

TOMORROW NEVER LIES

Cleopatra bathed in the milk of donkeys. The Hungarian countess Elizabeth Bathory smothered herself in the blood of young girls. The former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai drank his own urine (and got pissed!) - all in desperate attempts to capture eternal youth. Across the world, millions of people cover their faces with creams whose incredible cost is matched only by their total ineffectiveness. You see, when it comes to age, there's no turning back the clock! TOMORROW NEVER LIES.

For ages, people have tried to defy Father Time and Mother Nature but eternal youth is a myth and aging is an inevitable consequence of tomorrow. In a recent report entitled “***Searching for eternal youth at the ripe old age of 20***” researchers have shown that people as young as 20 are gripped by a fear of ageing because increasingly, youth and vitality are associated with success. To them, growing old gracefully is not an option. However, I will not succumb to this pressure. I strongly believe that keeping your mind and your heart young is more important. As Henry Ford said, “*Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young*”

However, the media glorifies perfection and agelessness. Reshaping, reconstructing, reducing, enlarging, lifting, peeling, laser resurfacing - No, there is no building under construction. This ain't Quincy House. These terms are just part of a new lingo for making oneself look younger. These legions of cosmetologists who promise to restore what failed to be preserved are the new-age architects. My dear friends, do not be persuaded by this culture. I was puzzled during the break when I saw a large billboard advertising some beauty cream with the words “beautiful is young” ... “That's nonsense!” Whatever happened to self-acceptance? It has obviously been lost somewhere between Detox and Botox. At the end of the day, Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it really doesn't matter!

Of what value is long life if we deny its depth of meaning? Of what value is a wrinkle-free face if it masks despair? The Grand Canyon is millions of years old but the weathering it withstood all those years has made it one of the most beautiful sights today. Aging is not something to dread. It is an achievement, a celebration of reaching a milestone in the journey of life. It is trading ignorance and inexperience for wisdom and maturity.

Five years ago, I lost my beloved maternal grandfather, a reminder that despite modern technology, we cannot run away from aging and its ultimate consequence. It was heartbreaking but I will forever be proud of him and his achievements. Grandpa had fought the communists in the jungles of Malaya and won a George Medal for his courage. He was also one of my country's celebrated heroes and an amazing lawyer. When I mean amazing, I mean he could convince you that the Lowell dining hall walls are pink. His grey hair and perpetually furrowed brows were a testament to his passionate and fulfilled life. His wrinkles, medallions of a life well lived. I was reminded that each tomorrow is a gift. My grandfather never used his age as a crutch but used his wisdom as a weapon and he loved me and my family with all his heart. As of Last year I also lost my favorite professor, Farish Jenkins who reminded me of my grandfather in many ways. He also never let his age be an impediment to his success, he gained amazing experiences through his adventures and inspired me in many ways to never give up on my dreams. T.S.Murthi and Farish Jenkins: two people whose lives brought forth incredible wisdom through age. Such experiences would not be possible without aging. I still remember the time when I was really little and I would sleep in my grandfather's room, I would be awoken at 7am by the loud sound of his morning tv show; it reminded me that he was always there by my side, and the time my professor and I both went to Lowell's faculty dinner together and had a deep conversation about the meaning of life and how to make the most of it. Their spirits still live on and inhabit all of us who want to do something incredible with our lives. Tomorrow never lies, but there does lie an opportunity to make the most of this amazing life that we are leading so we can leave our own imprints when our times come. As Abraham Lincoln said, ***"It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years". T.I***

