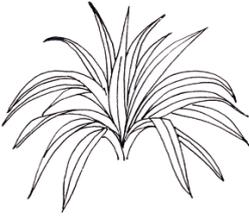


Wisdom in Hindsight



In the year 2000-2001, nationalized banks announced voluntary retirement schemes. Several bank employees came to me seeking guidance on whether or not they should avail of this opportunity.

That day, Mrs. Kunda, an officer in a nationalized bank came to see me. She came from a reputed family and was herself very well-educated. She was in two minds whether or not to opt for retirement. She was also looking for guidance on some property related decisions. Her husband worked at an excellent position in an engineering firm. They had just one child - a daughter and the family was well-off.

After studying her palm, I recommended that she should take voluntary retirement. After that point, there were no indications of any changes in work on her palm.

She then asked about her daughter. “Your daughter is very well educated but her first marriage will fail. Later, she will marry a person of her choice, from a different religion. In the beginning you will have doubts about approving the marriage, but the marriage will happen. I recommend that you ignore your feelings on the matter and support her. If you do oppose her, there is a possibility that the consequences will be harsh.”

She also had a question about her father’s property. “My father owns an old bungalow in Pune. The bungalow is in a great neighbourhood and we would like to sell it. I am worried about how such a major transaction will go through.”

“This transaction will not take place at least for a year. Try in another year or so. The transaction will take place, but it will be

riddled with complications. It will cause you immense stress.”

“Stress?” she wondered, “from what? And what type of stress?”

“Do you have two brothers?” I asked. She did.

“Of the two, one lives very far from you and the other lives very close to your father?”

“Yes,” she nodded.

Her entire family was well-educated. Kunda’s mother had passed away. Her elder brother was settled in America. The other brother was also highly educated and lived with their father. However, at the time he was unemployed.

“There is a possibility that your siblings will be the cause of many obstacles in your life. Due to the behaviour of one of your brothers, you will face grave dangers.”

“What kind of dangers?”

“If possible, bring me their photos,” I said.

In her purse, she carried photos of her brothers and her father. She got them out immediately. Looking at the photo of one of her brothers, I said, “You will have to suffer a lot due to this brother. His personal life is also very stressful. He has no control over himself. If he does get married, his marriage will not last. His wife will leave him or may have already left him. Has she?”

“Yes, she has. You are right. He is divorced,” she confirmed.

“You need to be very careful. His eyes indicate that he has lost control over his mind. If possible, get treatment from a psychiatrist,” I suggested.

“His treatment is already going on,” she explained.

Then, she brought out a photo of her father. He was old and frail. It was his wish to see his property distributed amongst his children before his passing which is why he had decided to sell the bungalow.

Studying his face, I sensed that he was close to death - via either attack or accident. Looking at the photo of the brother and the father I said, “Do whatever it takes to make sure that these two do not stay in the same house. There is danger to your father from this brother. Make arrangements for him to live elsewhere.”

She indicated that such an arrangement would be very difficult.

A year and a half later she returned to see me. She had received a couple of offers for the property and wanted to know which one to choose. I made my recommendation and she happily left.

Just a few months later, she and her husband arrived, stressed and in despair. “What you said came true,” she said. “My father passed away. He was murdered. Unfortunately, it was my brother, who, in a fit of anger attacked him, hitting his head. My father couldn’t take the blow and collapsed instantly. It is impossible to describe what we went through during this tragedy.”

“The police took my brother into custody. The case is still ongoing. The property transaction was successful and very profitable. However, while we gained money, we lost our father. Maybe if, as you suggested, we had separated the two of them, we could have avoided this terrible tragedy? The question haunts us constantly!”

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