



MAN BAHADUR PRADHAN

My tryst with Mr. M.B. Pradhan - or MB Sir - began in the Class VI in Dr. Graham's Homes. My first and lasting impression of him was his perpetual rubbing of 'Tiger Balm' on his forehead - it's supplier being Ujjwol Pradhan who replenished his stock of the ointment after every vacation in Kathmandu - and yawning while simultaneously rubbing the balm on his forehead and peeping through his fingers, thus keeping us on our toes. He was strict, prompt and prone to using the cane or the duster on our thick skulls, but was super lenient when it came to correcting our misspelt, grammatically incorrect compositions.

Mr. M.B. Pradhan usually taught us Nepali, but most times on our insistence regaled us in English, out-of-syllabus stories like 'Bhoot/Daak Bungalow' told in his unique animated style. As Mingma, my classmate recalls, MB Sir never finished the stories but always left it mid-way when the plot was hanging on a precipice! When asked to complete the stories, MB Sir would point us towards the Nepali library books - and tell us - "the story is in there - read it!" This was his unique style of pushing and encouraging us to read Nepali books. He knew if we were forced we would never read those books, and so this was his masterplan. And it surely worked because we ran to get the books that held his incomplete stories!

His infectious laughter and jokes interspersed with "you see"s still ring in my ear. His vivacious, spirited and independent nature is still evident today. He can keep you enthralled with stories of his world travels. Mr. M.B. Pradhan might possibly be the only teacher who apparently hasn't aged a bit. He will always be remembered as a teacher who took a personal interest, whether good or bad, in what we were up to in our student life.

After retiring from DGH, Mr.M.B. Pradhan was appointed as the Principal of Saptashree Gyanpeet School and was instrumental in the school obtaining ICSE and ISC status.

Mr.M.B. Pradhan is probably the most active and well travelled teacher I know - frequently visiting his son in USA and his daughter wherever in the world she and her husband are posted. He boasts that there are only a few places in the world he hasn't visited, and has been recognized by former students wherever he goes and rightly so.

He has translated Dr. Minto's book 'Graham of Kalimpong' in Nepali titled 'Kalimpong ko Graham Bajey' and has written 'A Guide to English Idioms & Phrases'. He has published various books on social studies and the history of India in Nepali.

Mr. M.B. Pradhan was awarded a literary award in a ceremony in Delhi for his travelogue 'Man Ka Lahar Ra Rahar Haru' in 2013. A critical appreciation of his books by 14 doctorates entitled 'MB Pradhan In Travel Literature' has been published.

NAMAL RONGONG

Batch of 1990

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