



ECHOES BY
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MUHAMMAD ALI

Little Jimmy's Friend

For Muhammad Ali, 1974 was a big year. That year he fought an epic fight against George Foreman for the Heavyweight Champion title that was taken away from him in 1967. The fight was known as *The Rumble in the Jungle*. It was fought in Kinshasa, Zaire in today's Congo. Ever since winning a Gold Medal in the Rome Olympics in 1960, Cassius Clay, as he was known then, transformed boxing into an art, "floating like a butterfly and stinging like a bee." Through time, Muhammad Ali became one of the most loved persons of the 20th century.

During the preparation for the Foreman fight, a father and his son, Jimmy, came to Ali's training camp at Deer Lake. Jimmy was like millions of other kids. He wanted to meet the Champ.

It was a hot day in May. Little Jimmy was wearing a skull cap. He was dressed heavily. Ali got curious. "Why are you dressed like that, Jimmy?" He asked. Jimmy's answer said it all. "I have leukemia. I take chemotherapy. I lost all my hair. I just came to tell you how happy you make me."

Ali and his team were touched. Who wouldn't be? Ali fights battles inside and outside the ring. Little Jimmy was fighting a battle for life. Ali's manager Gene Kilroy



took a photo of Jimmy and Ali. It was enlarged, framed and later sent to Jimmy's dad. Ali autographed it: "To my friend, Jimmy."

Ali hugged Jimmy and whispered: "I'm going to beat George Foreman. You're going to beat cancer."

Two weeks later, Ali's team received a phone call. Jimmy was in hospital. He wasn't doing well. Would Ali come and

meet Jimmy? Ali and his Team were at Jimmy's bedside within three hours.

Cancer had the final say. Little Jimmy's skin was as white as the bed sheets. The moment he saw Ali, his little blue eyes lit up. "Muhammad, I knew you'd come," he said in excitement. Ali reminded him. "Jimmy, remember what I told you? I'm going to beat George Foreman. You're going to beat cancer."

Little Jimmy looked at Ali. He gave a knockout punch. Ali couldn't answer back.

"No, Muhammad. I'm going to meet God. I'm going to tell Him, you're my friend."

The room became silent. Everybody was in tears. Ali hugged Little Jimmy and went back to train for the Foreman fight.

A week later, Jimmy lost the fight. The family invited Ali to Jimmy's funeral. Ali couldn't be present. Gene Kilroy went on behalf of Ali.

Little Jimmy was sleeping peacefully. Beside him was his most prized possession: the framed autographed photo of him and the Champ.

Ali kept his promise to Little Jimmy. He defeated George Foreman and became the World Champion again. Little Jimmy also kept his promise. He was now on his way to tell God that Muhammad Ali, the Champ, is his friend.

Dedication: For Annapurna, who wanted her dad to re-tell the story so she and her friends could read it.

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How to Start Your Own Blog

ARMAN R. KHAN

Personal blogs have become a popular medium of self-expression in Bangladesh. Blog owners use it to showcase their skills and help others, to talk about specific issues, or to simply jot down their own thoughts. But how do you open a personal blog?

DEFINE A PURPOSE.

As mentioned earlier, blogs have a lot of uses. Why do you need a blog? Do you wish to share your views on the world, or do you want to write about a particular category, such as football? Having a set purpose for your blog makes it easier to write on a regular basis. Otherwise, you wouldn't even know what to write about and the blog would eventually become dormant due to inactivity.

CHOOSE A PLATFORM.

A platform, simply put, is a website that gives you the virtual space on which to open your blog. There are lots of options, but the most common ones are:

WordPress, Blogger and Tumblr. While the first two are traditional types of blogs, Tumblr is more of an amalgamation of social network and blog. Of these three, WordPress is the most popular due to its ease of use and plethora of themes that you can use to decorate your blog. On the other hand, if you are aiming for a Bangla blog, it is a good idea to use a local platform as that would give



you more freedom and exposure. There are a handful of platforms at your disposal, of which 'Somewhere in Blog' is quite famous.

DECIDE BETWEEN HOSTED AND SELF-HOSTED BLOGS.

Hosted blogs are free, but there are some limitations and you do not own the blog completely. The URL for hosted blogs will contain the name of the platform you are using, myblog.wordpress.com for example. Self-hosted blogs give you more

freedom and you completely own the blog. Moreover, the domain will not contain the platform's name. If you are just starting off and testing the waters, it's better to just go for the free hosted blogs, despite the limitations.

DECORATE AND PERSONALISE YOUR BLOG.

Not all platforms allow you to decorate your blog the way you want. But the major ones provide enough free designs and themes that you can use so that your

blog doesn't look dull. While embellishing your blog with themes, remember that the theme should match the purpose of your blog. Don't have a music related theme for a footballing blog. Also make sure that there are some contrast in the text colour and the background colour, so that the words are readable. Now, personalise the blog a bit by adding a title or header for the blog and writing a nifty little blurb about yourself or about the purpose of your blog.

START WRITING!

With everything else in place, start writing blog posts with the purpose of the blog in mind. Don't make your posts unnecessarily long, and don't post false information. Your blog will gain popularity based on the strength and authenticity of its contents. Lastly, share your blog posts on social media.

Over the last few years, we have been exposed to the term 'blog' almost on a daily basis in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the word has mostly been portrayed in a negative light. Being a blogger doesn't automatically make you an enemy of the people. Now that you know what you need to open a blog, get started. Blog hard, and blog smart.

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