

# Dr.M.Gurudas

Dr.M.Gurudas a beloved Teacher of BMC left us for the heavenly abode on 6.5.2011 at the ripe age of 95. I fondly remember Dr.Gurudas, myself being a First batch student of BMC and he being the First Professor of Radiology and also Forensic Medicine in our College. I came in contact with him when I entered third year MBBS, at the Victoria Hospital, Radiology Department. He was one of the most beloved Professors among our Faculty because of his compassionate attitude and kindness and affection towards his students. He befriended his students like only a few others I know. Very few among our faculty communicated with the students as he did. In those days while we were generally afraid of our Professors, he was our friend and guide. We could directly speak to him. He consoled our fears especially at Exam times and filled us with courage and confidence. He was an excellent Teacher also but his personal qualities were what made him dear to our hearts. He was the one we would run to, in times of conflict or distress. He was one of the few who took interest in our sports extracurricular activities. During the college day sports competitions, he would be there in his shorts, conducting the competitions. I still remember his comment about me that I did not participate in Sports very much (Rather I could not, because of my personal circumstances!).

I would like to cite two instances that are not erasable from my memory.

I had been offered an internship in a US Hospital. I resigned from my job at KGF Hospital. I was penniless with an education loan, and another loan for the ticket money on my head. I had spent whatever I had for my preparation to go abroad. On the night before I left KGF, just two weeks before my departure, someone informed me that the chest X-ray taken at the hospital for Visa purposes had a calcific spot and that the radiologist was concerned whether the US immigration would allow me to enter as the US authorities were very sensitive about TB. I was devastated and thought of cancelling my trip to US and look for another job. I did not even tell my family about this. I ran to Dr. Gurudas in Bangalore and told him about my miserable situation. He put his arms around me, and said 'Who told you so? Most Indians especially doctors have these spots indicating a burnt out focus. I see it by the dozens every day. Don't worry. You go and nothing untoward will happen to you'. He saved my soul on that day. I cannot thank him enough for this.

Nine years after I had graduated, I was visiting Bangalore. I needed some document from the College for a license in US. I was happy to see Dr.Gurudas's name on the door of the Dean's chamber. But I was not sure if he would remember me after nine years as hundreds of students would have passed through the College by that time. I gave my visiting card to the doorman. He took it inside. Within two minutes Dr. Gurudas himself came out of his chambers with a broad smile and greeted me, not with a hand shake, but by a warm hug, put his arms around me and took me inside. My work was done in no time! Before I left he did not forget to say 'neenu konegu sports aadalilla! (You never played sports). It shows how much he loved his

students as well as sports.

Doctors are often exhorted at convocations that you should be kind, compassionate etc and as the saying goes ' A physician should be a friend, philosopher and a guide to his patients'. I think the same applies to Teachers. Dr. Gurudas was all that and more to his students.

"MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE"

Dr.B.N.Satyanarayana Rao.