**A Disappointed Customer's Guide to Fortune Telling**

“You are an extremely lucky person”, said the elderly woman who had the sparkling golden and black bandana wrapped around her head in a turban. Her dreadlocks with beads at the end were jingling back and forth, as she was talking and gazing at me with her black kohl eyes.

“You are going to be rich, and your future destination will be Chile”.

I opened my eyes; I was exasperated as I woke up. What? Chile? Wasn’t it supposed to be South Korea?

Fortune tellers! Huge respect. Has anyone ever realized how much effort they need to put into convincing us about our future that we desperately want to know? Not to forget about their generosity that they even tell us things which we would never want to know. For example, I was once told by a random woman at a wedding that I am going to die in two years, seven years ago. And to my dismay, If I ever cross paths with her again, I’d like to scream on top of my lungs and ask her, “What sorcery is this?

Fortune telling bears a history which is religious and is considered to be a divine practice, but let’s put that aside, as the homage to it has already been paid. What agonizes me are the people who envision the future with their promiscuous approach, which leaves me scratching my head in contemplation that prophecy truly comes effortlessly to anyone these days. For example, if I scratch my left palm, I am going to be rich, which implies that I should dig deep down the poor flesh on my hand by scratching it to the point where I can finally smirk at my bones and say, ‘hello there, Money!’ Whereas, scratching the right hand is assumed to bring us wealth which leaves the fortune tellers and the superstitions confused; do we go this way or that way?

Astrology is one of the proven form of fortune telling, and this is where the self-proclaimed fortune tellers land with their magnifying glass in their hands. There have been events where I have been told by many people about my stubborn nature, that’s what they called I possess, which led to the conclusion that the reason why I do not get along with many people easily is not because I am socially awkward or selective in terms of befriending anyone new, but because my zodiac sign is Pisces, and that is stopping me from adopting this humanly trait. And here I am pondering and feeling special that those dark bodies out there in space think about who I should befriend. People, in such cases, usually fail to adhere to the fact that human nature is complicated, and being selective in even initiating a conversation and sharing your vigor is highly logical and sane. Horoscope is not our guiding light.

There are some other self-proclaimed fortune tellers in our society who would attack our soul directly. They would tell us right after we have seen our reflection in a broken mirror that, “your soul has been damaged now, there is no going back.” Now that I mentioned this, is that why I have absorbed all the sadness around me? Is this why I feel lost and heavy hearted all the time? Is this why I have not met the love of my life yet? Because apparently, I have seen my happy-go-reflection in countless broken mirrors; hence, my body is the bearer of an unhappy and depressed soul. So, if you remember who Harry Potter had met on the train in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, that was me; The Dementor.

It is quite unfortunate and tragic that the concept of self-awareness has still not strengthened its roots in most people’s minds to help them figure out the causes of any distress looming around their heads because it rarely occurs to people in a general society that it is all due to the actions and attitudes we carry out in our daily lives, and a broken mirror is not to be blamed.

But it’s always darkest right before dawn; take some salt and ward off the evil eye. God bless contemporary fortune tellers who would always have solutions to our problems because they can see through us and can help us with their thoughtfulness. If this a must job that everyone has been doing already from predicting futures by jumping into astrology to warding off evil eyes by using salt, then the least I can do is to get a second-hand crystal ball, if not a brand new one, and pronounce myself a fortune teller because I can also tell people that, “you are sad dear, you have a hole in your heart” or “a holiday trip is expected in your life”. And while I am on this, have you ever tried a fortune cookie? I love it because of the crunchiness it has and not because there is a chit inside it. My luck is, I would either get a chit, telling me that I am about to meet my love or that “your fortune is in another cookie”.

You must have also seen people visiting tarot card readers too which is, by the way, another authentic way of telling what your future holds. I wonder, how has it never occurred to anyone that if the card falls while the person is shuffling, it is because the person can be a bad shuffler, and it certainly is not a divine message from God?

Let’s put everything aside. In general, a divine practice should not be played with. There are people who have a soft corner in their hearts regarding the practice, and I honestly respect that.  But what I personally believe is that if there is a religion, faith comes with it. Unfortunately, most of us like to spend our energies and time on knowing things that we already know because knowing it again in a different language, manner, and setting might do the trick; instead of using the same energy in nourishing our faith and living our lives to the fullest. Death, bad luck, and sadness are the inevitable parts of life, and we must not think about how to avoid them by knowing about them beforehand.

I am of the opinion that observing our behavior, deeds, and attitude that will, eventually, lead to the consequences can ultimately get us through. Yes, fate has an absolute play in it, but let’s not ruin the surprise that the future holds for us by believing everything people say because they want to say. It is only that we do not have to believe everything that they say, unless it is a message from the designated planet in the space by which our zodiac sign is ruled; and Neptune is definitely not my fan.