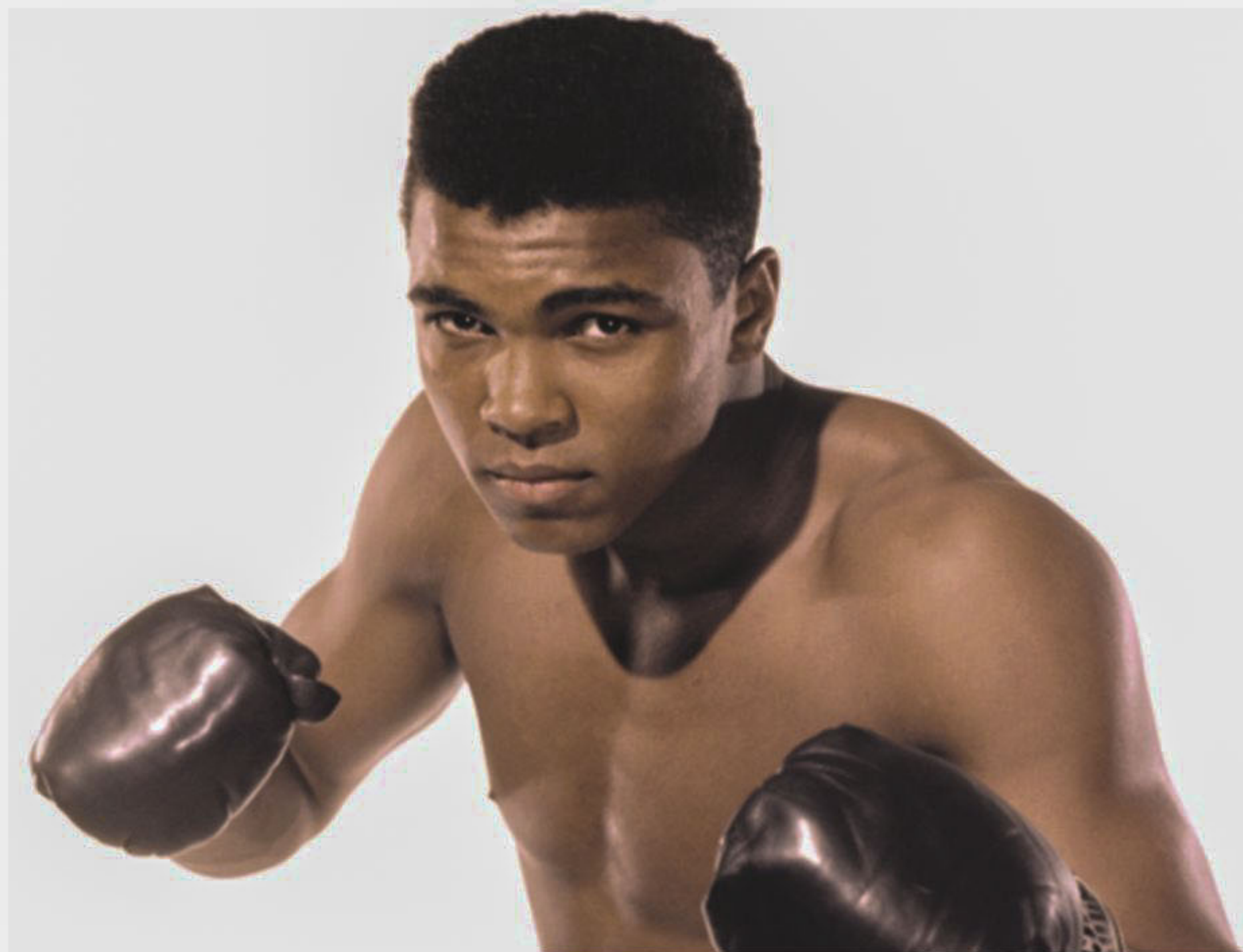


**THOUGHTCRAFT**

BY NASRIN SOBHAN

Freelance Writer

# Mohammad Ali



Mohammad Ali the great boxer passed away last month.

He was a thoughtful man, a man of great strength and courage, both physical and moral; a man who spoke the truth as he saw it, till the end, and we mourn him. For many of us he was an iconic figure, a part of our lives for many years. We rejoiced in his successes, enjoyed his pithy sayings, were saddened by his illnesses and grieved at his death. For many of us, it was almost like we had lost someone close to us.

The death of someone we love or care for is always a shock. We forget that death is as much a part of our lives as life itself, along with birth, sickness, happiness, love, money or success.

So when a loved one dies, we are never prepared for the shock, the grief or the sheer pain that comes with such an intensely personal loss.

We take happiness for granted, as an entitlement. We feel aggrieved if we are not happy, and search for ways to remedy our situation. We change our lives, our partners, our friends, even our locations, and hope that these changes will bring us the joy we seek.

But success, happiness and other forms of pleasure, are a combination of both luck and our own efforts and most importantly,

are largely within our control, while fate and death are unforeseeable, random and beyond our control or comprehension.

Some folk live till their late nineties in the best of health, and others die in their twenties for no good reason. Some die in tragic

accidents, while others lead normal, healthy, happy lives till some quirk of fate strikes them down.

Apart from the shock and grief of loss the question is "why"? or "how did this happen to us"? To this eternal question,

there are no answers. No matter how great the loss, we must resign ourselves, and get on with our lives. The pain eventually fades, as people say, to a dull but constant ache, something to be borne as yet another of the burdens of the imperfect life of this world.

With the passage of time because we are human and resilient, we recover our loved ones in a different form, because they live on, in our memories. It is a comfort for us in spite of our loss because we forget the sad bits and remember only the good things from the past.

When we recall a loved one, the memories that come to mind are the joyful ones. Days of sunshine, the sound of voices and laughter, happiness of shared events with family and friends, and moments alone of quiet contentment.

In the end, death, like birth, is only a transition. According to our beliefs, we should not grieve too much, because our loved ones have gone to a better place, a place where we will join them one day. A beautiful garden where rivers run beneath, where we will be united with those we have lost, and live in eternal peace and happiness.

**Photo: Collected**

**PERSPECTIVE**

## Love for your sibling



As an elder sister I have grown accustomed to sibling rivalry - a constant in my life ever since my little brother learnt to speak even the most elementary of words. It is quite unfortunate when siblings who were once close to each other fall apart because of misunderstandings caused by third parties or property disputes. Here are a few crucial steps which, if applied in real life, can help to mitigate the evil forces of sibling rivalry. Siblings more often than not are the only people who can truly relate to you, coming from the same background and with the host of shared life experiences. They are also our playmates, friends and earliest partners in crime. So the bond that is priceless, needs to be nurtured in adulthood, lest we forget the blessing as the world and its vices try to drive a wedge in between.

**SHOW LOYALTY**

Loyalty is one of the most significant elements, which if demonstrated rigorously, can keep any bond intact. With loyalty is entwined the trust factor, which indicates you should be a great confidante to your sibling and hence refrain yourself from blurting out embarrassing facts that s/he does not feel comfortable in revealing, or disclosing your sibling's deepest secrets to other people which may also include close friends and even family. Being faithful to your sibling also implies that you should not backbite or slander them no matter

what the situation.

**BE FRIENDS**

Treating your sibling as a friend can strengthen the foundation of the relationship significantly. Viewing the bond as that of friendship leads to an exchange of true feelings, personal opinions, and inhibitions, and the more openly your sibling expresses themselves to you, the more constructively you can guide and advise them to act in a sensible manner, which in turn is likely to foster a healthy relationship. Since friendship usually paves the way for open communication, the more freely you communi-

cate with your sibling, the fewer chances there are of circumstances creating friction between you two.

**BE OBSERVANT**

Besides communicating, observing your sibling carefully allows you to gain a better insight of their characteristics. Sometimes even the tiniest of details ranging from the preference of TV shows, type of music, books, or favourite celebrities, to the kind of friends they have can give you ample information outlining your sibling's personality. You should keep an eye on your siblings' actions without giving them the impression

that you are trying to pry or babysit as it might make them feel uncomfortable. The more you know your sibling inside out, the easier it will be to tackle the situation in the event of a dispute, without your sibling turning into your arch nemesis.

**DON'T BE JEALOUS**

Jealousy is poison--one that can cause a lot of harm to any sort of bond. It clouds one's judgment and breeds insecurity, hatred and bitterness. If your father gives your older brother three apartments and you only two, quit pouncing on his decision and crying "foul play". Rather, sit back and think carefully as to why he would take such a step. It could be that your brother is struggling to support his children, while you on the other hand are single and still living with your parents.

If you keep track of the love that flows in your heart for your sibling and the same values that you guys grew up with, does it really matter who gets more? After all have you not heard the saying "what is mine is yours?"

As much as sibling rivalry over a packet of Lays or the TV remote is a natural phenomenon we should be careful not to overstep our boundaries. After all, the sibling-relation is a blessing, one we should nurture with an abundance of affection and patience to sustain an everlasting bond.

**By Mehnaz Tabassum Khaleel**

**Photo: Collected**