

Funny Memories

A Significant Experience

by Ahsan Latif

HROUGHOUT my life there has been a lot of experiences, incidents and occurrences. Some, building up my confidence. made me aware of my responsibilities, others, leading me to embarrassment. The following passage is a recapulation of one such incident.

It was a holiday. The previous day we decided that, that day we would practice cricket. Having worked well into the night, I felt dizzy and reluctant to wake up so early. However, after a debate between my will and reluctance. I finally got up from bed. Taking my breakfast early in the morning is something I hate as much as I hate my hostile enemy. So trying to avoid breakfast and consequently my mother's rebuke, I sneaked out of the house.

As usual, my willingness to play supplance my reluctance as soon as I walked into the field and on seeing my friends. their showers of 'Hi', Hallo" and calling me by names which were given by them.

As time proceeded, everyone started to dressup. But one of my friend and I-the two mischief-makers took out a bat and a ball and started playing. One of our friends warned us not to play in such a callous way. His reason accompany by all the other friend's was that the ball might hit them accidently, since I was batting at the place where they were dressing up. We did not take any notice of our friends and not foreseeing any accidents we started playing even more wildly. My friend who was bówling, bowled very fast, but I

being carried away in the stream of a video I had watched recently, failed to follow the coming ball. I, thinking how to defend myself from that evil ball, which was approaching me as I was its prey. hit the ball indiscriminately and without any control, with

my eyes closed.

Everything happened within a fraction of a second and I realised that I was safe. The moment I opened my eyes, I saw a friend of mine, moaning and writhing in pain. Panic stricken and terrified. stood still and gazed at what was going on without having the faintest idea of what the next logical step would be so as to help my friend. A few seconds after I realised that few of the teeth came out and it was bleeding violently. Somebody, thanks to him, informed a near by hospital and took him there. The situation gradually came under control down, but me legs were still trembling not because of my friends harsh rebuke, nor because of my inattentiveness. but what would happen to his studies, his other works the next few days. I was finally satisfied to hear that he was alright and there was a fracture which would heal within a

This terrible incident, or rather an important experience, taught me and all of us present on the spot, the meaning of attentiveness and responsibility. It taught me above all, that any incident, no matter how minor it may seem apparently may be fatal.

"There is an Artist in Every Man or Woman"

HERE is no way you can memorize by heart, the strokes that you learn in your painting class or the ideas that you are exposed to in your Oriental Art class. These are simply not that 'memorize and regurgitate' type of learning, these are things that are seen with the mind and drawn by the eyes; the hands are simply the media, connecting the thoughts, seen and realized.

The students of the Institute of Fine Arts are therefore exclusive and special from the rest of their fellow friends studying different institutes or universities. These young girls and boys with a burning desire (not to be someone big and established) to make the world their romantic canvas, are usually, maybe almost certainly, not what students are today. something that is indicated by the serenity of their campus. "They are calm and our boys have no time for vandalism or that type of involvement." explains Professor Rafigun Nabi. Director, Institute of Fine Arts. "The main reason for this can be their sole responsibility towards their own life. Hundred per cent of our students enroll here against the will of their parents, relatives and their society, so the responsibility is their's alone," he continues.

For anyone who aspires to be an artist, this dream begins to take shape as soon as he or she reaches a level of concise-

ness, usually at a very tender

becomes a tremendous drive

almost an obsession in life.

"There is no time to waste,

they alone will be held respon-

sible for the consequence and

thus to prove their point to

their society they most strive

on, "Nabi emphasizes the sin-

an artist, the image of a man

with tousled, hair, a distant

dreamy look, that same people

may call 'mad' in the eyes-

paint splattered all over his

apron, brush in hand, staring

unblinkingly at the canvas, is

visualized. "Artist, what will he

do: He has an uncertain future.

who would marry him? These

are the sort of questions from

parents which have posed as

pronounce the word Art

I'm a 15-year old girl and have

an older sister and a brother.

When my brother and sister

were in their teens, my

parents always listened to

their problems, but neglecting

me. My father is mostly out of

town. My sister is earning

and gives money at home and

therefore my mother never

speaks against her dominat-

ing nature. Because of their

attitude I can't concentrate on

my studies. I want to go

abroad but my father can't

afford it. Please advice.

It is probably your own imagi-

Anonymous.

"In our times we could not

obstacles to aspiring artists.

Matters of

the Heart

In fact whenever you hear of

cerity of his students.

age. Materializing this dream.

College, it was as bad as committing a sin, "says Maruf Ahmed famous painter of contemporary times. "My father almost threw me out of the house and threatened to exclude me from his will, when I curolled in this institute," he recalls his first struggle as a

An art student's education in this country only paves a way allowing them to reach a minimum level the rest depends on his own way of developing skills. His education is continuous, he learns from life, society and his environment. An artist perceives a subject and then executes, all the time summing and deducting between lot of fractions. "He is a big editor. He grows, from his own feelings and his rich taste, those who can take these pressures survives while others wither away, "Nabi explains their fight, "But we teach in such a way so that they can survive, "he

painter.

But if you look deep into an artist's life you will definitely find mental satisfaction that is very rare. "We are content with very little and we have a wider scope to develop since there" is less competition compared to other profession." reflects

Only recently the scene has

by Raffat Binte Rashid Photos by Md Amran Hossain

these women to be the better ones, because of their dreamy. emotional nature.

Like other professionals who know for sure that after completing a certain level they would be practicising or even earning a certain amount of money this is is not always the case with a practising artists. His, is a very hard struggle against generalized lifestyles because of the existing socioeconomic conditions. All he has is his will power to fight

An art student's education in this country only paves a way allowing them to reach a minimum level, the rest depends on his own way of developing skills. His education is continuous, he learns from life, society and his environment. An artist perceives a subject and then executes, all the time summing and deducting between lot of fractions. "He is a big editor. He grows. from his own feelings and his rich taste, those who can take these pressures survives while others wither away. "Nabi explains their fight. "But we teach in such a way so that they can survive, "he clarifies.

There is actually no end to their struggle here. Artists are not socially recognized, their works are treated as commercial goods. People think that selling one of their art work is

disgrace, in foreign lands VATS on these items are less for painters and artists, "explains Maruf who resides in Germany but visits Dhaka at regular intervals.

"If we stay there and come back often we can offer the students here the techniques. the news trends going on there. Our scopes there is wider mainly because foreigners look differently at artists. held off, it hampers six months progress. Practice is our only method of learning, "

Nabi, who was a student of a very modern era, the late fifties, joined the institute as a teacher the day after he passed out in '64. He feels that a city is judged by its cultural activities, how much dramatics. music, art is created, decides whether the city is cosmopolitan or not. "Nowadays the number of galleries or exhibitions have increased, it is extremely good sign. The student

and also the artists can compare works, techniques and " ideas. But the process of holding an exhibition is very easy. Anyone with a sponsor can do it even while in the 1st or 2nd year; this, at times questions the quality of their work displayed, he feels.

There is no end to this sort of learning, you remain a student forever, always taking in bits of information from surroundings and painting then together on canvas. The world is still a romantic place because oaf painters or artists.



The Institute of Fine Arts building

We get materials whenever we want and have no tension of running out so naturally our speed and quality both improve," explains Maruf. "Many of our students got

scholarships in Europe, Japan. and USA. After completing their courses they come back here as teachers or hold exhibitions here which helps our young budding artists in the process "Nabi stresses.

Munirul Islam, Quazi Gias, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Marul Ahmed are some examples" he says. "But the basic skills that our institute has taught helped us immensely." Maruf points out.

"An artist has no age, he has friends both young and old and so our teacher-student relation is very informal. The things that we teach them are abstract, things you see with you heart. When you teach one to write poetry, do you talk about grammar? These are romantic works, full of human chemistry, explains Nabi, describing their unique campus.

Institute of Fine Arts' which was established in 1948 by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Shafigul Amin. Qamrul Hassan, Shafiuddin Ahmed as the founding members, is the best institute in the SAARC region. These founder teachers and pioneer artists came from India and established this institute, which was initially known as art school later as art college and in 1983, it has finally been merged with Dhaka

University. The institutes building itself is of great architectural value. In the mid fifties architect Mazharul Islam designed this place. Trees surrounds the compound, the main complex placed in the centre, the classrooms not exactly like regular classrooms, instead as rooms where its hard to distinguish between the instructor and the pupils, only differentiates this campus from

others. Drawing, painting, graphic print making, sculpture. graphic design, oriental art. ceramic, crafts, history of fine arts, are the eight departments here. The Honours course has already started and is in its second years now, the old courses BFA and MFA will be stopped as soon as the existing students pass out. The institute which has 750 students, offers a five year BFA(Hons) and two years MFA course now.

"Now that we are affiliated with the university we have to follow their norms of admission and it is now the star era. recently student with very good academic results have started to enroll here. "says Nabi. But their admission test is a very tough filter, only the true ones are taken in. The young generation are very promising," says Nabi. This is the only institute that has six Ekushe Padak holders as teachers, a lict that Nabi fa very proud of. The hartals do.

affect us, if one week work is



There is no time to waste, responsibility is his alone

'There is Nothing Wrong in Modelling'

by Rabeth Khan

UALITY advertisements can be produced in our country these words were spoken by the popular television artist Afzal Hossain, who is also one of the pioneers involved in the upgrading of our television advertisements. To quench our curiosity regarding different aspects of modelling, we decided to interview Afzal at his own advertisement agency Matra in Purana Paltan.

According to Afzal, the standard of modelling during the past five years has climbed up the ladder very quickly. He cites a few reasons behind this improvement. There are more models available; there is stronger competition competitiveness among the companies and satellite television has influenced our advertising spirit in a positive way. The satellite television channels include Zee TV. Star Plus and ofcourse Indian television channels. These channels have played an important role in the upgrading of our advertisement standard. Responding the popular notion that most of the better advertisements are done in Bombay. Afzai commented that this is a misconception. Infact he said it is just the opposite as very few advertisements have been done in Bombay.

Afzal also lauded the efforts of smaller advertisement agencies, which with limited funds. have done quality advertisements here. If we look behind a year back and see which advertisements gained popularity, we will see that, most of them have been produced locally, he added. There are few agencies, who do not think that quality advertisements-can be produced locally. These firms according to Afzal, have no contribution in the development of local advertisement. He also pointed out that there are a few technical difficulties such as the absence of good equipment. He added that if requested advertisement firms invested the same amount of money, they would invest in Bombay the quality of advertisements would be greatly enhanced.

Afzal pointed out that youngsters shouldn't take modelling as a profession but only as a pastime. Modelling he has said not reached a professional level and cannot sustain a group of young people as full time models. Moreover, he said that, the youngsters neglect their education while showing too much interest in modelling. In his opinion the interested people should always give priority to education

and keep modelling as a parttime vacation. To him, mody elling is a very good way to show one's talent and shape one's personality.

Nearly everywhere in the world, there are modelling agencies which provide advertising agencies the models they require. When he was asked about the basic qualifications to be a model, he said that there are no hard and fast rules. A model has to be average looking, smart, have a good height and have to be very intelligent. The rates of the models are not fixed and apart from the popular models, the rates for newcomers are not much. There are some rules, which has to be followed after signing. The most important one is that, if you do an advertising for a soap this year, you can't do an advertising for another soap before one year.

So how do parents of models react to their assignments? To this Afzal commented that the parents have generally become more co-operative and open-minded. He underlined



the fact that it would be very foolish not to let youngsters do modelling: "They have to think freely and there is nothing wrong in modelling".

When asked about the basic ingredients that make an advertisement good, he said that the technical efficiency, imaginative camera-work and a good jingle-are the key factors. The more investment is made. the quality of the advertisement becomes better. He also remarked that the more good advertisement agencies are born, the future of modelling looks very bright.

When asked about some of his favourite advertisements, he named "Azad Ball Pen." "Funny Noodles," "Jumping Mango" and "Colt Shaving Cream". The advertisements of the last two products haven't yet been televised. Lonely day, Lonely nights, you are far away gle of the advertisement of Azad Ball Pen but we can all

nation that your mother is neglecting you. Parents usually love their children equally. Perhaps she has a lot on her mind and his unknowingly been aloof. The best thing to do is to let her know how you feel without getting agitated. As far as ", this might be the jingoing abroad, you have plenty of time to prepare for that. A lot of young peohope that the lonely days of ple have applied for scholmodelling in this country are arships and received them. far away and an brighter time Why don't you do:the same?

been changing a bit, young boys and girls are allowed to pursue their own dreams with less interference from parents about their choice. In fact approximately 50 per cent of the students are also women and all very talented and with good prospects for a career in art. Unfortunately however these young women give up art due

to the external pressure of

The world is their romantic curvas

·like earning extra money. But If an artists completes may be 100 paintings a year only two or ten if he is lucky, would be sold. His energy, time and his love are all over looked. To make mattes worse their instruments such as paints brushes, canvas etc are treated as luxury items and so are very expensive.

A certain brand of number



Materializing their dream, is their only obsession.

family life or 'sangshar'. "Where they get married the environment is different and she fails to continue, but those who broke the chains are all doing well and are established now "Nabi says, in fact he considers

12 brush now costs Tk 6000; in the sixties it was Tk. 12:50 only. How can a student afford this, naturally he looks for alternative qualities which in the long process hampers their quality of the work."This is a

Songs of Lalon

by Lalon Shah Translated by Brother James

O you think that sort of love is an ordinary matter? Lost in love. Hari went about with a patched rag about his shoulders. One day the beautiful Radha. in a fit of hurt pride. abandoned Shvam. To salve his hurt feelings Shyam became a yogi

and cut off his hair.

Bhola too spent his time on a burning ghat around his neck the bones of the goddess Shakti. and behaving like a madman.

Rup and Sanatan were minister of state: Overcome by love they became fakirs.

Learn from this the power of love.



alon Shah was A Baul Jugir fascetic. mendicunt) who lived to the age of 116: he died near Kushtia town on the 17th a) October 1890. He travelled a lot, and amposed hundreds of song. "Lalon Shah was a Baul" -- and the greatest and nost prolific composer among the viculs. The Bauls are members of a West Bengal, India, Some and Muslims. ome are Hindus. Each group celebrates 's own religious festivals, but one group wins the other group on some occasions. They live together in "akh-

a Muslim might have a Hindu guru or guide: a Hinety might have a Muslim spiritual guide, Bauls believe that the human body is a miniature world with the Sain, the Master, dwelling within.