**EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON AND THAT’S GREAT ¡**

This story starts with two friends – Jack and Richard..Jack is a fat man, so you can recognize him with the fat face and Richard is a slim man. They are best friends and they are meeting after a very long time.. What happens is that one of the friends who is Jack, he is in depression due to the problems arising during this covid 19 situation. He is an unemployed man, he is not able to find any kind of job due to which he is not able to pay the school fees of his children and he is not able to fulfill the demands of his family..He has lost all his hope and will to live so he has come to Richard to take an advice from him that what should he do now ¿ Now, Richard who is his best friend understands his situation and he says that, “Jack, I understand your problem but first listen to this story which I am narrating to you, and then tell me what did you learn from this story ¿”

Now the story starts with a king named Akbar and his good friend Birbal..So, one day Akbar the king, Birbal and his soldiers went to forest for hunting..During the hunt, a terrible accident occurred with the king and what was that ¿ one of the king’s fingers got chopped off and when he saw that he started screaming, he started shouting and he told his soldiers to immediately call the doctor as it was paining a lot..Now, from the other side Birbal came laughing and said to Akbar, “Why are you creating so much melodrama..You are not a kid, it’s just a finger, it’s not a big deal that you can’t handle it ¡ Just remember that Everything happens for a reason and that’s great ¡” Now, Akbar got angry and he said that “Birbal you are making fun of my situation..I didn’t expect it from you. You think that it’s a nice thing that my finger got chopped off..Now, you will get the punishment of what you have done.” Akbar told his soldiers to take Birbal into the kingdom and lock him up in the prison and by next morning, they must hang him till death..Birbal was taken into the kingdom and afterwards, Akbar went alone in the forest for hunting. And, there he was captured by the cannibal tribe who were preparing for the festival of sacrifice and luckily they got their hands on king. They started singing and dancing, they were eating sweets together, they were preparing for the festival.. But here the twists comes. As the shaman was preparing for the ritual, he saw that one of the king’s fingers was missing. He looked closely at it and then he called the tribe master and said him that “Master we cannot continue with the sacrifice of king because according to our beliefs sacrifices can only be made to complete physical bodies and Akbar is not a complete physical body. If we will continue with the sacrifice of king then it would bring God’s curse upon us.” Then they thought and thought a lot and at last they set Akbar free and told him that he was not capable of the sacrifice so he can go back to his kingdom. Akbar was in a confused state and then he remembered his friend’s words that Birbal said that everything happens for a reason and that’s great. Akbar realized his mistake and he felt ashamed. Then suddenly it stuck to him that he told his soldiers to hang Birbal by the next morning and the morning was there itself. So, he thought that by now my soldiers must have hanged Birbal to death.. He started running very fast and he was just praying that god please save my good friend Birbal, he was right and I was wrong..Just save him ¡ Hopefully, when Akbar reached the kingdom, he saw that the soldiers were about to kill Birbal. He reached at the right moment, he apologized for his mistake and told whatever happened with him in the forest, how he was captured by the cannibal tribe and how his missing finger saved his whole life. He was crying in front of Birbal and was begging him for forgiveness. Birbal instead of calming him or accepting his mistake he said that, “Everything happens for a reason and that’s great.” Now, Akbar again got puzzled and he said that Birbal in my case it was clear and understood that due to my missing finger my whole life was saved. But, how this statement applied in your case ¿ How it was good that you were put in the prison, can you please explain me. Birbal at no loss of words said that, “Your majesty, if I had not been locked up in the prison, I would have gone hunting with you. They would have set you free because to them you are an incomplete sacrifice, but my life would have been sacrificed because I am a complete sacrifice.. So, in this way both of our lives were saved. So, it was good that I was put in the prison and as I always say that everything happens for a reason and that’s great..”

Now, let’s come back to the story of our two friends, Jack and Richard.. Jack who is in depression, he showed a sign of improvement on his face after listening to this story..Richard says that Jack through this story I wished to explain you that everything happens for a reason and that’s great..We should never give up even if we are in the most difficult times of our lives..You know when life gives you lemons, you must make lemonade, by this I mean that when life gives you so many reasons to cry, I dare to find at least one reason so that you can smile and show life that you are not afraid of it. Ask god to give you challenges, don’t ask him to give you a simple life because some things you can only learn in a storm and these are here to give you the strength that you need to face the upcoming challenges in your life.. Never give up and trust God’s plans. Jack was so happy and he hugged his friend and said that thank you so much Richard for encouraging me ¡

**WE DON’T GROW WHEN THINGS ARE EASY, WE GROW WHEN WE FACE CHALLENGES..DON’T LIMIT YOUR CHALLENGES, CHALLENGE YOUR LIMITS…**

**NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS RIGHT NOW, DON’T GIVE UP BECAUSE WHEN THINGS WILL GET BETTER, YOU WILL BE PROUD TO SAY THAT “ATLEAST I DIDN’T GIVE UP ¡”**

By Gargi Arya