



## The Attitude

### Pon Kulendiren (Canada)

Nathan was in a bad mood as he entered his office. He exchanges greetings with his staff, in his own style by saying "Morning, Morning, Morning.." continuously few times as he enters his office, but that day it was different day for him. The usual tone of greeting was not forthcoming from him. As usual his personal assistant Raneer got up from her seat and greeted him, "Good Morning Sir". He responded with a nod, but no smile in his face and he quickly vanished into his room. His unusual behaviour surprised her. "What has gone wrong with him? Normally he enters the office with a beaming smile followed by a couple of jokes. Did he have any problems at his home front?" Raneer was thinking about the possible reasons for his bad mood.

"Sakthi Imports and Exports" is a well-established Company in the heart of Colombo, dealing with the Export of Tea, Rubber and Coconut products and imports of food items from India and Pakistan. Nathan, the Deputy General Manager had fifteen staff working under him. He was well liked by the staff because of his friendly relationship with them. They admired his capacity to work at his young age of thirty-two. The Board of Directors, including his boss Mahadevan, The General Manager, had high respect for him. It is after Nathan took over as DGM, that the Company revenue increased by fifty percent and the staff was given one month's salary as Bonus. Nathan got married three years ago to Geetha, a relation of his father. He married Geetha because of her beauty and sobriety.

Nathan went into the room and within few minutes he called his PA on the intercom. After knocking on the door, Raneer entered the room with a smile. She was carrying a cup of coffee which she normally does in the morning, when entering his office for the first time for the day.

Raneer was Nathan's personal assistant for the last three years since he became the Deputy General Manager for exports, three years ago. She was an asset to him. She had an excellent memory power and was good at figures and could remember the export figures like a computer. It was love at first sight with Suresh, which ended in marriage for her. She met Suresh at a birthday party organized by her close friend Joyce. She was attracted by his look and behaviour.

"Sir How are you this morning? Are you all right?", Raneer inquired from Nathan after placing the coffee on a table mat.

"I am fine", the reply was a bit abrupt for Nathan

"Sorry to be inquisitive, Sir. You don't look very happy today. Normally, as you enter the office you used to wish Good Morning several times to every one. But it is different today."

Nathan did not reply her. He was looking at the file in front of him.

"I apologize for asking a personal question about you." Raneer continued her conversation, forcing him to reply.

"It is Ok... Married life will never be smooth. There are ups and downs .." He replied her in a low voice. Raneer observed him wiping the tears in his eyes.

"If I could be of help to you in any way to resolve your problem, I will be too happy to do it"

"The problem is not so easy to be resolved by you. Raneer you have met Geeta, my beloved wife, is it not?"

"Why not? I met her at two office parties. She is a beautiful lady. She is young and it is a pleasure to talk to her. "

"True I loved her so much. From the time we married we never quarreled. But some evil eye has fallen on us"

“What do you mean sir? Is she a changed lady now?”

“Oh no. It is her health condition that has changed. That is what is worrying me now. At this young age she has a serious health problem”

“Is it so serious, Sir? It is always better to share the worries with some one whom you trust. If you trust me you may share it with me. I am not forcing you sir. Treat me as your sister. I am three years elder to you. I have undergone lots of problems in my life... “

Nathan sipped the coffee brought by Raneer.

“Sit down Raneer. In fact I called you to discuss about next week’s Board meeting. I find it difficult to concentrate and prepare all the reports needed for the meeting. Geeta ‘s health condition has slowed down my thinking power.”

“Don’t worry about the reports. I have all the figures and I will prepare a draft for you. You can check it at your convenience”

“Thanks Raneer. That will give me some time to breath. You know that I and Geeta were married three years ago. My wife was worried that we did not have any children. On the advice of our family doctor we consulted a Gynecologist. He ordered a series of tests to find out the reason”, Nathan stopped and sipped the coffee.

“What did the reports reveal?”

“Well it was bad news. My wife was upset to hear that a large fibroid in her womb may be malignant. Only a Biopsy will confirm whether it is benign or malignant. Any way it has to be removed.”

“Do you mean to say her womb or the Fibroid?”

“Because we have no children the Doctor may not remove the womb. But it all depends on the results of the Biopsy Test that was done yesterday. If it is cancerous he may remove the womb.”

“Sir, I would advise you to have trust on God. You and your wife did not harm any one. You have helped many staff when they were in difficulties. Look at me I am in a worse situation than you. But still, I always think positively, that good things will happen to my husband one day, and he will start walking...”

“What do you mean by walking? Did your husband have any problems with his legs?”

“Yes Sir. Three weeks ago he met with a serious accident on The Pedestrian crossing. There were multiple fractures in his left leg. Thank god he narrowly escaped death. Doctors first wanted to amputate his left leg just below his knee, but later decided to fix the leg. It was a three hour operation. If there is no improvement within a month or so then he may not be in a position to walk and may loose his left leg. “

“Oh my God! Ranee why didn't you tell me anything about this incident when your husband Suresh met with the accident? I met him only once at the Company Christmas party. He was a healthy pleasant guy”

“Sir, there is no point in worrying over it. It was an accident. Thank god he did not die. I am grateful to God for that. Also, he was lucky that the doctors decided not to amputate his leg. He is a positive thinking man and a determined person. He does meditation and believes in Reiki. My friend Joyce's sister knows Reiki. She started giving him Reiki treatment. Along with his meditation, Visualization technique, Reiki has helped him to recover fast. A week ago we went to the orthopaedic surgeon and we were surprised to see a vast improvement in his leg. According to the doctor if that progress continues, he may be in a position to walk well within six months “ through a series of exercises and massaging.

“That is good news to hear. You are a brave lady, Ranee. You never showed your worries in your work. I have never seen you on any single day with a worried face, neither did you fault in your efficiency. I Think I have more to learn from you. “

“Sir. There is a saying in Tamil. A thing that has to happen will happen at the appropriate time. There is no point in worrying over it or having negative thoughts about it. If possible, one day, I will come to your house and speak to your wife. Better you too, be there. If she knows my case she will not worry too much.”

“Thanks Ranee. Today evening, after office, I will come with you to your house to see Suresh. I feel guilty to see him. You should have told me this before”

The Telephone bell rang. Nathan answered the phone. It was a call from the Hospital.

The voice at the other end said “Is that Mr Nathan?”

“Oh Yes. I am Nathan speaking”

“One second sir... Doctor Gunatillake wants to speak to you”

Nathan knew that it is a call from the Gynecologist. Biting his nails he nervously waited for the doctor to come on the line.

“ Mr Nathan. I know that you are anxiously waiting for the results of the Biopsy test. I have some good news for you. The test results show that the fibroid in you wife’s womb is not malignant. The scan report shows that it is of a small size, which could be easily removed, hence we can operate and remove it without damaging the womb. I would like to see you and your wife tomorrow in my clinic at 11.00 am. ”

“Thank you Doctor. We will be there tomorrow”

Nathan smiled. Raneer could see a sudden happiness in his face.

Raneer guessed that it was good news about his wife.

“ Raneer. Thank you for all the advice you gave me. Thank god, as per biopsy results the fibroid is nonmalignant and there is no need to remove the womb. That means we can have children”

“I am happy to hear that news, Sir. Your staff would like to see the happy face of their boss and the early morning greetings”

“More than that, the first thing we are going to do today is to see your husband. So please wait for me after office. We will go to your house in my car”, Nathan replied. Raneer left the room with a satisfaction that she had done something good to her boss. She could hear him ordering two bouquets of flowers over the phone.