

Hi toastmaster and dear guest.

Today, I'm standing here in front of you to share some important moments or incidents in my life that changed the way I think and live. They altered my perspective on life, and, in fact, some of them even changed the course of my life. These experiences were not just incidents; they also taught me important lessons that still stick with me.

Toastmaster of the day, esteemed toastmasters and my dear guest. Like every other engineering aspirant, I had also dreamt of getting into IIT. I thought I would make it to IIT but my score was not that much competitive. So during my engineering admission, I was trying my luck for NIT institutes which come next to IIT. For that reason, I went to Surat city in Gujarat to try for NIT college screening round by train. While coming back I didn't have the reservation so I was coming back in 2nd class, and you must be aware of what situation arises in a 2nd class. I was standing and was looking at an empty place to sit but I didn't find the place. While looking around I saw some people were sitting at the train entrance at boarding steps, I saw an opportunity and sat there by putting my legs on steps on those train boarding steps. I vividly remember sitting there for quite some time. After an hour, someone from the train who was sitting at window spat paan guthakha, which sprinkled on my face and shirt. Quickly in my anger, I got out of that position and stood there, expressing my displeasure with my loud voice. Within few minutes there was one intermediary station where train doesn't stop and during that time train was in full speed and all people sitting at that position, their legs struck that intermediary station platform, due to that they were thrown away from the train, some of them lost their both legs or some of them have life. That way, I found divinity or God in the man who spat. If that hadn't happened, I might not have stood up from that spot.

Another incident that was in context of my admission only I didn't get into IIT or NIT, but got the admission IIIT Jabalpur college from the Madhya Pradesh, I thought, I can be proud while telling people that I IIIT. And for admission I was travelling to college to confirm my seat. And I still remember, while travelling on the way to Jabalpur, train got stopped on the way, I don't remember the station name, it was stopped for an hour during that period I started having conversation with my fellow Traveller who were sitting next to me. During the conversation I told my plan to get admission to IIIT Jabalpur in MP. That man casually said I'm from Jabalpur why you are going that direction, in fact people from there are dying to come to Mumbai for education, jobs opportunity and lifestyles etc. Why you are going that direction in fact I am from that city, that city is just in front of Mumbai. Post to that discussion I took my luggage and got off that train. I changed my decision with that wisdom in mind and I got out of that same station and came back to Mumbai. To my luck I got admission to VJTI Mumbai. It can't replace IIT but it comes after IIT in at least in Mumbai. And that decision changed my life's course.

A few weeks ago, my wife, daughter, and I were on our way back to Mumbai after a month-long staycation in Manali. That was our road trip by car. As per our plan we had started our journey early in the morning to avoid traffic and fatigue. We started at 5 am when it was still dark, relying on Google Maps for navigation. After driving for an hour, we encountered two dogs fighting in the middle of the road. To avoid them, I had to slow down the car and honk the horn. As they moved away, I was about to accelerate when I noticed damaged road by the force of floodwaters, in fact there wasn't any road, it was dead end into river. I quickly hit the brakes, bringing the car to a stop just a few meters from a river that was 100 feet deep. It was a moment of great relief and shock for us. Most of people aware that few months back Manali had experienced very bad flood. Due that most of road are vanished. We were on the Manali to Kullu road and somehow google was still showing old road which were swept away by the flood. To our surprise there wasn't any signs or obstacles for swept road. Here I saw god in dogs, because of them I had reduced my speed and able stop before fatal incident.

The incident also reinforced our belief in the unexpected saviors that can appear.