

Toastmasters Ice Breaker Speech

"Be careful what you wish for" is what they say. Well, it certainly is true for my parents.

I grew up with two very boisterous and naughty elder **cousins**. And before I was born, my mother prayed and wished that I would be the slightly more docile, and silent type. Much to my parents' annoyance, and unlike most kids, I was too laconic. I preferred to be a **silent observer**, watch from afar, and think by myself, rather than talk to people.

Naturally, I spent a big chunk of my time buried in **books** and found an inkling with **animals**. Family would drop me off at Crossword and go watch a movie or go shopping, because I would throw a tantrum if they did. And I would bring a animal home every week. Be it a puppy, or a bird, or a kitten, or a squirrel. For bigger animals, my grandmother would knit a sweater for it and then my family would guilt-trip me to drop it back since I was separating it from it's family. This continued for most of my childhood.

In **3rd standard** I got a C in initiative. Had a talk with my parents and asked "What is initiative?" I remember that talk, with me holding the report card in my hands. They explained to me the value of exposure and trying new things. I remember saying "nice", and my father said, try the word "fascinating". I remember looking through the dictionary for 'initiative' and 'fascinating' that night. Took a **180**, and started participating everywhere and started signing up for everything. Drawing, table tennis, cricket, football, dance, martial arts, debatement, pottery, music, drama, track sports. You name it, and I can do it. Well, maybe not sumo wrestling. My parents taught me to take initiative. As an example, this is the 12th session of Amadeus mic Drop and I've taken up 11 roles so far(+/- 1).

Then came my **adolescence**. And how when you're a teenager, cupid fires an arrow at you, and then it strikes you and then you have a crush for someone? Well, Cupid's quiver was full and I was on the receiving end of rain of arrows. Much like Bhishma from Mahabharata, I lay in a bed full of arrows, and consequently, rejections. This taught me to be sturdy, robust, rejection proof.

And that is probably my **favourite** thing about myself. Talking about favourites, I was introduced to Toastmasters by my favourite teacher, Sir **Barry** Antunis. It would be unsurprising for you to know, that he was my English teacher. He was a Toastmaster and a Mensan. When you have idols, you want to achieve the things that they have achieved. This year, I humbly became a top scoring Mensa member and Toastmasters member. Dear ToastMaster, my fellow members and guests, thank you for offering the lectern to me. Speaking in front of you fine people, I learn to be a better public speaker and strive to be a better person.

Urban Ladder, Amadeus, Engineering. etc.

