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Some people come into your life briefly but leave lasting impressions, without even trying. A child idolizes his teachers more than anyone else in his lives. A teacher is like a God to the child. In Indian culture teacher is given utmost importance. That means a teacher must get the importance from the children after their parents. A Teacher not only teaches the students the lessons in the books but also act as a spiritual guide for his students.

About 7 years ago, I had just been promoted to 8th standard. Each class had three divisions with its own class teacher. The teachers were quite a mixed lot. The first day of high school was always exciting. That was the day when we were allotted our class divisions. The unforgettable and favourite teacher of mine was Narayan Nayak, who took mathematics and science.

There was the initial sense of fear. Who had not heard of Sir Narayan? His reputation as a disciplinarian and martinet preceded him. With some trepidation we trudged into our new class. The welcome by Sir Narayan to his student made the ice immediately break. He immediately launched into an inspirational speech. Now to a bunch of greenhorn high school kid, familiar only with goals on the sports field, terms like goalsetting, roadmaps etc. were all overboard to us.

Sir Narayan was a middle-aged man with pleasing habits and good behaviour. He is intelligent and a master in his subject. As we interacted more with him we felt at ease when he was around. He used make mathematics and science easy for us all and all of us enjoyed it. He was already to listen patiently to the problems of the students. His admirable qualities made him a favourite of not only me but of all students.

The reasons of liking him are too many. He used to help students manage the loss of classes. The one thing I admire most is that he is neither partial nor biased. He is very honest and simple. Teachers like him are a fine example of simple living and high thinking.

He taught me the importance of doing not just good work, but my absolute best along with the importance of following one's own intellectual passion. He taught the importance of life beyond the groves of academe.

The words that completely describe him are transformational and transactional mentor which are drawn from the literature of leadership but when applied to mentorship, they have different meaning. Most mentors are transactional mentors—people with whom one has meaningful transactions. The mentor is professionally and personally supportive, a source of advice and a helper in times of distress. A transformational mentor reveals new ways of understanding professional and personal matters. Teachers like him are hard to find in this country which needs more devoted and dedicated teachers like him. Students would work harder when they have such inspiring much sources to follow.