

## Papa's Speech

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They say life is less about the destination and more about the journey. Well what a remarkable and adventurous journey our Father has had. He lived in 3 different continents, had a successful medical career while also being a political activist, a philanthropist and really making a difference to the world.

He was a generous and charitable man and he had an immense impact on many communities including the South African, the Indian, the Gujarati and the Melton and Bacchus Marsh communities. In many ways he was a pioneer – he paved the way for families to come to Australia and helped them in any way he could.

My Dad had a profound impact on people. He always remembered their names and their stories.

Almost every day someone stops me in Bacchus Marsh and asks me about my Dad. He is a local legend here and in Melton. He had an unparalleled sense of social justice, a unique skill with people and a wicked sense of humour.

He liked to have fun with people – his standard line at any restaurant was to ask the waiter if they took his Medicare card as payment. He used to recall his great times in Dublin and tell a story again and again – then laugh at his own jokes

Only last week some friends came to visit when he was very ill. Being Pappa, even though he was unwell, he remembered and cared to ask about his friends' injured knee. He went on to invite them back for dinner sometime soon. As well as being generous, he was always hospitable.

He liked to travel and visited over 30 countries in his time. We enjoyed magnificent holidays as a family and had multiple trips back to South Africa – his homeland. We also enjoyed many wonderful road trips with the Saheed family. He missed his family deeply, and when he became very sick 2 years ago, all 5 of his remaining siblings came from South Africa to see him. I believe this helped him get better and his spirits and health improved after their visit.

His last visit home was for the 2010 World Cup. This trip enabled him to rejoice in his love for family, soccer and his homeland.

We have had an emotional 2 years with Pappa's illness. We watched him decline slowly, but despite this, he managed to be at the weddings of Karishma and Josh, and Vinnie and Winnie, as well as other significant family celebrations. Last year, we celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in the usual Sadhai style. He was also able to complete and publish his book this year.

He was always someone willing to take a risk. In Australian vernacular – **he liked to have a go**. In Ireland he'd be known as a chancer. In South Africa he would be known as a “sharpo”. He took a risk coming to this country; he took a risk setting up his practice in outer Melbourne and locating to this community. He took a risk in sending us to this Catholic school but realised the importance that it had in the community. He recently donated money to St Bernard's, where his 3 grandchildren currently attend. So it is with pleasure we are here at St Bernard's today.

Education was very important to my Dad – he not only funded the education of his children, he also funded education for his siblings and brother-in-laws, including sending 2 of them to medical school in Ireland. He had a strong connection to his Ireland days and his class of 1971 at the Royal College of Surgeons – a College that I also attended. One of my proudest moments I have had is when I called my Dad with the news that I had graduated and told him it's Dr Sadhai speaking to Dr Sadhai.

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## RUKESH

There are many people we have to thank, not only for the last two years, but for their long standing and continuous love and support.

Big thanks go out to Pappa's medical team and the others involved in his care.

- Doctors John Hunt, Trevor Williams, Jitu Vohra, Shane Hamblin, Paul Williams
- Annette Pederson and Kate Conroy
- Carers, Herman, Pat and Karla
- The Palliative Care Team from Bacchus Marsh including Lyn, Petula and Pam

We are surrounded by an amazingly supportive family. Some have travelled from South Africa, China and Singapore to be here. Our eternal gratitude goes to:

- Kellie Kakka and Kumla Kakkie
- Sheila Mossie
- Reetha Mossie
- Renu Mossie, Noel and family
- Siva Mamma, Finz Mammie and family
- Nireesh, Veena and family
- Josh

Thanks also go to our extended family:

- Auntie Yogi and Uncle Segue
- Uncle Neil and Aunty Enid
- Uncle Vinod and Manda Fooi

➤ Uncle Khandoo

We have appreciated Mamma's other siblings who have come here on several occasions during Pappa's illness, and who are here with us now.

Thank you Prem Mamma, Sushila Mammie and Devanand Mamma.

The approach into Bacchus Marsh will always remind me of Pappa. When we were young and living in Melton, Pappa used to drop Bhaya and I off to school. On the drive through the Avenue of Honour, he used to explain the seasons as the leaves on the trees changed from Summer to Autumn to Winter and Spring. Occasionally he would sit me on his knee and I would hold the steering wheel as we drove. Any police in the audience need to know that the statute of limitations applies.

Pappa, you will be sorely missed by everyone whose lives you have touched. If I achieve a fraction of what you have I will consider myself a success. I will miss your wisdom and guidance and our occasional "debates". I love you very much.

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## VINTHOSH

A letter to Pappa from his sister in South Africa.

To Jay

On behalf of Aniruth, Vasanthi and myself (Neermala), we shall miss you now and the remaining days of our lives, for you are a very big part in our lives.

For myself, I will not refer to you as someone in my past. I have always lived by your guidelines and will continue to do so. It will be hard to know that your physical self will not be here anymore, but I know that somehow your guidance and blessings will always be with us.

The brightly lit torch that you are leaving behind will be carried by our lovely Roshnee and your beautiful family.

Thank you Roshnee, loving children and their partners for taking such good care of my dear brother.

Thank you Jay for parenting Sunil, Hemy, Atham and myself at such an early age in your life. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to your lovely self.

Jay, may the road rise to meet you and the rays of the sun greet you with the radiant light that you so rightly deserve.

Until we meet..... Go well my lovely brother and dad on your onward journey, go well. I will always love you. Go well.

Neeri

I would like to recall a couple of intimate stories about my father. As much of a remarkable man he was he would still have time to make me breakfast in the morning whilst I was still living at home at the age of 27.

Papa was also a very resourceful man. A few years back on a very hot Saturday I was out front at Fiskens Street and spotted a snake. I screamed like a girl and Papa who was inside eating a sandwich for lunch came out to investigate with sandwich in tow. Upon realisation of the imminent danger to his beloved son, he looked at the snake, looked at the delicious tin fish chutney sandwich prepared by Mama, looked at the snake again and then threw the sandwich at the snake.

Papa was also by my side during one of the most nerve racking moments of my life, whilst I was asking Winnie's father, Tony for his daughters hand in marriage.

I will always cherish our breakfasts, our Thursday nights when I would spend time with you one on one and the fact you saw me get married. Thank you for everything and making me man I have become and continue to be.

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## KARISHMA

In my Dad's book he talks about Ubuntu – a sense of community spirit.

Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu explained Ubuntu in 2008 as the following:

One of the sayings in our country is Ubuntu – the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks about interconnectedness. You can't be human by yourself. Ubuntu is the quality of generosity. We think of ourselves far too frequently as individuals, separated from one another, whereas we are all connected which affects the whole world and humanity.

We have watched our Dad live by this credence our whole life – Ubuntu. My Dad seems to transform people with his spirit, he has a way of drawing people in, making them believe in community and humanity. Ravin, Rukesh, Vinny and myself are blessed to have grown up with his generosity and hope we can continue our lives with the same spirit.

It was a life changing moment, when two years ago we were told how gravely ill my Father had become – and to prepare for the worst.

But miraculously, with the love and support of so many people – in particular my amazing mother – he pulled through. And we were blessed with two more years.

I will be forever grateful for the extra time we were given and especially thankful that he was able to be at my wedding. I will never forget the overwhelming support and love my husband Josh has shown to my Dad over the years.

Although it was challenging at times, it gave me such an incredible insight into the unbelievable strength of the bond between my parents. Mum's selfless devotion to Dad during his illness was truly inspirational. One could only dream of a Love like theirs.

Our Dad and Mum always supported all of us. He was a great lover of Music, and in fact attended many gigs that Vinny and myself played. It was not unusual to see my parents in the front row at the Evelyn Hotel, Public Bar – and even Revolver.

No dream was ever too big or ridiculous. He really thought that anything was possible.

I will miss our late night discussions about future business plans, holidays, and music, food and restaurant openings. I will miss the enormous smile that greeted me every time I came home. I will Love and miss you every day.

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One of my favourite movie scenes is in Spiderman 2, when Spiderman collapses after stopping a runaway train. As he is about to fall, many hands from many people catch him and support him. When Jay became sick, my Dad the superhero had many hands to help and support him. We cannot thank our incredible support network enough. In particular we have to acknowledge Karishma and Josh who lived at home for all the time my Dad was sick.

My Dad would always ask where they were or what they were doing and we are forever grateful that Josh has come into our lives. It goes without saying that Shahana was an amazing support for my Dad and he felt that she was his daughter. She will always be a big part of our family.

I would also like to personally thank my wife Cathy for her love and as my Dad said she was always in the background doing something. We always got visits from my Dad as he loved his grandchildren dearly – Daen, Zara and Nate. My eldest son Daen has really shone and despite the difficult time I have seen him grow up and stand up at this sad time – Aja would be very proud of you Daen, as he was of all his children and grandchildren.

Lastly we have Mum's sister and brother Shiela and Siva – they are the glue that hold this incredible family together and we could not have got through the last 2 weeks or last 2 years without them. Appropriately they were there when my Dad passed and he would have wanted it that way.

It is now time to extend our hands for my Mum and support her. My parents celebrated 45 years of marriage and were inseparable. When my dad passed away they were holding hands just like they did throughout their romance. It was once said that if my Mum asked for the moon, that my Dad would find a way of getting it for her – she settled for a yellow Saab convertible instead!

Many people have told us that my Dad will now be resting in peace. However knowing him he won't want to rest at all. He will be active arranging things for people, organising charity concerts and then eating Nani's food, dancing an Irish jig with Auntie Carmel and sharing half a warm beer and some Shark Finn Mongolian Lamb with his siblings.

It is often said that a funeral is a celebration of one's life. Well we are Sadhai's and this is not your usual celebration – **it's a goddamn party**. My Dad loved a party and he loved to socialise. He was in his element talking to people and using his quick wit and humour. He was always inclusive and we had an open home abundantly full of food, drink, music, family and friends.

When asked how he was by his friends my Dad would respond with –**"I'm too good man"**

So if anyone asks you how you are next time tell them that you're **too good** – and that Jay Sadhai told you that.