**THE GIFT**

‘’IF I COULD GIVE YOU ONE THING IN LIFE, I WOULD GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO SEE YOURSELF THROUGH MY EYES, ONLY THEN YOU WOULD REALIZE HOW MUCH SPECIAL YOU ARE TO ME.”

Who says that heart is only a pumping station in our human body?

It’s certainly and surely much , much more than that. It’s the only organ which can perform miracles ; yes if there is love in your heart and faith in your love then miracles do take place.

When I saw him for the first time, I fell in love with him. Raghuvanshrai Chattorpadhaya . What a long , big name for such a tiny soul? But for me he is only Raghu, and will always remain Raghu for the rest of my life.

Raghu is the smallest child of my class, among thirteen others like him; all special children of the Special School.

He is just eleven years old, tiny and small made for his age. An innocent angelic face, his eyes … you can fathom the depths of the ocean in them.

He is chirpy, bubbly and full of mischief. His limited intelligence and blurred foresight does not allow him to worry about his future, it’s only my heart that grieves whenever I see those two bright , twinkling eyes. Oh Lord , never ever take away that spark from them!

He can understand most of the things we speak to him, but cannot respond. His speech is impaired , he interacts only with gestures and his body language.

I do not know what made me to grow so fond of him. Nobody understands the reason why we meet in this life’s journey and develop such relationship, may be God puts us together to be a n important part of His beautiful master plan.

He always tried to take a place besides me in the classroom, obediently did everything I told him. The moment I entered the classroom , I saw his face brightening up and his eyes shining like stars. A gentle pat on his back was enough to boost him up, a smile to cheer up his face. I have always cherished all these precious moments.

It was the craft session. Everyone was making a lantern, a paper one. They were clumsy, and had no precision, but surely they had all the enthusiasm to finish their task.

“Mama” I just couldn’t believe my ears. It was Raghu who had uttered this magical word. I was too shocked . All other students looked at him in utter surprise.

“ Raghu , what did you say ? please say it again. “

“ Mama” he said it with absolute clarity and depth.

I looked at him totally overwhelmed. I just had no words to express my joy . He looked at me with those same angelic eyes and gave a sweet smile.

I did not have to look up to heaven in gratitude, the Heavens itself had come down to celebrate this miracle.

**Curie Pereira**