

Ameena

I've had so many kind and charitable experiences in that beautiful city of Basel. Friendships I made there have lasted for years, in spite of the distance of place and time, with only happy coincidences leading us back together. I met my friend "Sony" the jewelry salesman over twenty years ago in India where he was a "bag merchant." It is worth saying that coincidence played a major role in our first meeting, because among the millions of people in Mumbai, I met Sony on the sidelines of a jewelry exhibition. He was hunting for customers at the gate of the exhibition when he begged me to take a look at his wares. I felt a little sorry for him, although I can't quite explain why, and so I took a look at what he had. I offered a price on the whole stock, and after a long argument he sold and I bought.

Years had passed, and there I was at the exhibition in Basel when I suddenly heard someone calling my name; it was Sony. In his loudest voice, and in front of all his customers, he exclaimed that everything good in his life was because of this man. Since then, coincidence gathered us again in various jewelry exhibitions, with Sony repeating that saying in front of his employees and customers. In my last visit to Basel, I was surprised when I saw Sony and noticed that his weight had increased as much as his business. He laughed, "The more you gain money, the more you gain weight." Today, our Sony is worth tens of millions, but his character has always remained the same and money didn't make him lose his roots and morals.

Then there was my friend Emile, a French watch maker. He was a dreamer, and in addition to watches, his passions included horses, good wine, and beautiful women. He loved to sing and would always invite us to places that had karaoke. Although he always tried to get me to join him, I'd just sit and listen. He always expressed his desire to be buried where the hooves of horses can gallop above. I