

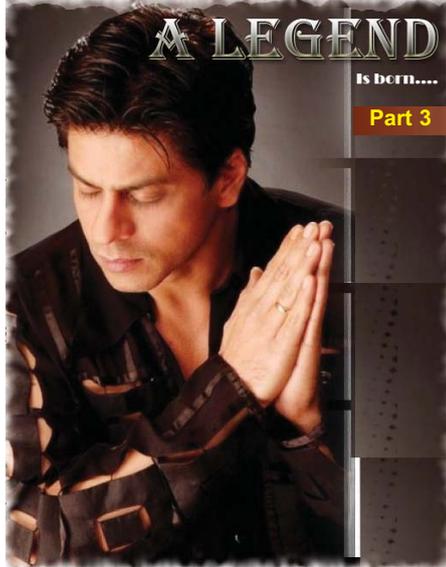
My father never screamed or shouted at my sister and me. My mother did that; even fulfilling his quota. He never hit us but scolded us once or twice. Even if he got serious for even a second, it would scare me but after a while he would laugh it off. He once told me, "Shit, I can't even get angry with you."

In another incident, he told me, "Look, your sister is now supposed to be studying. So I will go into her room and throw the novel she is reading, out of the window. You go and get the novel back." He went, shouted at her and threw the book out. It was a joke and his method to tell us what is to be done. My dad had a hot temper, not like an Army officer, but he liked correct behaviour. He didn't expect me to get up and touch the feet of elders but a certain kind of respect had to be shown towards them. Even today if an elderly person is seated next to me, I cannot keep my feet on the table. He never told me not to do so. His persona made me realize that I should not do it.

One routine which formed on its own was my dad giving me milk in the morning. It started because my mother could not get up sometimes. Then it became a routine. He would warm the milk and give me but later decided against it. So every morning we

would we would walk to the Mother Diary booth (a milk dispenser typical of Delhi). He would insert a token and I would cup my hands and drink milk directly.

I never got irritated or angry with my father. In fact, I used to love watching my father come home in the evening. My dog would react to him when he was 15-20 feet away from the house. I would rush down take his bag and walk back with him or pick him at the bus stop if he came in a bus or car. Because of my father, every activity in the house, every duty, was transformed into a game. He charged us with the idea that we were doing such-and-such work because we were having fun. Because of this, I find work fun. That is why, I guess, I'm so energetic. I enjoy small things like sitting and watching a squirrel climb a tree or sleeping on the terrace in the Delhi summers. It becomes a game for me -



the best thing that could happen to me that day.

At four years of age, my father taught me that I alone would have to deal with my screw-ups. I was very naughty in school and in the colony and I regularly got into trouble. Once, during a game, I threw a rock at a boy called Tara. The rock bounced on the ground, hit his face and broke his teeth. He began bleeding. We were very scared. I had not done it on purpose. The boy's father got drunk in the night and armed with a knife, came knocking on our door. As soon as my father opened the door, that man began abusing and screaming: "Your son hurt my son. I'll kill him."

He was a rowdy kind of a guy but my dad asked him if he wished to speak to me! Imagine, there was this drunk person with a knife in his hand and my father sent me to speak to him! My father closed the door, came inside and questioned me, "Shah Rukh, have you hurt somebody?" I said, "Yeah." My mother was hyper but he coolly said, "He is standing outside, go deal with him." I told Tara's father, "Uncle I am really sorry. I didn't mean to harm Tara. It just happened." I was literally in tears. Of course he didn't mean to hurt me. My father had that much confidence in human nature, I guess. Dad later opened the door and asked if everything was sorted out. He told that man, "If you have a problem with my son, you talk to me. If you have problem with my son, you talk to him." I could have taken my father's stand to mean that he didn't want to stand by me, but I realised that it was his

very nice way of teaching me that if I got into trouble, I would have to sort it out myself.

My dad taught me that in the long run, honesty always pays. In my school, St Columba's, whenever we took a day off we had to submit a leave letter or we would get caned. My father never stopped me from doing anything. If I said, "I don't want to go to school today," he would say, "If you don't feel up to it, it's okay." And he would give me a leave letter next day.

One day, he called me and said, "Today you go to school and tell your teacher that you don't have any excuse for being absent yesterday. I used to be really scared of Brother Morris, our tall, well-built Irish teacher. When he caned us, it really hurt. I told him, "My father normally gives me the letter but today he didn't. Not because he did not want to but he said I have no excuse for not coming yesterday." Brother said, "That's the right attitude. At least you did not lie. You were honest." And he let me go. My father had seen the whole world and had wonderful experiences in his life. When he was 16 years old, he left his home in Peshawar and walked to Kashmir, India. He studied law in a girl's college, in Delhi. He had no place to stay, so he went to the principal, an Englishman and asked him to let him stay in the hostel. There he was the only guy. It was illegal. He said he pulled it off because he was a charming and decent guy.

to be continued

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Top stories

Aishwarya Rai Pregnant - Finally!

Aishwarya Rai, 37, is expecting a baby with husband and Bollywood actor-producer Abhishek Bachchan. Rai's father-in-law - Amitabh Bachchan, a prominent

Indian actor - confirmed the news on twitter:

NEWS NEWS NEWS !!!

I AM GOING TO BECOME A GRANDFATHER ! AISHWARYA EXPECTING .. JUST GOT CONFIRMED ... SO HAPPY ... AND THRILLED .. !!!

Rai and Bachchan married in 2007. This will be the couple's first child.

Shah Rukh to undergo knee surgery

Shah Rukh Khan injured his knee over a year back. The injury has come back to haunt the actor and he has to undergo a knee surgery in July.

Following the rigorous shoot and action sequences the actor had to undertake in his film RA. One the injury, which was earlier treated by Kolkata Knight Riders physiotherapist Andrew Lepius has aggravated.

In fact Mumbai based Dr Ali Irani has recently paid the actor a visit in Hyderabad where he is currently shooting to check his knee. "He has been going through a lot of discomfort for sometime. And hence the doctor was called in. He has a tear in the meniscus of his left knee," informed a source.

When contacted Dr Ali Irani admitted, "Yes he does have a knee problem and he will need to undergo surgery in July."

Courtesy www.bollywoodboards.com