BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

FOR

SANJAY DESAI

A wise man once said, “There are two great days in a person’s life- the day we are born and the day we discover why.” Today we honor our dear friend Maithili on the occasion of her fifty-first birthday. As we, her friends who have had the privilege to witness the life journey of this wonderful woman, almost from the beginning of her life, we know why Maithili was born and we know what a gift her presence has been to all that have called her daughter, mother, wife, sister and friend.

Maithili, the poet Robert Louis Stevenson said, “ We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.” For those of us that have been connected and continue to connect through our group Barrfffiis, it is our honor to celebrate you on this special day. We’ve all known each other since childhood and we’ve witnessed the paths each of us has taken. Today is your day and we want to recognize you for all you give to your family, friends, and the world. There are so many memories we have of you as a child and student, and as a grown woman you have demonstrated unparalleled loyalty and devotion to those of us lucky enough to be in your circle.

In school, although you were clearly distinguished for your dedication to your studies, you were known for your friendly, charming smile and caring personality. We have always been moved by how much your family means to you. From your parents who were the nicest and most humble of people to your siblings, it is clear that someone so thoughtful and caring came from a very loving home. We have all been inspired by the way you’ve grown as a wife and mother, all the while being a dedicated daughter and friend.

Your selfless devotion to others is an inspiration. And somehow, no matter how busy you might be while caring for others, you always manage to find the way to express your devotion in greater and deeper ways. Over the years we’ve witnessed as you demonstrated your unflinching and selfless care of your parents as well as your in-laws. We’ve seen how you have supported your husband no matter what- through life’s challenges and triumphs you have been there for him. You’ve raised two beautiful, spirited, talented daughters. You’ve sacrificed personal gain for the well being of those you love and your sensitivity to the needs of others sets you apart from the crowd.

As if your singular devotion to others wasn’t enough, in the past several years you have astounded all those around you with your dedication to learning Reiki and now we proudly call you our Reiki Master. It is clear that you innately knew your purpose in life and to see you fulfill that purpose on such a meaningful level teaches all of us what a gift it is to be alive, for all we are is a reflection of all that we have met. Your Reiki practice clearly demonstrates that you are in touch with and in tune with the human spirit, and your natural ability to analyze and assess others is a gift you so willingly share with those around you. Your honesty and integrity lights the way for people and every day someone’s path to health and truth is made possible thanks to the intuitive gifts you selflessly share.

As we celebrate you, we ask you to acknowledge the light that reflects your spirit. From the passion you have for your family and humanity to the beautiful tones of your daughter’s singing, from your selfless sharing of your intuitive gifts to the sensitivity demonstrated by your younger daughter, you have left an indelible legacy on this planet. Your friendship and caring is a rare gift.

Although you have had to endure your share of loss and sadness, your beauty doesn’t fade. It radiates from within and provides us with light and love. While others may wear the wounds of life’s challenges, you have maintained your youthful glow… it’s a glow that betrays the kindness and empathy of your soul.

Maithili, you are our hero and a shining example for anyone that wants to learn what humanity is. We thank you for all that you’ve done to make this world a better, sweeter, nicer, healthier, more compassionate place. On this, your fifty-first birthday, we wish you more love and light than you could ever imagine and may you continue to inspire all of us for many years to come. Happy Birthday!