

## THE UNSTOPABLE – MR. JAGDISH J. BHATT

Hello. I am Durva Bhatt, granddaughter of Mr. Jagdish Jayshankar Bhatt and I am attempting to write a brief biography of this great man. I still feel its too early to write this as my grandfather intends to work for more 20 years though he is 70 already! His ideology in life is to work work work till the last breath of his life.. which I think is at infinity. My grandfather is a unique person who always thinks out of the box. And his greatest fear unlike most people is to be restrained from working and not getting his favorite Mc. Veggie, fries and coke.

But he had to face his fear. On some unfortunate day of October 2020 he tested COVID positive. After hearing this he did not get worried about his health but commanded my dad to bring books, diary and stationery to the hospital. Other 70-year-old humans would constantly think about their health but my grandfather was thinking about his pending legal cases of his clients. Not to be surprised he became fit as fiddle and returned home within just a mere week. When I asked him of his health every day his only answer was that he is getting better, sometimes I felt like that was his voice message to everyone asking about him. Upon his arrival when I inquired about his overall experience, he told “I wasn’t feeling much ill physically but was tired and weary psychologically by the environment of hospital, doctors and medication around. Not more than 2 weeks of him getting COVID we found out that he was back to work. He has so much in mind that he can write a whole book about the times during Corona Virus, post COVID and pre COVID.” My grandfather is not just my inspiration but an inspiration of several people.

I totally forgot to mention his profession! My grandfather is a civil lawyer and one of the most reputed lawyers in India. There has not been a single time that I met him and I didn’t learn something new. After my every visit my knowledge about English grammar, life, religion, and many more aspects of life has increased. His knowledge, experience and wisdom always astonishes me.

One of my grandfather’s chief characteristics is his stubbornness. Like his favorite actor Salman Khan says “Jo mei bolta hu woh mei karta hu aur jo mei nahi bolta woh mei definitely karta hu” once he commits something and makes up his mind no one can stop him from doing it. He is the most Focused, Hardworking and Dedicated person. He is optimistic, full of life and an energetic person. I have never seen him tired and weary. After I see him working I feel so terrible and ashamed for my laziness at times and at the same time I get inspired to work tirelessly. In youth we have time and energy, in middle age we have no time but we have energy and in old age we have time but no energy but this is not the case with my granddad. He is also the most organized person I know. Be it his house or any office, his stationary (highlighter, pencils, pens, paper, diary, work papers, books even eraser and sharpener) is kept in an easily accessible manner. (By the way he is a fan of staedtler pencils, eraser, sharpener and keeps stock that will last for next seven births!) This

is unlike today's kids whose stationary is unorganized and in a mess. Being organized is a wonderful habit to have a clear mind and clear concepts that lead to a successful life.

Not only work and reading but Mr. Bhatt has a keen interest in everything – sports, music, entertainment, agriculture, travelling, food (means eating), religion, history, civics and writing which makes him an all-rounder. In our tour to Delhi he was explaining me and my brother about the parliament and before we knew there was a group of people gathered around listening to him as if he was the tour guide and this happened with us at a few more historical places and monuments. In a sun temple when we actually hired a guide, we found out that my grandfather had more knowledge about our culture and mythology than the guide. He also loves to travel to new places and experience new things such as visiting a casino and amusement parks! When he visited my brother's university in IOWA (near Chicago) he travelled around with immense curiosity and wished to meet the professors there and give them an insight about how to impart knowledge and how to utilize knowledge in practical life. He asked the lady delivering introduction about the university – “How do you supply understanding to the students?” He stresses importance of journey from knowledge to wisdom.

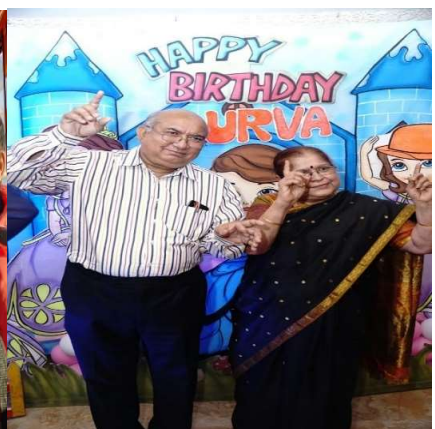


Whenever I read or see something about Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger they remind me of my grandfather. They have so much in common such as eating habits, love for coke, knowledge in all spheres of life, philanthropy, ideas on how to maintain relationships and extraordinary wisdom. He also at times loves eating street food such as pani puri, bhel, vada pav etc. and whenever he takes me and my sister to Juhu beach he makes sure that we don't return without eating street food. The movies that he has recommended me to watch have now become my most liked movies such as 'The Intern' whose duo also by the way reminds me of him and me. But some of the movies such as 'What's your Rashee' also make me regret for watching it, seriously it has so many songs! Although the story is unique. No offence. Just writing this is making me overwhelmed and grateful for having such a grandfather and family.

Jagdish Jayshankar Bhatt was born in Mithapur, Gujarat on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1950, son of Jayshankar Bhatt and Vijya Bhatt. He has a younger brother Mahesh Bhatt and two sisters

Jayshree Bhatt and Geeta Bhatt. At the age of 5 years he came to Mumbai- 'A city that never sleeps' with his family. He initially resided in Dadar and later came to Rajawadi, Ghatkopar (E). His father Jayshankar Bhatt went to Sudan due to work for some time. He did his primary and secondary schooling from Ramji Assar school. I wish I can time travel to 1964 and see him studying to gather some motivation. In this school logo- No fear with thee – Which is even today – the meaning of the word 'thee' (meaning god) – he has explained to me.

After receiving Primary and secondary education he acquired B.com degree from Mumbai University. He did jobs in 2-3 companies. Finally came the time that he met my grandmother Daksha Bhatt and they got married on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1972. Credits to her for giving me the details of all the companies my grandfather has worked in. My grandfather is a family man and for him his family is very important and dear to him. He cares about them very much and still calls distant relatives and checks upon them. He at times spent 30 minutes with his family to see the longest running and most famous television serial 'Kyunki saas bhi kabhi bahu thi' years ago although he might have wanted to watch the news but he watched it to have dinner with the whole family.



He has also worked with the companies such as Abbott, Rallis India, Mahindra and Mahindra, Corn products and while working at Corn products he made the wisest decision to learn law at the age of 30 after having three sons but he did not practice it. Then came the breakthrough point in his life when he gave interview in BSE. He had zero knowledge of Stocks and share market but it was his wittiness and wisdom that made him deputy general manager and gave everyone trust that he could be moulded to be a director. After a few years he became the Director of BSE. He also worked in stock exchange at Vadodara as Executive Director. But after reaching at the top of one mountain we realize that the peak of some other mountain is higher and we need to climb it. It's a never ending completion of world.

And then at the age of 51 when starting something new seems impossible he became a professional practicing lawyer! 20 years hence he became an independent director (and

interim chairman) of ICEX. Mr. Jagdish Bhatt really proved that it's never too late. He believes that we should never stop learning and try our best to gain knowledge from our all experiences and be present and live in the moment. Even at the age of 70 he is active, vibrant, innovative and above all practical and versatile. His persona and profile, it appears, is comprised of rural, national and global components and perspectives.

He is an avid reader and does not waste a single minute and takes a book in his hand and drowns himself into that book. Definitely every year and every stage of his life has contributed to his experience and knowledge but his time as a practicing lawyer were the most glorious years of his life. I have only seen this phase of his life and as much I have seen I can tell that he is very happy and satisfied and it can be shown by his positive energy and glow on face. So in short his journey from a clerk to chairman is truly inspirational. Even on the day of new year when everyone is at home he was alone in the office at morning 9 a.m. working. And not only on new year he is in office every Saturday, Sunday and holiday while today's youth is eagerly waiting for weekends to waste time.

A few days ago when I was talking to my grandfather he told me that after 2 years he'll be having his 50<sup>th</sup> Marriage Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and he wants to have a grand celebration with family members and friends. This made me believe that my grandpa is getting younger day by day for sure and I hope it remains this way forever.



I have learned a lot from him but I'll list down a few of my most vital learnings.

- We should be grateful for every little thing that god has given us and always find a way to give back to the society in some or the other way. He has a very charitable heart and even gives away clothes or other things to the needy. By doing this the waste produced is also reduced and the nature is protected.
- He always tells that worship of goddess Sarasvati leads us to goddess Lakshmi. In 21<sup>st</sup> century learning is important than any other thing in this world. Apart from learning we must also know how to learn, unlearn and relearn.
- He always accepts his mistake which usually most people don't do and try to prove their point right instead of understanding other's point. He tells me that one day he will tell his mistakes that he did in past during young age to me so that I learn from

them and do not repeat them again. Making mistakes is not bad but if we don't learn from them it is the worst.

- The characteristic of my grandfather that how easily he always changes with time blows my mind. Time and tide does not wait for anyone and there is evolution and changes every single day and we need to adopt those changes to be successful. When he was born there was no existence of computers or mobile phones but today he is using technology to its fullest and is ready to take any challenge. He also adopted to the latest phone of apple and online court through zoom at this age at the same speed we children adopted to online education. Although he might not trust technology completely and stays away from e banking and e shopping. And also asks me to buy a CD of the series SUITS for him.
- He is widely travelled in India and abroad – he has told me his experiences of his visits for which I will write separately.
- In one of the speeches he delivered in Ahmedabad he told that many people in India spend a lot of their time watching T.V while in other countries like The U.S.A. students, the working youngsters and senior citizens do not waste time and keep themselves occupied in various productive activities.
- A few days ago when I was talking to him I asked to help me choose my career path. The first thing he exclaimed was that this is the most important decision and I must take it soon. He also told that my age (teenage) is very crucial and I should do something that I'm passionate about and something that I am willing to do for my whole life.
- 'Treat others as you want to be treated' this is the principle my grandfather stresses on. He always reminds me that we should treat everyone with respect no matter who they are.
- In professional work he has followed the answer given by Morari Bapu. Late Mr. Palkhivala had asked Morari Bapu – 'What is superior- sense of justice or sense of mercy? Bapu had answered: Between two equals, one has to see with sense of justice while if one is in superior position and other is inferior and between them there is an issue, then, one has to consider sense of mercy also.'

Just writing this is making me overwhelmed and grateful for having such a grandfather and family. It is said that there are three types of successful people – ones who are born great, the one who achieve greatness, and the ones who have greatness thrust upon them. I don't know about first and third but my grandfather has definitely achieved greatness by immense hard work. This is a lifetime story of a self-made man. Till date.

Yours sincerely,

Durva Bhatt.