

ENGLISH

WHISTLE BLOWERS NEED PROTECTION AND APPRECIATION



In November 2003, an engineer Satyendra Dubey, was murdered for blowing the whistle in a corruption case in the National Highways Authority of India's Golden Quadrilateral project.

Two years later, an Indian Oil Corporation officer, Shanmughan Manjunath, was murdered for sealing a petrol pump that was selling adulterated fuel. In May 2012, a Karnataka official SP Mahantesh, said to be a whistleblower in controversial land allotments by societies, was murdered.

A senior police officer alleged that Mayawati's government was corrupt and had embezzled large amounts of money. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to a psychiatric hospital.

All such instances are crime and are indeed on the rise, but what seems worse is the unwillingness of the people and the government to take appropriate action. In a world full of corruption, vigilance of any nature regarding the misconduct of an employee or senior, can lead to many minor or complex issues. As seen in the cases above, if a responsible employee and citizen reports the illegal methods employed by his/her senior, s/he may have to face serious consequences. In such a situation, it is understandable that people protect themselves and consequently neglect public duties. This is why public participation is of great significance.

'United we stand, divided we fall' is the policy that people need to adopt. Whistle blowers will continue to remain vulnerable to criticism and condemnation without public support. Moreover, it is



essential that the government strictly protects them from any consequence of reporting. It takes a great deal of courage, dedication and moral sense to stand up against the wrong and calling attention to malpractices instead of blindly obeying orders. Whistle blowers not only need protection and appreciation, they need support. The country needs its people to use their sense of morality to stand up against what is wrong and unite to be strong enough to oppose the wrongdoers who try to crush the whistle blowers.

Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011 is an Act passed by the Parliament of India which provides a mechanism to investigate alleged corruption and misuse of power by public servants and also protects anyone who exposes alleged wrongdoing in government bodies, projects and offices. However, the government can protect these whistle blowers with laws only to a certain extent after which, it is up to the citizens. No doubt, the laws need to be enforced. But, if the people themselves don't defend them, no one will. Upon realizing our responsibilities and the weight they carry, we come to the conclusion that we can be one of those whistle blowers who help make this country a better place without having to pay a heavy price for doing the right thing.

By: Nadia Behramfram
(SS2D)

CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONS – THE NEW TREND

In today's times, technology and media have evolved to an extent where they are influencing our thoughts, emotions and opinions to a marked extent. Nothing is hidden from the public any longer, may it be the story of a corrupt politician, a rape case which took place in Kashmir or any other such case.

A basic feature of a true democracy is that it is the public who governs itself by making laws and following them. For this, they elect representatives who form the government to regulate the people and functioning of the country. Since, the representatives are working for the benefit of the people and have been chosen by them, the people's opinions should be heard and worked upon by them. Law enforcing bodies seldom take any action at the right time. Even a small amendment which is for the benefit of the nation, takes years to become justiciable. In such a situation, we desperately look for ways to make our voice heard in the ears of the otherwise deaf government and law enforcing agencies.

It is here that candlelight processions come into action. This is a new form of non-violent protest which shows the unity of the people in coming together to fight for justice in any given case, where the people feel that an appropriate judgement has not been passed or if the government is not taking any action against a person who has committed a grave crime. However, we must ask ourselves: Does all this really appeal to the people in power? Does it make them alert? Statistical data, however, tell a different story altogether. Candlelight processions take place only for some cases like the historic Jessica Lal case, Kathua case and more. Even these cases were fast tracked after a lot of time and adequate judgement did not come immediately. The bottom question line here is: Is it okay for only some cases to get justice on time, that too after a lot of damage is done. Is it fine for authorities to just sit back and only take the necessary action when it is too late?

Change is the need of the hour. The public has to wake up in order to remove the blanket of sleep under which these law enforcing agencies are snuggled up. Action, immediate action, has to be taken before the wound deepens and it becomes difficult by the moment to keep its adverse effects under control. We must join hands and unify ourselves into a body that wants and is desperately working for a better future.

By: Sarni Verma (SS1 – D)

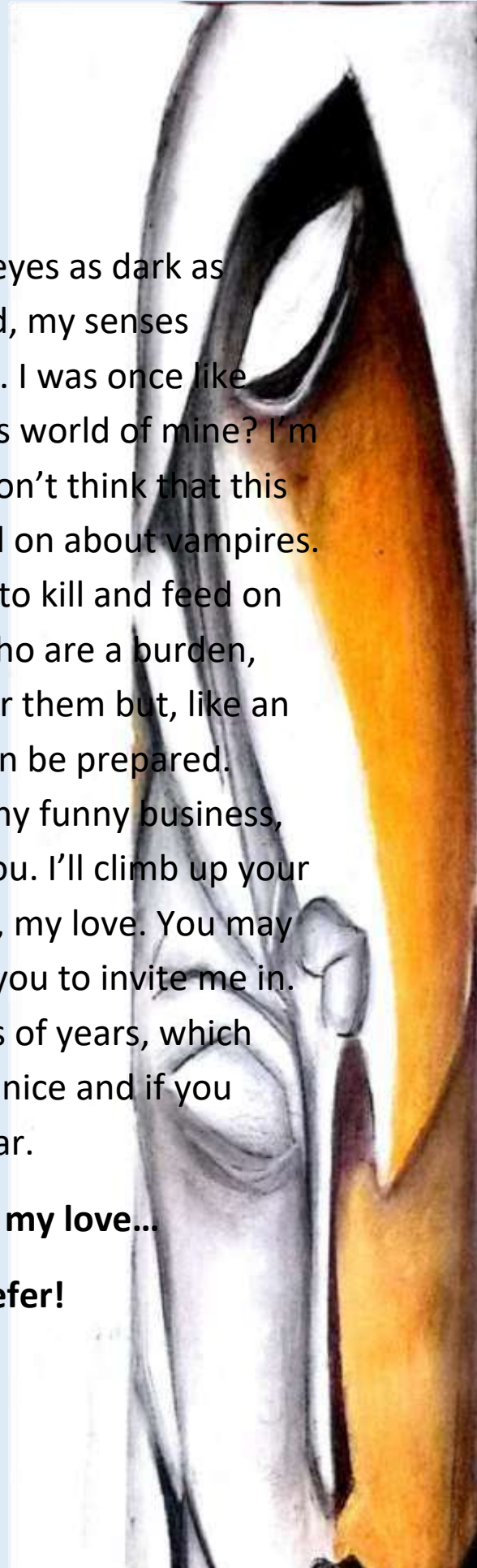
THE ANGEL

Darkness - my home. My only true love. My eyes as dark as night, my skin as pale as the moon. My speed, my senses stronger than any other living being on Earth. I was once like you, a human. Then who am I you ask? In this world of mine? I'm Klaus or simply, the Devil, a vampire. Now, don't think that this is just one of the many stories that go on and on about vampires. This is about what I do. My only aim in life is to kill and feed on you. Don't be scared, love. I only kill those who are a burden, those who do wrong things. I am the Devil for them but, like an angel to you. But, if you turn to mischief, then be prepared. Before you even think about engaging into any funny business, think about me and what might happen to you. I'll climb up your house and then it's my time to play with you, my love. You may be thinking that to enter your house, I need you to invite me in. Don't be mistaken. I have lived for thousands of years, which means I have been everywhere. So, in all, be nice and if you aren't, well then, I'll be watching you, my dear.

Remember, I will be there for you my love...

or coming for you, if you prefer!

By: K Tushara Lakshmi (M2-B)



BODY SHAMING: Never Let A Scale Define You

Dear Society,

From my childhood I have listened so many comments about you. More than me, people are concerned about my body image. A fat would be called 'fat' only but a thin would be given hundreds of names. The person who doesn't have a strong will might get harassed by the trolls which are being made on him/her. The skin colour also matters. Are we humans with a rational mind or insensitive demons? Just to prove them that they are wrong and to attract their attention towards us, we need to put hundreds of layers of makeup. Is this right? Do you think that just to avoid humiliating comments, one should cut their extra obese skin which is hanging out?

Nature has endowed us with many capabilities and hidden talents. What is the need to show your trim waist or to show off your fair skin? I have never seen someone showing off their 'plain' ears. 'Plain' here means without earrings and other jewellery. They don't do this as it is not the 'trend' which will label them as 'stylish' and is also not seen because one can't figure out the body size and shape from the size of an ear.

Some intelligent people may clearly define you as boring if you dress simple and are in your comfort zone. Many kids, teens and adults are a victim of body shaming. One should understand that God is the creator and the destroyer of all. The bottom line is that skin or shape doesn't matter in defining oneself. What really matters is good deeds.

Spread love and destroy hatred. What one does defines who one is and not what s/he looks like. And as the saying goes, "Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder".

By,
The survivor of this hatred,
Nandini

PICKING THORNS ON THE WAY

Walking barefoot in the garden, he felt his mind wander to places where the russet sunset lits the sky and the grass of heavy morning dew, quiet and serene except for the slight breeze that flows. Here no birds come, nor people dwale. This is for the screaming minds, this is for quiet souls. Screaming minds and quiet souls. Not quiet minds and screaming souls. Quiet minds are like feather pillows, they hold in a lot and yet seem soft. Minds like his chatter talk of kings and pride to his soul, they carry thorns on the rose bush of an optimistic get go. Quiet souls don't quite know where they belong, or which direction is home. Quiet souls are only quieter, for the destructive mind drives him onwards and onwards towards productivity lost.

Walking barefoot in the garden, he realised screaming minds are colour palette's, abused by the strokes of brushes, mixing colours and messiness. But they create beautiful art, even if life's a screaming mess and quiet souls aren't quiet but observant enough, to gently tug this drunken mind when it's tired of stuff. Screaming minds aren't only screamers, they are singers too and as he walks on the dewy grass his mind may pick thorns on the way but it catches roses too.

- HEBA AJAZ
(SS2-D)

Illustration: Nabeeha (S1-D)

TEENS IN THE COMING GENERATION

From centuries, every generation of teenagers have been shaped by the prevailing political, social and economic scenarios of their times and today's generation is no exception.

Influence of the digital age

The whole world seems to have been flooded with technology and it has been highly instrumental in shaping a teenager's life. Addiction to one's phones and disregarding one's family is the norm of the present-day generation. Investing money on books has become a rarity. The charm of old family dinners has faded with time. With more nuclear families mushrooming in metropolitan cities, the whole concept of 'togetherness' has lost its meaning.

Life without digital technology is almost inconceivable. Children are being given



electronic gadgets at a very tender age. This has caused a damage which is far beyond repair. It has led to gadget gurus, who literally live on their phones either surfing on the net or chatting till late night with their friends. Lack of parental guidance has sadly

reduced these teens to becoming 'Spoilt-brats'. Sadly, the teenagers are suffering at the hands of digital technology, albeit they are not aware of it. Violence seems to have seeped into their lives, due to the heavy influx of digital violence online.

The need for a Digital Detox is slowly being realised and there is an urgency to minimize the usage of such "destructive" technology. A slow but steady transformation is being observed.

Devalued Cultural Norms

The culture norms and the rules that have bound older generations, are being disowned. Today's teens want everything their way. They haven't got the patience to let things happen slowly. In this fast paced world, they want to do everything in a hurry. These teens have no time to stop, breathe and derive happiness from the small things in life. No time for contemplation...it's a mad race against time.

Dealing with Addictions



Teens are more susceptible to various kinds of addictions. Smoking, alcohol and drugs are common. This in turn has led to serious repercussions not only on the person's mind and body, but also on the person's personal and professional life. Nonetheless, some of these cases have led to fatal ends. To deal with the increasing cases of suicide due to drug addictions, several rehabilitation centres and camps have been set up to free them off the shackles of this "slow poison".

Social interactions

Social interactions are a crucial aspect in determining the attitude of modern teenagers. They mostly like to hang out with friends, be extravagant and brandish their style in front of others. They feel the need to stand out and make their presence felt. Usually, it is their individual upbringing, family ethos and moral values, inculcated during their formative years, which reflect in their behaviour. There has been a steep decline in moral values and respect for elders in comparison to the previous generations.

To sum up, we can say that teenagers need the right direction and mentoring to progress and grow on the right path for a better tomorrow.

**BY: RIAN GUPTA
(SS1-D)**

Thank you!

