

# Confidence



A Pinku and Dadaji  
Series

## Confident can do things happen

Pinku: Dadaji... Tomorrow I have mathematics examination...

Dadaji: All the best Pinku... write well.

Pinku: But! I am not at all confident.

Dadaji: Don't worry Pinku... confidence is not a static quality meaning a quality/skill that will remain with you forever. Rather, it's a mindset that takes effort to maintain when the going gets rough. It must be learned, practiced and mastered just like any other skill.

Pinku: Dadaji actually I am worried if I cannot attempt the questions even though I know that I have done my preparation well.

Dadaji: You will feel confident only when you see the actual paper Pinku. Your confidence levels will come back once you know that you can easily crack all the sums in the examination.

Pinku: Dadaji... still I am scared...

Dadaji: Don't worry Pinku... Whenever you feel scared tell yourself that you are ready to master or take command of any situation. This will boost your self-confidence.

Pinku: That was a great suggestion Dadaji...



Confidence is invisible  
but not absent

Thank you for the same. But not convincingly convincing Dadaji... tell me some good stories as always you have told me so that I can feel better.

Dadaji: Sure Pinku. This story is about your favorite actor Amitabh Bachchan.

After completing his education in the national capital (New Delhi), Bachchan headed eastward to Calcutta to earn his livelihood. His first job was with Shaw Wallace and he later worked as a freight broker for the shipping firm Bird and Co. But considerations of livelihood and a regular pay at the end of the month was no compensation for what the heart desired. By 1968, young Amit had decided to give it all up, because Amitabh Bachchan wanted to spend his life doing what he wanted to do and he wanted to act. The tall and lanky young man boarded a train that took him to the city of opportunity and heartbreak. Bombay did not embrace its biggest creation to be with open arms.

## Confidence drives your desire

It was a ruthless place where dreams were bought and sold and where deification of a silver screen god masked the plaintive call of a thousand broken hopes lying crushed on an unfeeling studio floor. For some time it seemed that Amitabh's unconventional looks and great height would see him make his way back to a life of dejection. Every filmmaker that he approached thought he was too tall at 6 feet 3 inches. They thought him a bit too dark to be exposed on film. In desperation Amitabh tried to use the one other unique characteristic that he had, his deep baritone. But here too, Bachchan failed. He was rejected by the All India Radio after an audition test.

Pinku: I never knew these facts that my favorite actor had to go through so much of hardship. His confidence levels must have faded by these events...

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... Then in 1969, when Amitabh was on the verge of giving it all up, came his break as Khwaja Ahmed Abbas cast Amitabh in Saat Hindustani and Bachchan was one of the seven. The film wasn't a financial success, but Amitabh Bachchan won his first National

### Confidence is the vehicle for Success

Award as the best newcomer and so took wings the amazing acting career of one who would be the Big B in Bollywood.

Pinku: Oh! So he became a superstar than and rest is history correct Dadaji...

Dadaji: Yes of course Pinku but there's more to it...His life never had been a bed of roses? He has had health issues-in 1982 accident on sets of Coolie, in November 2005, he underwent surgery. In 2000, at the age of 57 (when common man is thinking of retirement), he had Financial crisis when he almost lost all that he had. Financial crisis doesn't discriminate among people in any income bracket or line of work and can affect any of us at any time in our lives.

Pinku: Financial crisis to Big B...???

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... In 1995 Amitabh started Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd (ABCL) that specialized in film production and event management.



## Confident can restart from scratch

It was a pioneering attempt to evolve a corporatised entertainment company on the lines of the Hollywood studios. The company burst into the limelight in 1996 when it brought to India the Miss World Pageant. But, ABCL's attempts at event management threw up more fits than profits. The Miss World contest, its first such attempt, was riddled with controversies, beginning with protests from women's groups and ending with the Spastics Society publicly denouncing the company's inability to pay up its promised charity until recently. The Miss World international organization expected a fee of \$2 million from the local event manager. Along with other costs, ABCL would have run up a bill of an estimated \$5 million (Rs 17.5 crore). Even a modest estimate puts ABCL's loss at about Rs 4 crore.

In 1999 ABCL was facing an unprecedented liquidity crunch. Substantial funds were blocked in production and distribution of films; staff salaries were not being paid on time; and public confidence has nosedived. In March 1999, hounded by creditors led by India's public broadcaster Doordarshan and Canara Bank,

### Confidence puts excuses aside

ABCL approached the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to seek protection under the bankruptcy laws. The Bombay high court restrained Bachchan from selling off his Mumbai bungalow 'Prateeksha' and two flats till the pending loan recovery cases of Canara Bank were dealt with. Bachchan, however, pleaded that he had mortgaged his bungalow to Sahara India Finance for raising funds for his company. The Indian Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction declared Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited a 'sick' company with a debt of US\$14 million.

Bachchan explained: "Our friends advised us to close this losing venture and move on but we decided to clear all our debts despite huge losses and re-start the production of films". "It is only my conscience that kept me going," the legendary actor said.



## Confidence lets you dream bigger

“Many businessmen and financial advisers told me that I should give up ABCL and start a new life. But somewhere I felt that I owe people money. People had put faith in ABCL because of my name. Therefore, I could not let it go easily.”

Pinku: See Dadaji “That’s Bachchan” my favorite actor “The Big B”...

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... you are right... he is a great mettle... continuing he said:

“There was a sword hanging on my head all the time. I spent many sleepless nights. One day, I got up early in the morning and went directly to Yash Chopraji and told him that I was bankrupt. I had no films. My house and a small property in New Delhi were attached. Yashji listened coolly and then offered me a role in his film Mohabattein,”

“I then started doing commercials, television and films. And I am happy to say today that I have repaid my entire debt of Rs 90 crore and am starting afresh,” Bachchan said.

ABCL was down and out, but AB the star wasn’t. Big B was back with a bang by 2000, this time on the small screen with “Kaun Banega

### Self Confidence will make you unstoppable

Crorepati” a series that revived his fortunes along with those of the STAR Plus. This was at a time when most movie stars saw television as a step back in their career but Bachchan changed that perception. Estimates reveal that Bachchan earned Rs 15 crore for 85 episodes of the show. The rush of endorsements that came his way, like the ICICI Bank endorsement deal for Rs 10 crore, helped Big B pay back creditors and clean up ABCL’s balance sheet.

Pinku: Huh! Dadaji... after listening to all these I became a bigger fan of his... All these days I knew him as only actor. But today I even admire his greatness to fight back odd situations.

Dadaji: Very true Pinku... thats all I call it confidence. Amitabh never gave away his hope; whenever he fell he was back to normal within no time. That is confidence Pinku...



## Nothing can be a huddle to confident

...and your first lesson

**“Never give up, and be confident in what you do. There may be tough times, but the difficulties which you face will make you more determined to achieve your objectives and to win against all the odds.”**

Pinku: Ah Great Dadaji... you have once again invoked my eagerness to learn more... Please Dadaji more stories...

Dadaji: Oh sure Pinku. And here it goes the story of great Arunima Sinha

Arunima got on the general compartment of the Padmavat Express. The crowd was crushing, but she squeezed herself into a corner seat. Preoccupied with thoughts about the future, she was startled when some four or five thugs gathered around her and started pulling at the only thing of value she had on that day- a gold chain gifted to her by her mother. Being a single female traveler, they thought her an easy prey. When she refused to hand the chain over, they started coming at her one at a time. Arunima kicked, punched and fought as best as she could. For a brief moment, it even seemed she

Confidence say's you either  
win or learn

had the upper hand. The compartment was full of people, but no one came to the rescue of a girl being robbed and attacked. Since they couldn't take her on one at a time, each grabbed a limb and hauled her out the train.

She flew into an oncoming train and the force threw her onto the opposite tracks. What happened thereafter took a matter of seconds. Before she could move her left leg off the track, a train went over it.

The night that wouldn't end

49 trains had passed her by as she lay wrecked and bleeding on the tracks. Rodents would come and feast on her oozing wounds, scampering off when trains came. She kept screaming in pain. She never thought she would survive that night. But when morning dawned, renewed hope surged through her.



## Confident fight for their rights

Next morning when the lads came to take a dump, the sight of her mangled body greeted them. She was to be taken to the Bareilly District Hospital. Her leg had to be amputated from below the knee immediately to prevent gangrene from setting in. She was losing blood alarmingly. The hospital staffs were severely encumbered by the lack of supplies, but did everything in their power. One of the pharmacists B.C. Yadav donated his own blood because there was none to spare.

While she was fighting for her life, unbeknownst to her, outside she had become a media sensation. Newspapers and TV channels picked up her story and reported on the gory details. It is outrageous that a young girl travelling alone can be thrown off the train just like that. Both the UP and the national government got involved.

Initially her story was being pawned by the state and national governments because of the sympathy votes it could help garner. Then it took a murky turn. When her story captured national attention, questions began to be asked that who was responsible for her accident and

Confidence is magic that happens when you believe

who all should be held accountable. It's not that someone was out to get her, but everyone wanted to save themselves. First stories started circulating that she was travelling without a ticket and had jumped to avoid being caught by the ticket collector. CCTV footage showed Arunima standing in a queue to purchase the ticket. With this theory invalidated, even louder claims that she wanted to commit suicide started doing the rounds.

Lying there on the hospital bed, when she was at her weakest and most vulnerable, She felt helpless to defend herself and her family against this onslaught. Her left leg was amputated. A rod was inserted in her right leg, from knee to ankle, to hold the shattered bones together. She pondered on the most impossible dream she could set for herself. She decided to climb the Everest.



## Confident are mission focused

Usually amputee patients take months, or even years, to get accustomed to their prosthetic limbs. Arunima walked in two days. Straight out of the hospital she went to see Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to climb Everest. Aside from her immediate family, she was the only person to not dismiss Arunima's mission. But Bachendri pal didn't sugar coat it either. She told her, "Arunima in this condition you made such a huge decision. Know that you have already conquered your inner Everest. Now you need to climb the mountain only to show the world what you are made of."

She did a basic course from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), the best school of its kind in Asia. This was followed by 18 months of rigorous training. She climbed smaller, but no less dangerous mountains, had a couple of near death experiences and underwent mind numbing, exhausting, spirit crushing pain. She initially was supported with a grant from NIM. Then Tata Steel provided her with a generous sponsorship that let her focus exclusively on the impossible task that lay ahead.

On 21st May 2013 she reached the Everest sum-

**Confidence is the reward for overcoming the fear**

mit. Earlier her Sherpa (Guides/helpers during mountaineering) had informed her that oxygen supply was critically low. He also advised her "Save your life now so that you can climb Everest again later," but, she said, "If I don't climb Everest now, my life will not be worth saving." She erected the flag of mother country India on the peak, deposited some pictures of my idol Swami Vivekananda next to it. Then she used the last vestiges of oxygen to take pictures and videos of herself on the peak. She knew she was probably going to die. So it was important that the visual proofs of her achievement make it down to the world. Fifty steps later, her oxygen finished.

As is said Pinku "Fortune favours the gritty"

As she laid suffocating and gasping for breath, she came across an extra cylinder of oxygen. Her Sherpa quickly latched it on to her.



## Confident who practice regularly to become genius

Slowly they got on the precarious downward climb. Far more deaths occur on the downward climb than the upward one on Everest and now that she had survived the worst, it was time for her to tell her tale herself. Her expedition was successful.

She then accomplished four- Everest in Asia, Kilimanjaro in Africa, Elbrus in Europe and Kosciuszko in Australia and doing more.

...and your second lesson

**"Don't wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles, and less than perfect conditions. So what? Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident, and more and more successful."**

Pinku: I almost cried when I was listening to this story Dadaji... Great Arunima my salute to you...

Dadaji: Now let me tell you a "very famous Indian story". This story will open your eyes and



### Confidence raises strength

teach you the true definition of confidence.

Ramanujan was born to a poor family in December 22, 1887 near Erode. He attended several primary schools before entering the Town school in Kumbakonam, in January 1898. Even at a tender age he made simple discoveries in mathematics. By the age of 12, he was well versed in Trigonometry. Nowadays, computers are used for logistics purposes, but Ramanujan, at the age of 14, assisted his school by assigning its 1200 students to its 35 or more odd teachers. He always pondered over the mystical significance of numbers and was often seen with a slate. Only his final results are recorded in notebooks.

Here is the conversation between him and his friend Sandow:

Sandow: Ramanju, they all call you a genius.

Ramanujan: What! Me, a genius!

## Only positive thinking can lead to confidence

Look at my elbow, it will tell you the story.

Sadow: What is all this, Ramanju? Why is it so rough and black?

Ramanujan: My elbow has become rough and black in making a genius of me! Night and day I do my calculations on slate. It is too slow to look for a rag to wipe it with. I wipe the slate almost every few minutes with my elbow.

Sadow: So, you are a mountain of industry. Why use a slate when you have to do so much calculation? Why not use paper?

Ramanujan: When food itself is a problem, how can I find money for paper? I may require four reams of paper every month.

...and your third lesson:

**“Mathematics is basically a simple concept, but confident rub and re-rubs the slate to understand the simplicity.”**

Pinku the strength of confidence is that it will keep your mind alert, sharp and calm. A slate or paper does not matter. While facing any problem, there definitely would crop a good solution to it.

Lack of confidence is game lost before it has begun

Whereas if the mind, depressed and fidgety, the brain loses its ability of positive “thinking” and the confidence levels will go for a toss, everything will seem blank and bleak with no solution. Ultimately, the mind forces a person to take drastic and negative measures.

Pinku: Yes Dadaji while writing examinations I will follow this principle of keeping my mind, alert, sharp and calm. Thanks Dadaji...

Dadaji: Let me tell you another story which will boost your self-confidence and another famous story which has been read and told several times earlier.

On 16 December 1971, the squadron Commander of ‘B’ Squadron, the Poona Horse asked for reinforcements as the Pakistani armor that was superior in strength, counter attacked at Jarpal, in the Shakargarh Sector.



## Confident looks only at goal

On hearing this transmission, Second Lt Khetarpal, who was in 'A' Squadron, voluntarily moved along with his troop, to assist the other squadron. En route, while crossing the Basantar River, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal and his troops came under fire from enemy strong points and RCL gun nests that were still holding out. Time was at a premium and as a critical situation was developing in the 'B' Squadron sector, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, threw caution to the winds and started attacking the impending enemy strong points by literally charging them. In the course of one such daring attack, one tank commander of his troop was killed. Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal continued to attack relentlessly until all enemy opposition was overcome and he broke through towards the 'B' Squadron position, just in time to see the enemy tanks pulling back after their initial probing attack on this squadron. He was so carried away by the wild enthusiasm of battle and the impetus of his own headlong dash that he started chasing the withdrawing tanks and even managed to shoot and destroy one.

Soon thereafter, the enemy reformed with a

**Fell 9 times, confidence say's  
standup and begin again**

squadron of armor for a second attack and this time they selected the sector held by Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal and two other tanks as the point for their main effort. A fierce tank fight ensued - ten enemy tanks were hit and destroyed of which Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal personally destroyed four. Just then Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal was severely wounded. He was asked to abandon his tank but he realized that the enemy, though badly decimated, was continuing to advance in his sector of responsibility, and if he abandoned his tank the enemy would break through. He gallantly fought on and destroyed another enemy tank. At this stage, his tank received a second hit which resulted in the death of this gallant officer.

...and your fourth lesson:

**“Always remember you are braver than you believe and stronger than you seem”**



## Confidence is a great strength

Pinku: Dadaji it was very inspiring. I also started believing now that I am much stronger than I think I am.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... you have always greater strength than what you think you are. And let me tell you Pinku people try to bully you put you down and make fun of you but that should not lessen your confidence levels as they have some intension doing this to you. Let me tell you a small story to explain it better.

During his professional career, he was heavily criticized and called an extreme with impossible attitude. Unfortunately, during his lifetime, his experiments were widely rejected calling them to be unrealistic and outrageous by his fellow scientists. His importance went unrecognized until 'space age' stepped into United States.

Pinku he is none other than Dr. Robert H. Goddard, an American physicist and inventor, who was responsible for building the world's first liquid-fueled rocket and laying the foundation of today's rocket and space travel.

In his own words and the fifth lesson for you:

**“It is difficult to say what is impossible,**



Your confidence should talk  
before you

**for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow.”**

He was so confident that he never called his experiments as failures, he regarded them to be unsuccessful series that took him to destination successfully and without which he would never be successful. In 1920, whilst being criticized by a reporter of The New York Times, he replied, “Every vision is a joke until the first man accomplishes it; once realized, it becomes commonplace.”

Pinku: Ah! I admire the confidence of Dr. Goddard. He was belittled so many times but never lost his confidence and the type of answers he had given facing the world he must have been a sheer genius.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku absolutely. Now I will tell you a story written by someone (anonymous) who was trained by Bruce Lee:

## Acting morally brings in confidence

"Bruce had me up to three miles a day, really at a good pace. We'd run the three miles in twenty-one or twenty-two minutes. Just fewer than eight minutes a mile. So this morning he said to me "We're going to go five." I said, "Bruce, I can't go five. I'm a lot older than you are, and I can't do five." He said, "When we get to three, we'll shift gears and it's only two more and you'll do it."

I said "Okay, hell, I'll go for it."

So we get to three, we go into the fourth mile and I'm okay for three or four minutes, and then I really begin to give out. I'm tired, my heart's pounding, I can't go any more and so I say to him, "Bruce if I run anymore," — and we're still running — "if I run any more I'm liable to have a heart attack and die."

Bruce said, "Then die" It made me so mad that I went the full five miles. Afterward I went to the shower and then I wanted to talk to him about it.

I said, you know, "Why did you say that?"

Bruce said, "Because you might as well be dead. Seriously, if you always put limits on what you

Self confidence is the best outfit you can wear

can do, physical or anything else, it'll spread over into the rest of your life. It'll spread into your work, into your morality, into your entire being. There are no limits. There are plateaus, but you must not stay there, you must go beyond them. If it kills you, it kills you. A man must constantly exceed his level."

...and the sixth lesson for you:

**"A confident man (/Women) must constantly exceed his (/her) level."**

Pinku: I like the way Bruce Lee fights. Dadaji true character he was...

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... Now let me tell you the story of your own favorite characters:

It's common knowledge that Indian animation films have never really done well amongst Indian audiences. When we look back we only hear the names of some of the major money spinners over the years for Hollywood's big studios



## Confidence ignites experiments

Warner Bros, Walt Disney, DreamWorks, Blue Sky Studios and Pixar. Over the years there have been many Indian animation features which have bombed at the box-office. The first big release that paved the way for other animation flicks was Hanuman (2005) that managed to rake in about Rs 7-8 crore at the Box Office (BO), which led to a sequel Hanuman Returns (2007) that didn't do as well. Yash Raj too forayed into animation with Roadside Romeo, the production and marketing costing a whopping Rs 35 crore. The major cost was the voices of Bollywood stars Saif Ali Khan and Karisma Kappor being used for lead characters; but even that couldn't save the film from tanking at the BO with its collections raking in a scanty Rs 11 crore.

The year 2013 witnessed the release of probably the most expensive Indian animated movie Mahabharat which cost around Rs 50 crore (according to the FICCI Frames KPMG report 2014), which also saw the highest opening day collection for an animated movie in India. With voices lent by Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgan, Sunny Deol, Vidya

Confidence says I'm fine  
even if everything is lost

Balan, Kajol, Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher for the mythological epic, it still managed to recover a meager Rs 14 crore.

Blows and jolts had become a commonality for Indian Animation industry. However, Indian animation companies believed their creations. They then declared competition against decades of unparalleled dominance by international characters. Who thought characters like Chhota Bheem, Roll no 21, Little Krishna, Mighty Raju, Motu Patlu, Shiva etc will wipe out international characters. It's not surprising that Chota Bheem was able to even give stiff competition to "Tom and Jerry".

The true success of Indian animation industries... Kudo's to all those who have contributed to this wonderful achievement. The confidence to fight against the established companies by Indian companies will be remembered till generations to come.



## Confidence brings with it the hope

...and the seventh lesson for you:

**“Confident will never care for competition as they truly believe in their creation and work hard to make it a success”**

Pinku: Very true Dadaji...now days I rarely see Micky mouse or Tom and Jerry on TV. I personally like Chota Bheem and Motu Patlu...

Dadaji: Let me tell you a story of a tree which will boost your confidence levels and here it goes:

Lonely tree was growing among hot sands of dead desert. Prickly sands covered the Wood. The Sun mercilessly burned its bark. But the Tree kept on living in spite of all. One day a Hawk flew over the desert. The Hawk saw the Tree and sat on its branch. He looked around the desert and said:

You are a strange Tree, why do you keep on living among these dead hot sands? Who needs it?

You, —the Tree answered.

Me? —the Hawk was surprised. — I don't need you.



Confidence teaches

I Can

But if not me, — the Tree told, — you would have to sit on the hot sand instead of my branches. If not me, someone, seeing you sitting on the tree alone, would say that nobody needs you, too and would ask you what you live for. Sitting on my branches you, Hawk, think that I need you. The Hawk agreed with the Tree. If there was no Tree, the hawk would feel himself alone and useless among this vast desert.

...and the eighth lesson for you:

**“Confidence drives the life where there is no hope in a hope that someday someone might need them after all”**

Pinku: Excellent story Dadaji... but how this will help me writing examinations.

Dadaji: My son...When you see the question paper sometimes you might feel there is no hope and usually you quit.

## Worrying depletes the Confidence

However, when you actually start solving problems, your confidence to attempt other questions increase. Slowly a situation from fail to pass seems possible.

Pinku: Ah! I got it Dadaji. I will never stop attempting.

Dadaji: Very Good Pinku... now I will tell you a story... a hope... here it goes.

The war was going on. Men were fighting. Women were carrying food to soldiers day and night, nursing the injured. In the village only old people and children remained. One old man took an old plough and started sharpening it, mending it while singing something. His wife said to him with annoyance:

You have a stone heart! Your sons joined a deadly battle, the village is in mourning. Your comrades are thinking about the fate of the village, and you, knowing this, are mending the plough and singing a song! If someone would ask, whom are you trying for, what would you say? Tomorrow the enemy will come here, they will kill you and us too, and they will take your plough.



### Confidence is contagious

Woman, what are you talking? They will kill us, but not the plough. I'm building not destroying. The world is resting on this plough: if we survive, we will need the plough, and if we die, maybe the love for labour will awaken in those who will take it.

...and the ninth lesson for you:

**“Better equip today for tomorrow. Don't worry too much about tomorrow.”**

And so true Pinku... if for the fear of failure if you do not start preparation for examinations today how will you even attempt examination tomorrow. Confidence is built by equipping self today without much worrying about results tomorrow.

Pinku: Yes Dadaji you are right. I have prepared well for the exams. The only thing which was worrying me was what questions would come tomorrow in the exams.

## Confident do not bother difficulties

After listening to the story I think my worry has lessened a lot. Thanks Dadaji...

Dadaji: Now let me tell you the story of inspirational Sudha Chandran, an actress and a dancer in her own words which was published in a blog from TOI.

“I began learning how to dance when I was 3 and half years old. I would go to school, then go for my dance training and be back home only by 9:30 pm...and that’s what my early life was about. In my 10th exams, I stood first with 80% but instead of picking science for my further studies, I chose arts...just so that I could continue to dance. By this time I had performed at several events and done hundreds of stage shows...I was just about beginning when life took a strange turn.

I was travelling from Trichy by bus, when we met with a major accident that left me with a fracture and some cuts — I was probably the least injured there. However, because of the heavy influx of patients, I was attended to by a couple of interns who forgot to attend to the cut on my right ankle and went ahead to wrap it up. This resulted in my foot getting gangrene and

Confidence without clarity is dangerous

because of the fear of it spreading throughout my body; my parents had to take the difficult decision of amputating my right foot. I was shattered because It was only then that I realized just how passionate I felt about dancing. I began to learn how to walk again and it took me 4 months to even walk straight. Once I got the Jaipur leg, it took me 3 years of physiotherapy to recover and feel normal again. I remember people would come home and say things like, ‘it’s so sad your dreams can’t come true’ or ‘we wish you could dance’ when I decided to re-learn what I had known my entire life— to dance.

It was a slow and painful process but with every step I learnt I knew that this is what I wanted. Finally one day, I went to my dad and told him that I was ready to perform again...and he was shocked!



## Confident do not ponder on past

I was to perform in St.Xaviers College on Sunday when the Sunday morning headline read – ‘Looses a Foot, Walks a Mile’ and the show was completely sold out! I began to get nervous before going up on stage when my Grandmother told me, ‘Don’t worry, God is with you...let the miracle happen.’ but I was so angry that I said, ‘If God was with me he wouldn’t ever do this to me!’

Believe it or not, the show ended, I performed the Varanyam with ease and received a standing ovation. When I was home, my dad came up to me and touched my feet saying that I’m touching the feet of the Goddess Saraswati because you have done the impossible and that has been the moment that touched me the most. It was after that, that I received so much respect from the media, got an offer to act in a film based on my life and received all of the opportunities that I have today.

...and the tenth lesson for you:

**“Confidence teaches to think beyond limitations”**

Pinku: That was a great ... Thanks for the above

**Our Capacity is directly Proportional to Confidence**

story Dadaji.

Dadaji: No problem Pinku... Now let me tell you a story of our own Bapuji (Gandhiji)... and here it goes.

Gandhi heard about an obnoxious system of agricultural labour prevailing in Bihar. In the Champaran district of Bihar, the cultivators were forced by Europeans to grow indigo, a blue dye, and this imposed on them untold sufferings. They could not grow the food they needed, nor did they receive adequate payment for the indigo. Gandhi was unaware of this until an agriculturist from Bihar, Rajkumar Shukla, met him and told him of the woes of the people of Champaran. He requested Gandhi to go to the place and see for himself the state of affairs there. Gandhi was then attending the Congress meeting at Lucknow and he did not have time to go there.



## Confident doesn't know to 'give up'

Rajkumar Shukla followed him about, begging him to come and help the suffering villagers in Champaran. Gandhi at last promised to visit the place after he had visited Calcutta. When Gandhi was in Calcutta, Rajkumar was there too, to take him to Bihar. Gandhi went to Champaran with Rajkumar early in 1917.

On his arrival the District Magistrate served him with a notice saying that he was not to remain in the district of Champaran but must leave the place by the first available train. Gandhi disobeyed this order. He was summoned to appear before the court. The magistrate said, 'If you leave the district now and promise not to return, the case against you will be withdrawn. 'This cannot be.' replied Gandhi. 'I came here to render humanitarian and national service. I shall make Champaran my home and work for the suffering people.' A large crowd of peasants was outside the court shouting slogans. The magistrate and the police looked nervous. Then Gandhi said, 'I shall help you to calm these people if I can speak to them.'

Gandhi appeared before the crowd and said, 'You must show your faith in me and in my

Without your consent, your confidence can't be broken

work by remaining quiet. The magistrate had the right to arrest me, because I disobeyed his order. If I am sent to jail, you must accept that as just. We must work peacefully. And violent act will harm our cause.' The crowd dispersed peacefully. The police stared at Gandhi in admiration as he went inside the court. The Government withdrew the case against Gandhi and allowed him to remain in the district.

Now who do you think is the hero of this story Pinku?

Pinku: Ah! It's so easy to answer "Gandhiji"...

Dadaji: No Pinku, during the story you missed a point that Gandhiji was not so much interested in going to Bihar. It was Rajkumar Shukla who ensured that Gandhiji visited Champaran.

...and the Eleventh lesson for you:

**"Confident person never gives up till the mission is completed."**



## Confident doesn't care "criticism"

Pinku: Oh! I did not think so far Dadaji.

Dadaji: No problem Pinku. Now I will tell you about Sania Mirza the greatest Tennis star India has ever produced. But her life was never a bed of roses and the story goes like this:

Sania Mirza's success story has also been besotted by troubles of a different kind – for instance, being a Muslim, the so-called 'upholders' of morality posited that it is a matter of shame for her to wear skirts and expose her legs in front of the whole world, or specifically, in front of strange men. Secondly, her marriage to the Pakistani cricketer Shoaib also drew a lot of flak from the general public. Her decision to marry early was condemned, overlooking the fact that it is only her right to decide such issues.

Additionally, it was rumoured that she would now play for Pakistan, since she had married a Pakistani national. Despite all such baseless, distractive accusations and remarks, Sania has never been bogged down.

She has always concentrated on her game, in a truly professional manner. Also, her own deter-

Confidence comes from  
doing same thing repeatedly

mination and grit in the face of all adversity has gained international recognition – she is the UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia. Her name also features in one of the fifty heroes of Asia – a list released by Time magazine. She is also 'Brand Ambassador' of Telangana.

...and the Twelfth lesson for you:

**“Confident never lose hope in the face of baseless negative criticism”**

Pinku: I too like Sania as a Player.

Dadaji: Oh yeah me too. Let me now tell you a story of Lord Buddha...

Once Buddha was in an assembly when a man walked in looking furious. He thought Buddha was doing something wrong. He was a restless businessman and he had found that his children were spending hours with Buddha when they could have engaged themselves in business at that time, making more and more money.



## Confident responds to problems

He felt that spending four hours of their day seated next to someone whose eyes were always closed was incredulous. This was what had upset the businessman.

So, with furiousness walked straight up to Buddha looked him the eye and spit. He was so angry; he could not find the words to express them that he merely spit at Buddha. Buddha simply smiled. He showed no anger, though the disciples around him were angry. They would have liked to react but could not because Buddha was there. So, everybody was holding their lips and fists tight. After the businessman spat at Buddha and realized his action was not drawing a reaction, simply walked away in a huff.

Buddha did not react or say anything. He just smiled. And that was enough to shock the angry man. For the first time in his life, the man had met someone who would just smile when he spat on his face. That man could not sleep all night and his whole body underwent such a transformation. He was shivering, shaking. He felt as if the whole world had turned upside down. The next day he went and fell at Buddha's feet and said, please forgive me. I did not

Feed your confidence to  
starve your fear

know what I did. To which Buddha replied, "I cannot excuse you!"

Everyone including the man and Buddha's disciples were stunned. Buddha then explained the reason for his statement. He said why I should forgive you when you have done nothing wrong.

The businessman looked a little more surprised and told Buddha that it was he who had wronged him by spitting on him. Buddha simply said, Oh! That person is not there now. If I ever meet that person whom you spat on, I will tell him to excuse you.

...and the Thirteenth lesson for you:

**"Confident never react to a problem but respond"**

Pinku: Ah! I understood in any situation don't lose your cool.

Dadaji: Correct Pinku... now let me tell you a story of "Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi"



## Confidence say's "I am unstoppable"

one of the greatest cricketers India has produced...

Pataudi Jr., as Mansoor came to be known during his cricket career, was a right-handed batsman and a right-arm medium pace bowler. He was a schoolboy batting prodigy at Winchester, relying on his keen eyes to punish the bowling. He captained the school team in 1959, scoring 1,068 runs that season and beating the school record set in 1919 by Douglas Jardine. He also won the public schools rackets championship, with partner Christopher Snell.

He made his first-class debut for Sussex in August 1957, aged 16, and also played for Oxford while he was at university and was the first Indian captain there. On 1 July 1961, he was a passenger in a car which was involved in an accident in Hove. A shard of glass from the broken windscreen penetrated and permanently damaged his right eye. The surgeon named Dr. David St Clair Roberts was called to operate on his eye, and was praised by Pataudi for saving one of his eyes. The damage caused Pataudi to see a doubled image, and it was feared this would end his cricketing

Confidence is not the first step to start anything

career...

But! Pataudi was soon in the nets learning to play with one eye. Despite his eye injury less than 6 months before, he made his Test debut playing against England in Delhi in December 1961. He found it easiest to play with his cap pulled down over his damaged right eye. He scored 103 in the Third Test in Madras, helping India to its first series win against England. He was appointed vice-captain for the tour to the West Indies in 1962. In March 1962, Mansoor became captain of the Indian cricket team after the sitting captain Nari Contractor was ruled out of the Fourth Test in Barbados due to an injury sustained by Contractor batting against Charlie Griffith in a tour match against Barbados. At 21 years and 77 days, he held the world record for the youngest Test captain and the rest is history.

...and the Fourteenth lesson for you:



## Confidence say's "I am unstoppable"

### **"Confident manage the situation"**

Pinku: Playing with one eye and that too cricket great person he was Dadaji...

Dadaji: Yes my son...

Do you know Pinku eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come.

When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

...and the Fifteenth lesson for you:

### **"Confident does not escape the bad situations instead he/she rises above the situation"**

Pinku: Ah! It's similar to balancing my bi-cycle in a windy day.

Dadaji: You can say so Pinku. Now let me tell

## Overconfidence is not confidence

you a story which will pinch your nerve.

The Chernobyl disaster (also referred to as Chernobyl or the Chernobyl accident) was a catastrophic nuclear accident that occurred on 26 April 1986 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the town of Pripyat, in Ukraine which was under the direct jurisdiction of the central authorities of the Soviet Union. An explosion and fire released large quantities of radioactive particles into the atmosphere, which spread over much of the western USSR and Europe.

While many perished, three clean-up volunteers Alexi Ananenko, Valeri Bezpalov and Boris Baronov willingly met their fate. During the well-documented disaster, a pool of water used for emergencies in case of a break in the cooling pumps or steam pipes became flooded with a highly radioactive liquid that was in danger of blowing up.



## Confident only can speak truth

These three men suited up in scuba gear and swam into the radioactive waters of the flooded chamber, knowing full well they would die as a result. They opened up a gate valve, which allowed the contaminated water to drain out. Days after reaching the surface all three men succumbed to radiation poisoning and were buried in lead coffins. If not for the bravery of the “Chernobyl Suicide Squad” a thermal explosion would have taken place resulting in unfathomable disaster.

...and the sixteenth lesson for you:

**“Confident concentrate on tasks and even willing to sacrifice oneself to save thousand others”**

Pinku: So courageous were they Dadaji... what is the difference between courage and confidence Dadaji?

Dadaji: If confidence is a bus then the wheels of the bus is Courage Pinku...Now I will tell you an interesting story which goes like this.

In 2004 Victor Yushchenko stood for the presidency of the Ukraine. Vehemently opposed by the ruling party Yushchenko's face was

Confidence is not something  
that is lost in a situation

disfigured and he almost lost his life when he was mysteriously poisoned. This was not enough to deter him from standing for the presidency. On the day of the election Yushchenko was comfortably in the lead. The ruling party, not to be denied, tampered with the results.

The state-run television station reported “ladies and gentlemen, we announce that the challenger Victor Yushchenko has been decisively defeated.”

In the lower right-hand corner of the screen a woman by the name of Natalia Dmitruk was providing a translation service for the deaf community. As the news presenter regurgitated the lies of the regime, Natalia Dmitruk refused to translate them. “I’m addressing all the deaf citizens of Ukraine” she signed. “They are lying and I’m ashamed to translate those lies. Yushchenko is our president.”



## Confident is never defeated

The deaf community sprang into gear. They text messaged their friends about the fraudulent result and as news spread of Dmitruk's act of defiance increasing numbers of journalists were inspired to likewise tell the truth. Over the coming weeks the "Orange Revolution" occurred as a million people wearing orange made their way to the capital city of Kiev demanding a new election. The government was forced to meet their demands, a new election was held and Victor Yushchenko became president.

...and the seventeenth lesson for you:

**"One confident small voice can start a revolution"**

**Pinku:** Ah! Great story Dadaji... Natalia Dmitruk even though I cannot pronounce the name properly I will remember this story for years to come.

**Dadaji:** Now let me tell you a story of an athlete whose confidence showed winning is not important finishing the race is... and here goes the story...

John Stephen Akhwari was a marathon runner who represented Tanzania in the marathon in

Inhale Confidence

Exhale Doubt

1968. He didn't win a medal. In fact, he came nowhere near. But, in defeat and in pain, he came to represent something much more profound and enduring than many sportsmen achieve in illustrious careers. Akhwari was never likely to win the marathon, but his chances were wrecked when, perhaps because of the effects of the high altitude, he succumbed to cramps that slowed his progress. If that was painful, then worse was to come after he was involved in a melee of athletes jockeying for position. Akhwari fell to the ground, gashing his knee and also causing a dislocation. He also smashed his shoulder against the pavement. Most observers, seeing his injuries, assumed he would pull out and go to hospital. Instead, he received medical attention and returned to the track to continue his race. His pace, of course, was now much lower, but his resolve to complete the event remained intact.



## Confident is never defeated

Eighteen of the 75 starters had pulled out; he did not wish to add to that number. And so, more than an hour after the winner, Akhwari crossed the line in last place, cheered home by a few thousand spectators who had remained in the stadium after the sun went down. By the time he reached the stadium, he was limping and the bandage around his leg was flapping in the breeze. He was asked why he had carried on, and his response has gone down in sporting history. "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race," he said. "They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race."

...and the eighteenth lesson for you:

**"Confident strive to finish the race they started not bothering pain and suffering."**

Pinku: So the learning for me I will also write examinations and attempt all questions.

Dadaji: Very good Pinku... let's move on... another story for your Pinku:

Long ago, there was a battle about to take place. One of the generals was talking about tactics with his team of officers. An officer interrupted

Believing self is only the first step of confidence

him and explained that he thought that the strategy was a waste of time. "The gods have already decided who will win," he proclaimed.

"Are you suggesting that fate has decided the result in advance?" The general asked.

"Yes, I Am," the officer responded.

The general took a coin out of his pocket and said, "So if I toss this coin and it comes up heads, we win, but if it's tails we lose. Is that how fate works?"

"Pretty much," said the officer.

The general tossed the coin and it came up heads.

"See, the gods have decided. We can't lose now!"

They went to their troops with the good news and the soldiers marched into battle with renewed enthusiasm.



## Confident are visionaries

After a glorious victory, the officers met in the general's tent to celebrate.

"Do you believe in fate now?" asked the General.

Officer nodded "Yes I do"

The General smiled, reached into his pocket and pulled out the coin. It was heads on both sides. The general said:

"I still don't believe in fate, but self-belief. When the soldiers thought that we couldn't lose, I knew that we couldn't lose."

...and the Nineteenth lesson for you:

**"Confident never believe in luck/fate but their deeds and their men"**

Pinku: Ha ha ha... This was a similar story of Jai and Veeru of Sholay where Amitabh had a similar coin.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... but the moral is more important for you... Never believe in your luck while writing examinations... be confident of what you have read and what you know.

Pinku: Sure Dadaji...

Preparation and practice are the next steps of confidence

Dadaji: Now I will tell you a true story of hope and confidence... and here it goes:

In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with the Long Island. However bridge building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible feat and told Roebling to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical.

It had never been done before. Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else.

After much discussion and persuasion he managed to convince his son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge in fact could be built.



## Confident make there way anyway

Working together for the first time, the father and son developed concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement and inspiration, and the headiness of a wild challenge before them, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

The project started well, but when it was only a few months underway a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling.

Washington was also injured and left with a certain amount of brain damage, which resulted in him not being able to talk or walk. “We told them so.”

“Crazy men and their crazy dreams.” “It’s foolish to chase wild visions.” Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt that the project should be scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built.

In spite of his handicap Washington was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the bridge and his mind was still as sharp as ever. He tried to inspire and pass on

### Confidence defines the Percent of Courage

his enthusiasm to some of his friends, but they were too daunted by the task.

As he lay on his bed in his hospital room, with the sunlight streaming through the windows, a gentle breeze blew the flimsy white curtains apart and he was able to see the sky and the tops of the trees outside for just a moment.

It seemed that there was a message for him not to give up. Suddenly an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger and he decided to make the best use of it. By moving this, he slowly developed a code of communication with his wife.

He touched his wife’s arm with that finger, indicating to her that he wanted her to call the engineers again. Then he used the same method of tapping her arm to tell the engineers what to do. It seemed foolish but the project was under way again.



## Confident prepare well before the problem arise

For 13 years Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands in all its glory as a tribute to the triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to be defeated by circumstances.

It is also a tribute to the engineers and their team work, and to their faith in a man who was considered mad by half the world.

It stands too as a tangible monument to the love and devotion of his wife who for 13 long years patiently decoded the messages of her husband and told the engineers what to do.

...and the twentieth lesson for you:

**“Confident are those who never let their dreams die.”**

Pinku: Dadaji very few have such a spirit I think... Hats off to both John and Washington Roebling.

Dadaji: Yes true Pinku... Now let me tell you a story which was a world problem...

Pinku: And what was that Dadaji?

Confidence builds up with small success leading to bigger one

Dadaji: Y2K bug, also called Year 2000 bug or Millennium Bug.

A problem in the coding of computerized system that was projected to create havoc in computers and computer networks around the world at the beginning of the year 2000 (in metric measurements K stands for thousand).

After more than a year of international alarm, feverish preparations, and programming corrections, few major failures occurred in the transition from December 31, 1999, to January 1, 2000.

Until the 1990s, many computer programs (especially those written in the early days of computers) were designed to abbreviate four-digit years as two digits in order to save memory space. These computers could recognize “98” as “1998” but would be unable to recognize “00” as “2000,” perhaps interpreting it to mean 1900.



## Confident do not mind burning midnight oil

Many feared that when the clocks struck midnight on January 1, 2000, many affected computers would be using an incorrect date and thus fail to operate properly unless the computers' software was repaired or replaced before that date.

Other computer programs that projected budgets or debts into the future could begin malfunctioning in 1999 when they made projections into 2000. In addition, some computer software did not take into account that the year 2000 was a leap year. And even before the dawn of 2000, it was feared that some computers might fail on September 9, 1999 (9/9/99), because early programmers often used a series of 9s to indicate the end of a program.

An estimated \$300 billion was spent (almost half in the United States) to upgrade computers and application programs to be Y2K-compliant. As the first day of January 2000 dawned and it became apparent that computerized systems were intact, reports of relief filled the news media.

Pinku the whole world was not sure what would happen in the dawn of 01/01/2000. However,



Confident do not wait until  
everything is just right

there were consolidated efforts that were done in the whole world.

It is known that very large pool of competent and able engineers and technocrats never lost hope and confidence, worked hours together to create small patches of code in the programs to rectify the problem.

...and the twenty first lesson for you:

**“Encounter the problem head on is what confident do”**

Pinku: Dadaji so many people must have burnt their midnight oil to accomplish this. Absolutely appreciative.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... Now I will tell you a story of student and master and here it goes:

A 10-year-old boy decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master.

## Confident need to learn only one move

The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," (Teacher in Japanese) the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?" "This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied.

Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "Let him continue." Soon after the match

To be yourself is the biggest measure of confidence

resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament.

He was the champion. On the way home, the boy and sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind.

"Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.

...and the twenty second lesson for you:



## Confident fight till they win

**“Confident teachers/coaches know how to convert weakness into strengths”**

Pinku: Ah! We always cry on our weakness. I now understand if we work on our weakness soon it will become our greatest strength.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... That’s absolutely correct. Now let me tell you a story of Kargil War. The tiger hill was captured by Pakistan. Our hero helped snatch our position back by doing what he could and got himself Param Veer Chakra at the age of 19 posthumously.

Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav was part of the leading team of a Ghatk Platoon tasked to capture Tiger Hill on the night of 3/4 July 1999. The approach to the top was steep, snowbound and rocky.

Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav, volunteered to lead and fix the rope for his team to climb up. On seeing the team, the enemy opened intense automatic, grenade, rocket and artillery fire killing the Commander and two of his colleagues and the platoon was stalled. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav crawled up to the enemy position

Confidence is to do something remarkable

to silence it and in the process sustained multiple bullet injuries. Unmindful of his injuries and in the hail of enemy bullets, Grenadier Yogender Singh Yadav continued climbing towards the enemy positions, lobbed grenades, continued firing from his weapons and killed four enemy soldiers in close combat and silenced the automatic fire. Despite multiple bullet injuries, he refused to be evacuated and continued the charge. Inspired by his gallant act, the platoon charged on the other positions with renewed punch and captured Tiger Hill Top.

...and the twenty third lesson for you:

**“Inhale confidence, exhale doubt”**

Pinku: So Brave are our soldieres Dadaji that they care country more than themselves. Hatts off to your bravery Shri Yogender Sigh ji. May you leave long...

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... truly gallantry.



## Confident can learn on own

Now let me tell you a story of a brave boy from Mahabharata whose confidence levels even shook the mighty Drona the guru of Pandava's and Kauravas.

Long ago there lived the Pandavas and the Kauravas, the princes of Hastinapura. All the princes were taught archery by Sage Dronacharya. The Pandava prince, Arjuna was Drona's favourite student. Eklavya, a poor commoner boy also wanted to be Drona's student but Drona refused to teach him.

Eklavya was a determined boy. Under a tree Eklavya installed a clay idol of Dronacharya that he worshiped as his Guru...and started practicing archery.

One day, as it happened, Acharya Drona and Arjuna were passing near the hut of Eklavya. It was pleasant and peaceful afternoon and people were taking rest. But the tranquility and silence was broken by constant barking of a dog. Eklavya did not like this, and therefore, he shut the mouth of the dog with an arrow! Dronacharya and Arjuna were surprised to see the dog with his mouth sealed with an arrow!



Your confidence is related to your value in the market

Dronacharya was amazed and knew this archer must be exceptionally skilled. It took no time for Dronacharya to understand the situation. He realized that Eklavya was superior to Arjuna in some respects. But, Dronacharya had already declared Arjuna to be the best archer on the earth.

They could finally trace Ekalavya. Dronacharya went to Eklavya and said, "O young man, who has taught you such wonderful skills in archery! Who is your Guru?"

Seeing the Guru in front of him, the boy Eklavya was more than overjoyed and said, "Why, O Gurudev, this all is your grace! I worship you as my Guru. Look you are there in that image!" Dronacharya was pleased with the dedication of Eklavya, and said, "I bless you my son. But as is customary, won't you give me my fees - Guru-Dakshina!"

## Confident are determined

Eklavya was overwhelmed to see Dronacharya had accepted him as his disciple! Out he said, "O Honourable Teacher, whatever you ask, this humble disciple of yours will try his utmost to offer you as Guru-Dakshina! I am blessed."

And now comes a very touching and pathetic incidence in Mahabharata.

Guru Drona said, "O Eklavya, I am pleased with your respect for Guru. I want the thumb of your right hand as my fees- Guru-Dakshina."

The trees and atmosphere around stood still for a minute! Even Arjuna was stunned on listening to the unusual and almost cruel demand of his Guru. To ask for the thumb of an archer was equivalent to almost kill him! How could Dronacharya demand such a heavy prize from one disciple to protect the honour of the other! But Eklavya had no such remorse. Unruffled and with due humility, cheerfully and without protest, he cut his right thumb and placed at the feet of Dronacharya. Gods in the heaven silently praised the greatness of Eklavya's sacrifice.

Pinku: Praise for Eklavya... I like the story Dadaji.



Experience and insights  
define your confidence

Dadaji: You should...! See how Eklavya was so determined to learn archery...

...and the twenty fourth lesson for you:

**"Confidence is the courage to learn and excel even when people say "you are unacceptable" for all their other stupid reasons."**

Kalpana Chawla was born in India's Karnal district of Haryana. Her parents had seen great hardships and were in dire straits during partition but had struggled to pull themselves up. However, they were able to provide good education to Kalpana and her two siblings.

From her earliest childhood, she and her brother shared an interest in flying. Her interest in flight was inspired by J. R. D. Tata, India's first pilot. To pursue her dream of flying airplanes she was the only girl at that time to join the aeronautical engineering stream at the Punjab Engineering College.

## Confident are clear-minded

She fought and overcame opposition from her parents and migrated to USA for further studies. Here, she joined the University of Texas to pursue her Masters and later, University of Boulder, Colorado for her doctorate. This was admirable, since few children at such a young age are so clear-minded about their ambitions. Furthermore, even fewer have the will to pursue them with such single-minded dedication that Kalpana did.

In 1994, Chawla began her career as an astronaut with NASA. In 1997, she went on her maiden sortie in the space shuttle STS - 87 Columbia as a mission specialist. She got embroiled in an unfortunate controversy. She was blamed for letting go of a science satellite during an experiment that had to be retrieved later. But upon subsequent investigations, she was honourably absolved of these charges. This was underscored when she was chosen for the second time round, for the next Columbia mission STS- 107 as a flight engineer and mission specialist.

In all she logged 30 days, 14 hours and 54 minutes in space.



Confidence is not free, you  
need to earn it

For the second mission, she had carried with her CDs of her favourite artistes like Abida Parveen, Pt. Ravi Shankar and Deep Purple, among others. She planned to autograph them in space and gift it as mementoes to these artistes. But that was not to be. Sixteen minutes short of the scheduled landing, Kalpana Chawla became one with the cosmos she so loved. Chawla died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster which occurred on February 1, 2003, when the Space Shuttle disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, with the death of all seven crew members.

Pinku: So! Sad Dadaji..

Dadaji: Yes my son... But she did what she always wanted to do.

...and the twenty fifth lesson for you:

**“Confident knows that the path from dreams to success does exist.”**

## Confident are hard-working

Let me now tell you a short conversation that will define confidence for you and here it goes:

Once a bird asked a Bee, after a continuous hard-work, you prepare the honey.

But a man steals the honey. Do you not feel sad?

Then the Bee replied: Never... Because a man can only steal my honey not the art of making honey..!!

...and the twenty sixth lesson for you:

**“Confident rely on their skills”**

Pinku: Short and sweet story that was Dadaji... Appreciate it.

Dadaji: Thank you Pinku... Now let me tell you a story of courage... a story of making selection... a story of confidence... and here it goes.

In October 1999, Dr Munjed Al Muderis was a talented young surgeon working at the Saddam Hussein Medical Centre in Baghdad when the military broke in with busloads of army deserters to have their ears amputated by the surgeons.

The head of surgery refused to take part in such a barbaric act and was promptly taken outside and shot. In all of the confusion, Dr Muderis

### Man wrestling challenges understands confidence

managed to hide in a cubicle in the women’s toilets. After the carnage was over, Dr Muderis knew that he would be a wanted man and couldn’t return to his home, so he found a way to escape the country and a few weeks later he found himself on a leaky boat with 150 other asylum seekers making his way towards the shores of Australia.

He ended up in one of Australia’s detention centers that are used to process asylum seekers in remote Western Australia.

He was assigned a number and, like everyone else in these facilities, treated inhumanely while his application was processed. A year later he was finally granted asylum and given the freedom to live and work in Australia.

Dr Muderis got to work and has gone on to become one of the Australia’s greatest orthopaedic surgeons, specializing in a process called osseointegration, that enables him to give his patients, many of them Australian and British



## Confident can swim an ocean across

soldiers who have lost legs in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ability to walk again with new prosthetic limbs.

It's been an extraordinary journey and Australia is extremely fortunate to have such a remarkably resilient and resourceful surgeon using his talents to make a positive difference in the world.

It would have been easy for Dr Muderis to go along with the army in Baghdad.

It would have been easy for Dr Muderis to lose hope in the detention centre.

It would have been easy for Dr Muderis to define himself as a refugee, instead of as a surgeon.

But he didn't choose easy, he chose greatness.

...and the twenty seventh lesson for you:

"Confident never compromise their greatness"

Pinku: Very True Dadaji... Bad days for the confident stay short. They pave their ways anyway.

Dadaji: Yes correct Pinku. And you know there are also people in the world who do not want to leave their comfort zone and usually forget what they are made and born for. The story goes like this:



**A feeling of Wow! increases confidence manifolds**

Penny the little penguin was hatched in a small burrow. For the first few weeks of her life, all that she knew was the small, dark space that she called home.

Then her mum looked at her and said, "It's time Penny."

"Time for what mum?"

"It's time to go out there, to swim in the ocean and catch fish." her mum replied with a smile.

"But I'm scared," said Penny, "I've heard that there are seals and foxes and sharks that want to eat me, and what if I can't catch fish? I like it in here, it's safe and warm and it's all that I know. Why can't I stay here forever?"

"Because you're a penguin, Penny. We don't hatch to stay hidden in burrows forever. We hatch to swim, to chase, to live. Yes, it's risky being a penguin, but that's who you are and that's how you are meant to live."

## Confident can swim an ocean across

Penny hesitated for a moment and waddled towards the entrance of her burrow.

Her eyes blinked as she stepped into the sunshine for the first time.

She looked at her little flippers and waved them around.

And she took her first steps into the ocean and swam.

And she felt truly alive!

...and the twenty eight lesson for you:

**“Confidence does not come being in comfort zone. Confidence comes when you realize the purpose for what you are being made and born for”**

Pinku: But how will I know Dadaji what is my purpose?

Dadaji: That's not hard to realize. Actually you already know what you want to be. It's only your inability to come out of comfort zone and start what you want to be...

Do you know Pinku?

⇒ When starting a business, making the first dollar is the hardest.

⇒ When trying to sell products, the first phone call is the hardest.

Confidence is the secret code of living happy

⇒ When trying to lose weight, the first kilogram is the hardest.

⇒ When writing a book, the first page is the hardest.

Every one struggles for their first step. Once you overcome the first challenge, rest all become easy. Hence, elders always encourage younger to try and try and try...

Your first confident step will make your walk for the rest of the life.

Pinku: How true Dadaji...

Dadaji: Also remember Pinku

There are people who won't appreciate your best work.

They may criticize it.

They may reject it.

They may laugh at it.

They may not understand it.

They may not find it helpful at the time.

**But don't let that stop you.**



## Confident knows what they want to achieve

Let me tell you a story around this Pinku.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born January 27, 1756, was a very determined and serious child. His love of music came from his father, who was the assistant choir director to the Archbishop of Salzburg. When he was younger, he and his sister, Anna, performed regularly for royalty and religious echelons.

In 1773, Mozart's father tried to get him an appointment to the Imperial court in Vienna. The appointment was refused and he failed to keep his position as a court musician.

That failure didn't stop the musical genius from composing. He went home and created some of his most famous pieces, including the opera *Il ré pastore* and *Credo Mass*, which is technically entitled *Mass in C Major*.

He met another failure when he performed *The Marriage of Figaro* at Theatre An Per Wien. The Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was quoted as saying:

"Far too noisy, my dear Mozart. Far too many notes."

And finally, between 1788 and 1791, Mozart was met with his biggest flop. His last three compositions were considered massive failures.



You can only shutdown your confidence no one else

He died tragically in 1791 at the young age of 35. Though the man was met with many rejections, he left behind a legacy full of musical genius that no one can dispute. His failures only spurred him to create more. And his failures definitely lead to success!

...and the twenty ninth lesson for you:

**“Confident follow their passion and not bother for criticism”**

Pinku: Who doesn't know Mozart... you told so correct “Should we really bother criticism?”

Dadaji: Pinku did you see the Hindi Movie “Manjhi”?

Pinku: Yes I did Dadaji... I know how single handedly built road between Mountain.

Dadaji: Exactly...do you know it was based on a true story...

## Confident do not bother mountains

Dashrath Manjhi was, in many ways, a very unassuming man.

A poor labourer from the Bihar region of India, tragedy struck when his wife died due to a lack of medical treatment. Between his town and the nearest doctor was a mountain that made the trip 70 kilometres long and she was unable to receive necessary treatment for an accident before succumbing to her injuries.

Broken-hearted, but determined not to allow others from his village suffer the same fate, Dashrath spent the next 22 years of his life on a single-minded purpose.

Armed with a hammer, chisel, shovel and wheelbarrow, he worked day and night to single-handedly carve a 360 foot road through the mountain that could be accessed by bicycle and motorbike, dramatically increasing access to schools, markets and medical facilities for his village and 60 others.

Pinku truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to the mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move.

...and the thirtieth lesson for you:



Confidence works 24/7 you just need to realize this

**“Confident have faith even to move mountains”**

Pinku: I remember the last scene Dadaji where the road made by him was named “Dashrath Manjhi Road”. I also remember the title of the movie “The Mountain Man”

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... his story is so inspirational. His suthra/means of life was simple.

How many grains of sand does it take to make a beach?

How many drops of water does it take to make a lake?

How many blades of grass does it take to make a meadow?

How many small pebbles does it take to make a mountain?

How many stars does it take to make a night sky?

## Confident can fly over troubles

How many raindrops does it take to make a storm?

How many letters does it take to make a timeless novel?

How many trees does it take to make a forest?

How many small actions does it take to become successful?

I don't exactly know.

But I'm going to keep trying until I find out.

Pinku: Correct Dadaji if we start something there will be a day when the task will end. We only need to be confident each time to fulfill the task.

Dadaji: Exactly Pinku... Now let me tell you a short story as it goes:

Once upon a time, a small bird named Tasoo lived in a vast jungle. One hot summer day, a terrible wildfire erupted and the flames devoured many trees and animals living in the jungle. Other birds flew high into the sky and far away to safety, but Tasoo couldn't bear to leave her precious jungle home to burn. Day and night, she flew with all her might back and

Confidence will surprise you; how did you do it?

forth to the river, filling her tiny beak with water to drop on the raging fires.

Tasoo's rare heart of courage and unshakable determination moved the heavenly gods to shed tears, and a great rain poured down upon the jungle, extinguishing the flames.

...and the thirty first lesson for you:

**“The smallest actions of confident determined spirit can bring in a big difference to the world”**

Pinku: If each of could do what we can do, something great will result. Oh Dadaji, you have taught me a great lesson.

Dadaji: Never mind Pinku... You see Pinku, Tasoo believed something so strong that she never for a while thought that her efforts will go waste. Usually one's believes are influenced by several others around us.



## Confident don't mind rejections

If someone says you are not a good performer, usually we start believing it under influence. We undermine our own strengths.

Now why do you think a bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking Pinku.

Pinku: I know Dadaji, as her trust is not on branch but on its own wings.

Dadaji: Exactly Pinku... your trust should be on your "self belief" and not on what others belief of you. Now let me tell you a story of co founder of WhatsApp.

Jan Koum, co-founder of one of the most viral messaging app WhatsApp, had to overcome many hardships to succeed in life. He was born in Keiv but eventually migrated to US with his mother. To make ends meet, once he had to do menial jobs like mopping and sweeping in a grocery store! In his early teens, he lost his father and mother.

Joining Ernst & Young and meeting Brian Acton at Yahoo (other WhatsApp co-founder), was the beginning of an illustrious venture. Surprisingly, they both got rejected from Facebook in the year 2009 incidentally; Koum purchased

Smile at your confidence  
and it will smile back

an iPhone and over the course of time with the help of Acton, devised an interoperable easy-to-use mobile app which helps us exchange IMs effortlessly.

On February 2014, with a staggering user base of over 400 million, the app was acquired by Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook for a record deal of \$22 billion! What a remarkable path to success!

Did you observe some strange thing in this story Pinku...

Pinku: No Dadaji...

Dadaji: Rejections should not deter us. Once we come up with something which has the power to change the world, world will accept us.

...and the thirty second lesson for you:

**"There's no point on dwelling on rejection. Confident go on and on and on... still they reach where they want to reach"**



## Confident believe self

There is a flip side of confidence also Pinku... Confidence may not always bring success. But, one thing is sure that it gives you power to change any challenge. There are so many people out there who will tell you that you “Cant”. What confidence in you tells them “Watch me” “It’s me” “I am coming”.

Pinku: So true Dadaji... I will also try my best in whatever I would from this moment.

Dadaji: Pinku, success and circumstances is immaterial for those who know that their skills will be recognized one day. One such artist I remember was Naushad Sahab the great music composer of my time. Let me tell you a small incident of Naushad Sahab

Born Naushad Ali on Christmas day in 1919, he spent several nights on the footpath after moving to Mumbai in the late 1930s to try his luck as a musician.

The composer, who hailed from Lucknow, had cried when his film Baiju Bawra was premiered at Mumbai's Broadway theatre. When the late producer Vijay Bhat asked him why he was crying, Naushad told him he was sleeping on

No one in this world is an expert without confidence

the footpath opposite the theatre when he had dreamt of seeing his music brought to life here. 'It took me 16 long years to cross that footpath,' he had said.

It was sheer self-belief and confidence that made him cross the footpath and let me tell you it is not so easy for anyone to do this.

...and the thirty third lesson for you:

**"Self confidence dissolves all obstacles"**

Pinku: It's so good to learn how people struggle and come to flair. Naushad Sahab followed his dreams and got success.

Dadaji: Yes Pinku... Now let me tell a story of another Indian Legend.

India went in to the 1983 World Cup without expectations. They had won only one match, against East Africa, in the previous two editions, losing even to Sri Lanka, who were yet to be granted Test status.



## Confident steer the team to victory

He was 24. Few thought, least of all his teammates, he was fit to be captain. He had been pitch-forked in to the job only four months earlier when India lost a Test series to Pakistan and Sunil Gavaskar had to pay the price. He was gauche, strategically naïve, and was still trying to come to terms with his sudden elevation.

But it was him who kept India's chin up. Against Zimbabwe in the league stage, he bailed India out with a majestic, back-to-wall 175. Never mind that it was against the World Cup debutants, that innings at Tunbridge Wells stands the test of time. It came on a lively pitch that Zimbabwe's bowlers exploited, and against hopeless odds. His team having been reduced to 9 for 4 when he walked in and it soon became 17 for 5. Though his runs came off a mere 138 balls, it was a controlled and calculated innings. Not until reaching his hundred in the 49th did he let himself go, as 75 runs came from his bat in the next 11 overs.

If not for this innings of his, India would not have reached the finals. Can you guess who he was Pinku?



Inspire others and in process  
you sow confidence

Pinku: I know him Dadaji the captain of 1983 world cup Kapil Dev.

Dadaji: Yes correct Pinku...He then steered Indian team to win the world cup that year "Our first world cup". In Kapil's own words "When we started playing, it was only for passion as we didn't think about any awards".

...and the thirty fourth lesson for you:

**"Passion drives Self-confidence"**

Pinku: Thanks Dadaji for enlightening me. I now have the confidence not only to prepare well for the examinations but pass with good marks.

Dadaji: Good Pinku... Don't ever let anyone to dull your sparkle.

## Confident reach amazing heights

Always accept your past without regret, handle your present with confidence and face your future without fear. Remember, self-confidence is the foundation of all great success and achievements. Never underestimate your strength and never overestimate your weakness. Finally, with realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's own ability, one can build a better world.

Pinku: Yes Dadaji I will follow suit whatever you have explained me. With the confidence I have, I believe I can reach amazing heights.

Dadaji: All the best for your examinations.

Pinku: Thank You Dadaji...

Confidence is not beyond  
your control

Be rest assured  
that confidence  
will take you  
where you want  
to be

Thank  
You.

