honesty. He was able to touch so many with his honesty, integrity and sincerity; any criticism he offered was accepted as an expression of his unbiased judgment and opinion.

As luck would have it, we met again here in Kuwait after partnering a long innings of 17 years at OIL but fate wouldn't allow him to carry on too long in a distant land and deprive us from his vivacious company. God had some other designs for him. Sometimes it is not how long we live on this earth that matters, but how well we lived and what we did during our sojourn on earth that sets us apart from others. Bireshda was one such person who made his presence felt in every walk of life and his absence in our lives will be greatly felt.

Our greatest tribute to someone very dear who has passed away will be to better our lives by learning from, and emulating their special qualities. And that is the reason why I have tried to pen down my feelings to remember him and honour him.

May his soul rest in eternal joy and peace.