



José Esbelto Xavier deCastro Monteiro

1927 - 2015

a gentleman and a scholar

We begin to speak most when a person so dear is no longer with us, yet during life, we tend to overlook their achievements and the profound differences they have made in people's lives.

Coined in the 18th century, phrases like 'a gentleman and a scholar' were used to describe those with such noble characteristics. With this in mind, it is noble and most appropriate to acknowledge José Esbelto Xavier deCastro Monteiro, the finest example of a man - a man of integrity, who was respected by all and admired by many.

Even in the last minutes in his life, José was filled with epiphanies and moments of inspiration. A sentimental person who spent much time talking about love, and still in his wallet today, a beautiful picture of his loving parents. It was this abiding love for his parents, wife and children that sustained him, with believing that love happened all the time and everywhere.

A humble and simple man who went through hardships of life, yet with a smile on his face, he would bear it all without a complaint. Nothing less but the best was provided to his family, starting with venturing out at the age of 14 to work in order to put his older brother through medical school - this was his greatest joy in the 1940's and 1950's followed by getting married in 1959 and raising four brilliant children who he equally loved with all of his heart.

José worked at what he loved most and worked very hard. His ability to pick up anything and have it fixed, was a gift leaving many saying that 'whatever he touched turned to gold, since being unique with working with his left hand and writing with his right.'

Speaking of the good old days, the days of the Portuguese in Goa would bring back memories of his dear parents and one could see it in his eyes, as they would sparkle with joy. Sharing any news with him was always well accepted - a wise man who made time to listen and shared his thoughts which were never ironic or cynical, yet one could feel good and learn from all he shared.

As he struggled physically in the last years due to a back injury which left him bed ridden, he never lost touch with the real world, rarely complained and was always mentally alert.

José's final words before he suffered a stroke and heart attack were:

"From today I will get up from the bed, I am not sick..."