

Infinite Wishes: Fulfilled, yet unknown!

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Abstract

We desire and desire to desire. Our wish list expands till the moment we can't any longer keep track of what we want. We hope many times there is somebody out there who can automagically read this list and help us fulfill it. But many times we have failed to realize that such wishes are indeed automagically fulfilled, just that we wish so much that fulfillment hardly matters.

The bell rang on a bright Sunday, in the yet to be christened - Spring, evening, and i wasn't expecting anyone. It was *Palm* Sunday, a week prior to Easter, there was an expectation of the imminent arrival of Spring in the air, bye to the long dark winter. Unknowing whom to expect, invariably concluding that it was not for me, i opened my door. i saw two kids dressed as witches, saying something in Finnish. Baffled as i was, it struck to me that i was supposed to take one of their neatly decorated, though not perfect stick, colored with funny feathers and in return give them sweets. Thanks to my insatiable appetite for chocolates, i found a box of candies and offered them the box. The elder of the two asked me: 'How many?'. i said, 'As much as you want'. The moment i said that, there was surprise, joy, happiness, and jealousy. Surprise at the fact that i, a non Finn knew i had to offer them sweets, joy at the fact that they could take as many candies as they wanted, much beyond the ones and two they had been thought to count at school - probably a kids notion of infinity starts here, happiness at the fact that their small candy bag was getting filled, and jealousy at the eyes of the younger one as she new, for now she was outwitted by her sister: she didn't understand English, her hands were too tiny to pick a lot and of-course, her sister now had the *first mover advantage*.

In the wildest of dreams we always think of episodes like the above - where there is this one generous being, giving us what we want the most at almost every instant we want, and knowing that this probably will remain in

our dreams for years to come, we wish hope against hope that we do meet such beings and that it is true, just once at-least.

Man's desires span the universe. It has led to unimaginable achievements in areas that are beyond our comprehension, and yet it is this very desire that set us apart from many of the species, that inhabit the planet Earth. Every one desires for something, and it is only the quantum of this desire that varies. That a girl in Afghanistan would crave probably for one nice good tasty meal, which could well be all her desires, to the - for no fault of his - AIDS affected boy in remotest South Africa, just one trip to see his idol: Mr.Mandela, or to the boy in some state in US, wishing that his xbox, doesn't crash that too often, desire is desire. From the simplest of human beings to the most megalomaniac of us, we all crave for that wish that has often consumed us and conquered our dreams.

The urge to desire something stems from the fact that we have a craving in our hearts that tells us that life would be better off with what we do not have than what it is now with what we have. The hope that some noble soul would be there and we would meet him/her is because we are opportunistically optimistic people. We look at this that we like, that are favorable to what we think: is good, more often terms like good and bad, being dictated by the norms of the society. We slowly invent people, characters in whom we see the power to us grant us the wish that we have, and we start adoring these characters. Certain wishes which do come true, are attributed to the goodwill generated by our adoring these characters rather than the underlying truth that we did make an earnest attempt to move towards the wish that we did have, and it is due to this attempt that we have got what we desired. Unfulfilled desires, on the other hand, are blamed at our incompetence to find the right character to help us fulfill them.

The feeling that the quality of our present state of existence would improve dramatically with the fulfillment of certain desires leads to our wish list increasing everyday. Today it is a vacuum cleaner, tomorrow a car, but it seems we have got transfixed to the notion that we want and never get what we want, and even if we get it, we still want and wish. The pace at which this list expands is incomprehensible that at one point of time it might well be very difficult to know what we did desire at some time in the past. Our life now is pathetically addicted to a list that we have and are creating everyday and sometime the very purpose of this existence boils down to this large wish list that we have been able to conjure up over a period of time. Experience and wisdom grows over time, but that wisdom is in conflict with the fact that our wishes grow and wisdom and wishes do not go hand in hand tells us there is something that is inevitably wrong. Either we are wise or our wishes grow, wisdom leads us to the understand that we are running a futile race

against wishes, and our wish coupled with hope leads us to think we would win it, at all costs. Yet, wisdom fails to install in us the feeling that desire leads us to expectation, expectation to disappointment, disappointment to anger, anger to destruction. More so, that fact that we wish and wish masks the very thought in our mind that wishes do get fulfilled, makes us hardly know that we do have them fulfilled and once in a while we do meet that noble soul of our dreams, and that he does at time give us what we did want, though many times not at the right instant. But then with this ever growing list, we are unable, most of the time to place this fulfilled wish and alas, it remains an unfulfilled one.

How many times have we looked up at the flying airplane, and thought, wish i was there, and how many times were we actually there not knowing that this was once upon a time, a wish that we did indeed have, and that this was one of those that did come true, even though we are yet to realize it.

At the end of the day, we could say, i wish i had this, i wish i had that.... but then looking back, many times, we wished and got what we wished, just that we didn't know and it remains unfulfilled, because we forgot to realize that our ever growing wish list sometimes does shrink. But for many, such wishes are still a luxury.....