

'Life : and how it is to be lived' is a topic that invites many perspectives. But, probably not many would disagree on the fact that it does bring challenges and obstacles. Some run away from it, some face it boldly, some take it with reservation. There are indeed some who like to keep it cool all the time, but there are yet others, who are very spirited and who often cross through the difficulties with flying colours. But there is a third category of persons as well - and one of such persons is the topic of our conversation today.

Bharat Lal Fanidhar is such a person, who recounts his journey through the sojourn of life. Let's just call him 'BLF' for the sake of brevity. He recounts that he had an attitude of taking every challenge 'head on' and emerge on the other side of the challenge with flying colours. He knew though that it won't be easy every time. The vicissitudes of life always present a resistance to everyone, without exception. And everyone has to overcome the friction and heat of day-to-day lives. But, he was positive that he would sail through and emerge on the other side if things are close to ideal. But again, how often do the situations remain ideal in life, is not a point that warrants a debate.

BLF reminisces - When he was younger, things were rough at times but living with his parents and siblings was a blessing in disguise. There was pressure from them - to move ahead in life and succeed. He resented it at times. But, it was not all that bad! This was a favourable pressure: This pressure did help him remain focused and overcome all the resistance in life. He does recount a moment in life when his energy levels were the highest and seeing his success, he felt the freedom at its hilt. There was really so little 'pressure' on him at that time - to succeed.. He felt he had achieved the 'pinnacle spot of his life'. Success speaks for itself, after all.

But, years later - things have changed. BLF does not live now with his kith and kin. Rather, he lives alone, and most of his life revolves around his colleagues and co-workers. There is really no support for him to fall back upon, someone that could escort him on the right path. His own personal life is rough - commute, unhealthy food, so much pollution - you name it. And to add fuel to the fire, his workplace is not congenial as well. There is a great amount of work-pressure on him and this seems to further exacerbate his situation. He could see where he was headed to. Who knows how tough it would get as he aged and withered? Bad health, sloppy savings, old-age homes, no pension - how hard it would be to bear these pressures? That would truly be an intolerable adverse pressure in life to bear. Frustrated, he lost all the energy and motivation to continue and carry on this seemingly "right" path of life. He got distracted.

BLF "separated" from this pre-defined "right" path. He went into chaotic ways and wandered aimlessly. He did not want to follow the ideal path that was chalked out for him. He wanted to amble freely, pushed and nudged by the undulations that life brought forth. In this wake of life, he felt there would be no pressure from anyone. He was wrong, of course for such imaginations could meet fruition in a utopic world. No doubt though, he was feeling a little better! But really, nothing matched the feeling he got when he was at the pinnacle.