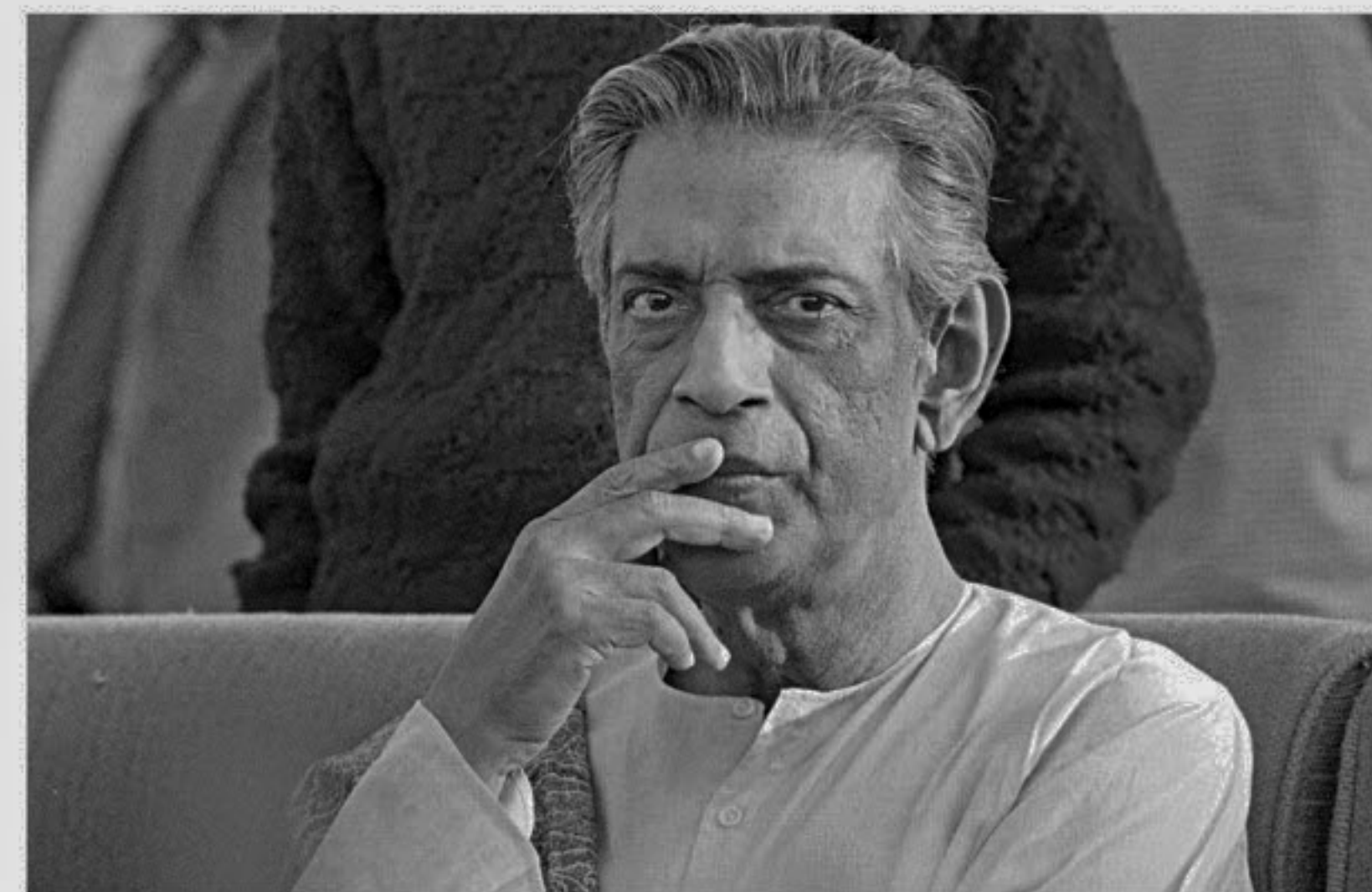




ECHOES BY
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Patriarch of the Ray Dynasty



Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur was the patriarch of the Mughal Empire. His son Nasiruddin Muhammad Humayun carried the mantle for his son Abul Fatah Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar. Through Akbar, the Mughal dynasty shone with glory. A similar dynasty started from today's Mymensingh in Bangladesh. One Kamada Ranjan Ray was the patriarch of the Ray Dynasty.

On May 10, 1863, in the village of Masua, Kamada Ranjan Ray was born. His father, Kalinath Ray, was a pandit in Arabic, Farsi, and Sanskrit. Before his fifth birthday, Zamindar Harikishore Ray Chowdhury accepted Kamada as his foster child. From that day on, Kamada became Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury. Upendra passed the Entrance Exam in 1880 from Mymensingh Zilla School. He then went to Calcutta (now Kolkata). Although he

left East Bengal forever, he took with him his imagination that he picked up through drawings, the flute and the violin. This love would later resonate from Calcutta to the world from one generation to the next.

Upendra needed a medium through which he could pass on his love of the arts. It was thus natural that he'd enter the world of printing. In 1913, he founded 'U Ray and Sons' what was then the finest printing house in South Asia. The house printed colour photos. At the time this was ahead of its time. Sukumar Ray, his heir to be, was sent to Britain to learn the art and craft of printing.

If you can make children imagine and dream, you've laid the foundations for a brighter tomorrow. Upendra's *Goopy Gyne, Bagha Byne* and *Tuntunir Boi* laid the foundations of children's literature in Bangla. That was just the beginning.

In April 1913, Upendra published the first children's magazine that contained colour photos. It was named *Sandesh*. The magazine contained literary and scientific pieces. Upendra did the illustrations himself.

Alas! 100 years ago, Upendra died on December 20, 1915. The mantle was passed on to his eldest son, Sukumar Ray. Sukumar carried on his father's legacy with *Ha-Ja-Ba-Ra-La* based on non-sense in the light of Lewis Carroll and *Alice in Wonderland*. He added *Pagla Dashu* and *Chala-Chitta-Chanchari*. Like his father, Sukumar did the illustrations of *Sandesh* and made contributions to each issue. While Sukumar's son Satyajit was less than three, Sukumar left the material world. The Akbar in the Ray Dynasty was left to conquer the world.

Through Satyajit, Upendra's passion for printing found a new outlet in film.

Upendra and Sukumar's stories found new characters through 'Felu Da' (in the light of Sherlock Holmes), and 'Professor Shonku' (in the light of Upendra's love for science). *Goopy Gyne, Bagha Byne* was immortalised through Tapan Chatterjee and Robi Ghosh.

Outside our classical music, there are not too many instances where three generations from the same family have contributed to the arts as a whole and encouraged imagination in children. On the centenary death anniversary of Upendrakishore Ray, one can feel happy that the patriarch of the Ray Dynasty was born in today's Bangladesh.

Asrar Chowdhury teaches economic theory and game theory in the classroom. Outside he listens to music and BBC Radio; follows Test Cricket; and plays the flute. He can be reached at: asrar.chowdhury@facebook.com

LETTING YOUR PARENTS KNOW ABOUT BAD RESULTS

And Getting Away With It

AZMIN AZRAN

There are many bad sides to doing terribly in an exam. One of the worst sides, if not the worst, is letting your parents know about your result. Some people only delay the imminent danger by lying or hiding the truth. This article provides some foolproof methods to those seeking a more permanent solution.

MENTION IT IN PASSING

This one keeps your conscience clear, to some extent. You wait for the perfect moment before saying anything, and just when one of your parents is busy to the extreme, go up to them and tell them how the only way your marks in Maths would look good was if it were an Olympic gymnast's score. They'll either hear you, or they won't, but either way, they'll be too busy to care. You have saved yourself.

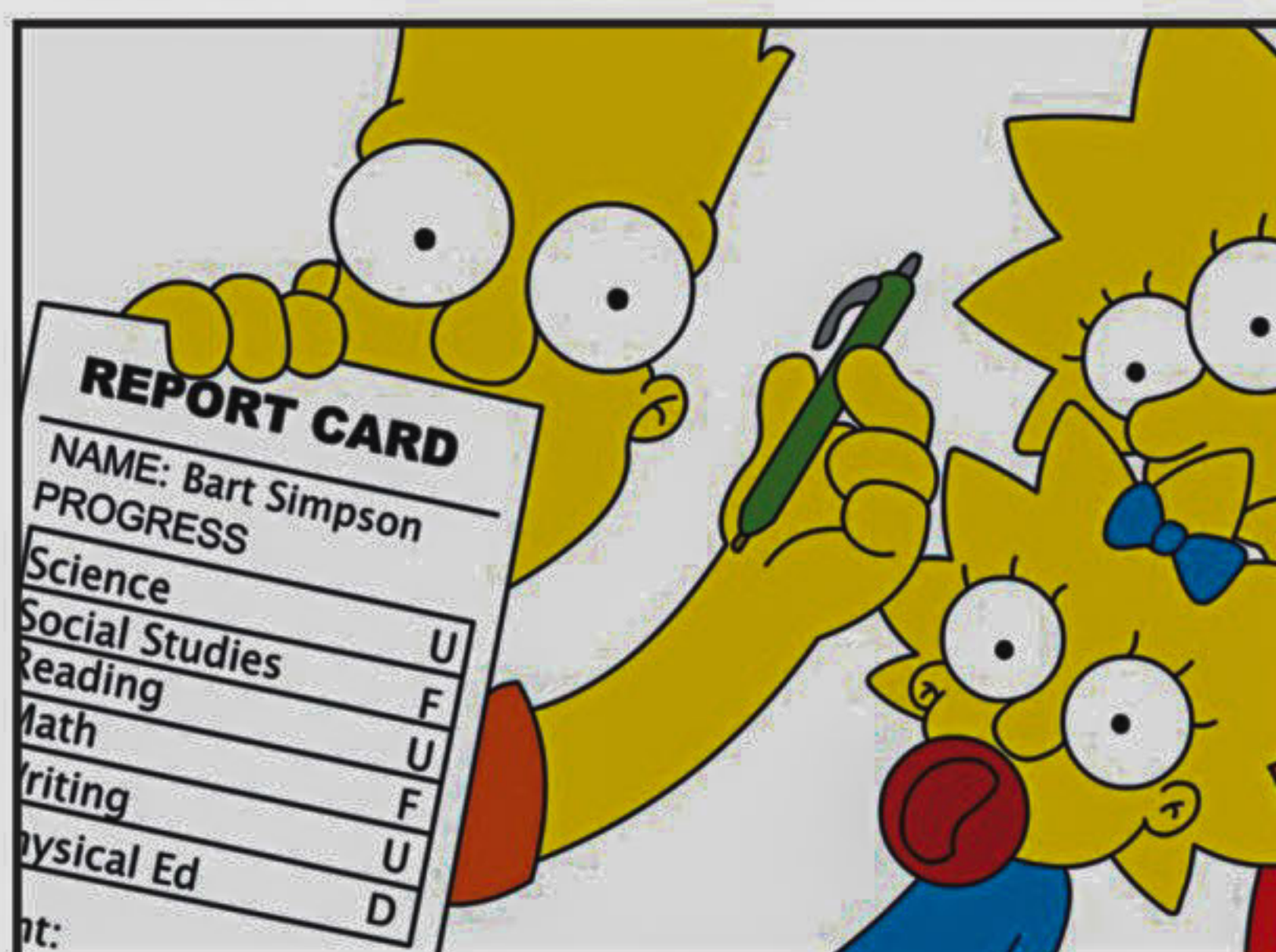
DO SOMETHING NICE FIRST

This method works particularly well with mothers, or whoever plays the good cop in the house. Get them a present, wash their car and/or cook for them. Save your pocket money for a couple of weeks and get them a present before sharing the bad news. By giving them an item bought with an accumulation of their own money, you will soften your parents enough to get a less hostile reaction to your failure in education, something they also pay for.

BRING A FRIEND

We'll assume you're not the stupidest person you know

and there is a friend who's done worse. Bring that friend over and make him mention his results to your parents. Most friends won't want to do this, so you'll either have to bribe them, give them food, or do their homework, give them what they want. Standing beside him, you will look less stupid. Being less stupid among two people is



almost as good as being the smartest. Actually, no, but that's the best you can do.

FAKE ILLNESS

We start with the petty ideas here but they work. It's inhuman to scream at sick people, and your parents know that. Fake illness, and when your mother takes care

of you, croak out in a shaky voice that you have a confession to make. Make it sound like you're afraid you're going to die and you want to come clean. If your mother isn't an evil queen from Disney (and she's not), she will forgive you. The catch here is faking the illness perfectly, and we've all heard how putting garlic under your armpits can cook up a fever. Try that! Run into a wall on purpose, and if you're overweight, play some football. These could all work (we hope).

PLAY THE BLAME GAME

Another one for the ones with a weak conscience, blame everyone and everything. Try blaming your teachers, that they didn't teach you the way you need to be taught. If you think your parents are going to call you on that, blame your friends. Tell them that your friends distract you during and before exams and that hinders your preparation. This might bring on restrictions in your social life so think twice before going down that path. What you're left with is blaming the system, and doing that is easy. Declare your superiority over other human beings. Challenge norms, some people say that may be the way to greatness.

There is a way easier solution to all that. Study. Work hard. I am just kidding, you could always go down the wrong path and lie, do away with your soul. But yeah, studying might be easier.

When he's not obsessing over football, Azmin spends his time devising ways of not getting mugged, only to fail miserably. Give him advice at fb.com/azminazran