**I view life as a quest- a journey for answers to my queries, curiosity, and commas, a break to enjoy and reflect on those journeys.**

Every quest I went on to explore taught me something valuable and helped me carve better roads for the future. I remember the time when I spent three days in a jungle. I was accompanied by my three mad friends. Inspired by Bear Gyll's Man vs. Wild, we wanted to experience how it feels to disconnect from world and live among birds, trees, and thousands of mosquitoes buzzing around us. An uninvited guest was also with us – FEAR- who prevents us from going beyond our limit but we were determined to explore. With the end of that three days and nights, I learned that I need to face, fight and embrace my fear.

This lesson stayed with me and empowered me to take a bold decision after my seventh grade: leave my hometown and move to Butwal, 62 miles away from my parents and friends. Riding on the back of a motorbike when I arrived at Butwal, I saw unfamiliar faces, tall concrete buildings, and a steady race of vehicles on a busy road of life. I felt lost and started crying, asking myself, Where am I? Will I be able to fit in here? Will I find friends like the ones in the village? That night, despite being tired, I could not close my eyes. My brain was filled of such questions and no answers to it.

The next day, I was sitting quietly on the last bench of room no. 13. A face I had never seen, and a hand never touched before, approached me to offer a handshake. This handshake changed everything and took away my fear. In a few minutes, a single handshake turned into 23 and continued. Soon, I was surrounded by strangers yet connected with handshakes. I felt a part of it, which earlier seemed unfamiliar. This taught me that even in a moment of uncertainty, a small pause and connection are enough to knit several other bonds. As I settled into my new life, I realized these connections provided the "commas" in my life—the pauses that let me reflect and grow.

When I paused and looked behind, I saw how a handshake helped me to be part of something I had never imagined I would be. This motivated me to join the Kalika Student's Club as its vice president. I previously held a presidential role at the Rampur Children's Club, which I co-founded with those three mad friends. There, we started tutoring children and conducted different sanitation programs. With the local youth club, we started the “I am Learning” program to teach women and children of my village about using science and tech in daily life.

All these past activities I was involved in helped me figure out my role as vice president of the new club. Our team also increased to 21 members from only 8, resulting from our newly adopted culture of shaking hands and building connections. During the school anniversary, we, 21 members, started a campaign 'Help to Shine' to collect old books and money. Ultimately, we collected over 40 books, stationery items, and $300 from our friends and teachers. These items were then distributed to financially weak students.

But the journey don’t stop here. This expedition continues to explore the world through the lens of phi. Preparing for the Math and Physics Olympiad, I was intrigued by the theories I was unaware of even existed, and surprisingly way before I was born. I enjoyed learning, applying, and sharing them with my friends. From Rampur to Butwal, children’s club to Student’s club, and KMC National Math Carnival to National Physics Olympiad, this expedition is not just about leaving home: it’s about finding new ones, connecting hearts, and learning continuously.