

One of the most amazing human beings I have had the privilege of knowing. Sitting in a room with him was the most humbling experience. When I was 17 years of age, he introduced me to Ramanujan. "Anish, have you heard of Ramanujan?". "No uncle, who was he?". "I could tell you, young man, but you would be poorer for it. Study him.". Endlessly enriching conversations I had with a man I not only admired, but someone I looked up to like I would any of our Gurus.... except with even more reverence. He told me about Hawking and a brief history of time....1988!! I didn't know anything about physics and yet an uncle of mine....at that time, just another uncle of mine, says "Anish, read Hawking". Wow!! Who the hell is Hawking, I thought. How did this uncle, someone who is an expert in another field, tell me about Hawking? How? I went on to do a doctorate because of the questions he posed to me. In 1989, I sat with him and discussed climate change. "I agree with you Anish, this will be a major issue". "Uncle, don't you think that developing countries saying that they won't do anything because the rich countries brought us to this is akin to one cutting off one's nose to spite one's face?". His response, calm, and thoughtful to it's core: "Anish, what good is a nose to someone who has no face"!! Over the years I came to realise that every moment in his company was infinitely enriching. I learned so much and he imparted his knowledge with the greatest of humility towards me. When I felt I wasn't worthy, he would listen to me intently.... knowing full well what I was going to say, but allowing me to bask in my "original" thought. "Read Gombidge, son, and write like him. Just write". He said this to me on many occasions. I am sitting on my own, grieving for you uncle. I had so much more to say to you and infinitely more to learn. Every moment I spent in your company was a moment too short. I so enjoyed bathing in your light. Alas, you found a higher calling and I wait to join you to continue our discussions. I would say "May God bless you", but you were already blessed. I know you must be in the embrace of heaven.....and heaven is better for it.

– Anish, nephew of MS Gill