THE DREAM BEGINS

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SCIENCE and the UTOPIAN dream

Would good have any meaning if bad did not exist, would anyone be poor if no one was rich?

Confused!!!!!!!

Well, we all know opposite poles attract and similar poles repel, have you ever pondered what if just one type of pole existed. Just think from a different viewpoint a viewpoint where you see a pole as a generalized term.

Again Confused!!!!!!!!!!

We all dream, dream to become rich, dream to play cricket at the international level, dream to star in a Hollywood movie, dream to become the prime minister, it just goes on, is simply countless. What if one fine morning you woke up and found all your dreams fulfilled you playing cricket for your country. Now suppose that day, everyone’s dream came true, in that situation we could surely expect to have at least 1 crore player in our Indian cricket team, 1 crore prime ministers governing this country and may be another crore pool of actors. Yes, yes I am not joking, the scenario would be something like that only. Where would the country go in that situation, do you think that a situation like that would be possible to exist, just think for a while, where exactly would food come from, now that everyone would be a hero or a cricketer no one would be willing to grow any crops.

I think I have made my point; it is nothing but the ‘dream’ factor.

In order to survive and coexist somebody has to grow crops, somebody has to build houses. This disparity has to be there, it is simply impossible to attain the perfect plasma world of equality and harmony and what you call as the perfect state of world peace.

Now I will put forth another intriguing question. What makes a human a human?

I would say it is nothing but the dream factor that I just shortly mentioned above, but what exactly is this dream factor? I will say that this dream factor is that invisible and invincibly strong force that has made a human what he today is. It is something inherently associated with man’s endless desire to attain more and more. If man would have got satisfied if he would not have dreamt then we probably would have still be living in forests eating raw flesh.

It’s not like that since man has attained quite a lot so he has stopped dreaming. He just simply never stops to dream, he is a bloody dreaming machine, and his appetite for goddamn anything is simply unparalleled and unrivaled. Now what is the ultimate dream that one foresees, that one desires to attain, it is nothing but the dream of the utopian world. Man I think would attain salvation and nirvana the day he starts living in this dreamy utopian world.

Now what exactly is this utopian dream? 
**Utopia** is a term for an ideal society. It has been used to describe both intentional communities that attempted to create an ideal society, and fictional societies portrayed in literature. But the truth: The term is often used pejoratively, in reference to an unrealistic ideal that is impossible to achieve.

Now, the ultimate dream of mankind, to resurrect this dreamed utopian world.

Have you ever asked yourself what is that thing that has empowered you to dream, that has given you the freedom to believe that one day man will fly in the air. Believe me or not but just in a few moments you will agree to me that it is nothing else but **Science**. Science I suppose is the biggest force that has led man to the position where he is.

I would not take any credits from the early humans say our extreme ancestors; they did the most toiling part of discovering the basic requirements like the fire, the wheel and many more things like that. After these discoveries were made and when man had a substantial platform to rely on he started to take things under his stride. Science became his major weapon as well as his armor, he started to play around with things and guess what he did. He invented, he discovered, he innovated and he just kept on improvising. You just go back in time, not very back say you go back to the year 1930 and tell a man of that time that there exist a instrument that enables you to talk to any other individual having the same instrument separated by any number of miles, I am talking about the mobile phone. He would simply not believe you and discard your theory or your instrument blatantly. The mobile phone is something that he must be thinking in his dreams, he could not see how it appears, but just see; now every second person has a mobile phone. If that man from 1930 were to come to our age then he would be witnessing his dream come true. It would be like a fantasy world for him. But just think how did this all happened, how has man been able to get such constant breakthroughs, earlier we did not have anything now we have cars, phones, televisions, airplanes, every possible thing that a man of 1930’s dreamt off. How did this all happen, how did the dream come true, science, yes, science is the answer. Man’s quest to achieve more and science’s strength to deliver more made this lethal combination that led to man to reach to the zenith where he is.

But wait for it…, as I earlier said man is one unique species who just simply fail to get satisfied, he just simply can’t stop dreaming he is one hell of a glutton. And it is science that is providing him all the firepower, it is science that is enabling him to dream and think beyond the boundary.

It is only science that has led the human to really dare to believe that he can achieve what he targets, and what else to think other than thy utopian dream, it will be the perfect state where everyone will hopefully be satisfied and will not have anything to urge for. Utopia as is said is a state where people get rid of their sins and where everyone lives in peace in the perfect state of harmony. Well..., you must be thinking that how has science to do anything with such a state, well..., I will again say, just think beyond the black box and then you will see nothing else but science lurking behind. Just think, science enabling a human with such extreme strength where he simply has every wish getting fulfilled, in such a state no one will have any grudges, there won’t be any disparity and we indeed will live in peace.

Let the human grow, let the science grow, let them both grow and wait, a day will come when neither of them will have to grow, that will be the day when the dream..., the utopian dream will come true.
SCIENCE and the DYSTOPIC dearth

Excess of anything is not good, if you consume excess of fat you might get diabetes, if you eat in excess then you might end up being an obese. Now, you might say that I have cited examples that are very obvious but believe me even if you drink too much of water then there is quite a probability of you getting a dreaded disease Fluor sis. Hey, hey, don’t panic my intent was not to frighten you. Obviously you can go on and drink as much water as you want; it is just this very rare probability of getting the disease.

What I want to say is something different. Man has always followed his dreams; he has always run behind them. All those hard works has let him grow from the raw flesh eating Homo sapiens to a much sophisticated being. He has carved his life on his own terms. It is man who has always been on the top, never ruled by anyone else. There are many such instances where a superior or a stronger human race has overpowered a weaker race but never ever since the evolution of the planet earth has humans been overpowered by a different species. Man has always been on the forefront. What is that, that makes a man superior to other species? Is it his intelligence and his constant desire to excel?

Have you ever thought that what if the rest of the world conspires against the human and plans an attack? What if the trees, the dogs, the machines all collaborate and decide enough! Enough of dominance by the humans... now it’s our turn.

You might think that’s an impossibility, how can humans be overpowered by any other species.

Tell me what is that thing that gives the humans so much of confidence, what is that thing that makes him believe that he is invincible?

It is the power that he has garnered since his evolution; it is his unending faith in science which he thinks is his baby child.

Now think of an opprobrious situation where science that is human’s greatest weaponry decides to backfire, what if it thinks now it’s his turn to rule.

It is not that science has never backfired, there are many instances in our history where science has shown that if not handled with care then it might put you in the greatest of troubles. I will give you an illustration. In the year 1985 a space rocket burst in few minutes of its launch, can you guess the reason; it was a mere flaw in the programming system where a decimal number was not getting properly converted to an integer. Can you believe it, such a small flaw led to the destruction of a million dollar jet.

You might still be thinking that that was 1985 and today is 2007, man has grown, he has matured, it is quite impossible for such an incidence to reoccur. Well..., I am also telling that such an incidence is quite impossible to occur. But what if something different occurs, something by mistake, just like the cited example, something strange happens. And one ugly morning you wake up and see all your dreams shattered, life getting topsy-turvy, us thy humans being ruled by some different species.

What I mean to say is if we let the humans go rampant at the speed at which they are going it is not an impossibility that in this rat race he might fumble and make an irreversible mistake, what if by mistake he
creates a indestructible bomb or say he creates a super powered robot who has his own intelligence. I am just saying that it will take just one mistake from the human and everything might get shattered. Today in this technologically advanced world science is balanced in an extremely critical state which needs just a slight push to break the equilibrium.

I am definitely not telling man to curb his experiments, his attempts to get better..., his science but I am definitely saying that he should gauge the threat lurking in the corner, the threat of science. He should know that science can also backfire and when it will happen it will hit really hard and then there won’t be many to take help from.
LIVING

LIVING IS TO PERSIST WITH OUR ENDEAVOURS,
LIVING IS TO CONTINUE WITH OUR VIGORS,
LIVING IS TO EXPERIENCE THE UNEXPERIENCED,
LIVING IS TO COMPREHEND THE PRESENT AND APPREHEND THE FUTURE,
LIVING IS TO LIGHT OUR CONSCIOUSNESS,

OR WHAT THEY SAY IT IS SIMPLY TO KEEP TICKING...

BUT WHAT IF ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS AND VIGOR FAILS,
AND THE DREAM OF THE UTOPIAN WORLD
IS SHATTERED BY THE BITTER TRUTH OF REALITY;
THE QUESTION OF LIVING IS ASKED YET AGAIN
AND THE ANSWER IS LOST IN OUR VERY OWN IDENTITY

AND WE TAKE ANOTHER BREATH...AND THEY SAY WE LIVE ON...

AMID MILLIONS OF SPECIES AND TRILLIONS OF LIVES
I BELONG TO A PART OF THE SO CALLED SUPERIOR RACE
AND WITH SUPERIORITY COMES RESPONSIBILITY...
BUT THE QUESTION IS DO I UPHOLD AND
PRESERVE MY INDIVIDUALITY...

Broaden your horizons think beyond the limits and peek into what’s beyond, you will definitely find something but failure. Life is a game, you play by the rules you might win, you disobey and go against the rules you may still win, but if you play it with courage and bravado then you will definitely emerge out as a winner.
Shreana and Her family

It’s in the blood

Everything looked just fine about Shreana. She was pretty, well... she was not beautiful, her chubby cheeks and her lovely smile made her look very cute and adorable. Her eyes were the best thing about her, they were blue in color. Here I am talking about the 11 year old girl named Shreana who lived in a small town named Nawada, Bihar. Shreana’s father Rajiv Kashia was a businessman, he sold cement and Iron bars. She loved her father very much. Well, Rajiv had not always been into business, he was in the Indian National Army for three years. Rajiv’s journey from the comfortable life of the army to being a bourgeois of a small town was of great pain and agony. The transition goes like this: Rajiv’s father i.e. Shreana’s grandfather was a very rich businessman of Bihar, Rajiv had always been pampered by his father, to add on he was the eldest son. He got all the kinds of luxuries and always studied in good schools, he got his education at the prestigious school Cambrian Hall of Dehradoon. He was never that studious type, he was more into sports, though his English and general knowledge were excellent. He just managed to pass the school exams and gave only one national level entrance exam and that was of the army. From his childhood, Rajiv was always sure of what he had to do. He cleared the exam and joined the Indian Army. While he was in the army he got married and lived a happy and satisfied life. It must have never even occurred to him that his journey of the army would be over in only three years. His father had passed away due to a heart attack and he had to return back, to look after the family, he then had to realize the role of the eldest son. To his dismay life was biting and kicking hard back at home, it took him weeks to realize the difference in the lifestyle that he had to mould into. Before he could settle down and look forward, his entire wealth was robbed by his cruel and cunning step undies, he was just left with some money and a big family to look after.

Then what started was Rajiv’s ordeal, his bloody struggle to come to terms with his life. His wife Kavita was very supporting and loving; she always supported her husband and always believed in him. The first few years were really tough for Rajiv; there were even times when there was a real dearth of money, and they had to borrow money just to fulfill their basic needs. Finally a close friend had agreed to invest say lend some money to Rajiv and that is how he was able to open his shop, well..., in the beginning the shop had to bear some heavy loss. Well..., how do you expect an army man (who never saw how business worked) to survive the cruel market. It took two grueling years before Rajiv could settle and raise some profit out of the shop. From then there was no looking back, he got into the rhythm

Rajiv had now accepted, he now knew that this was his fate, he had no other option but to raise his family in this small town. He had to make this big compromise with his life.

Meanwhile Shreana was born, and from then life changed for both Rajiv and Kavita. It was like a gift from the god, both loved their daughter very much. Time passed by and life was not the same. Shreana was now 11 years old. Like every other parent Rajiv and Kavita also had laid great expectations from their daughter, but that was not to be true, instead of doing well she fared really poor in her studies. Well..., the dream was just in the making.
THE ILLUSION

What it seems is not always what it is.

Shreana has always been thought off as a miserably dull student; well she had all the reasons for it. She fared poorly in her studies and was a total disappointment.

Kavita could feel the plod growing; she knew it was her daughter coming back from school. She lowers down the gas flame and goes out to see her daughter, it was the day of the final result declaration which would have decided Shreana’s fate. She looks at her daughter and sees her grim face and she gets it all. She understands that Shreana has failed again and she had to repeat the class. She goes to her daughter and in a consoling manner holds her in her arms; Shreana totally leans into her mother’s arm realizing the ignominy that she had brought her parents. A state of complete silence prevails with both the mother and the daughter drowning in a river of emotional turmoil. Soon Kavita remembers of the gas stove and thus puts her hand down from her daughter and tells her “go and change your clothes and come and have you meal”. Deep in heart Kavita was expecting this from her daughter, she had done all that was in her power, she had devoted three consecutive years towards Shreana’s studies. She used to teach Shreana for hours at home but all was in vain, she had to finally submit Shreana to a tuition teacher. Still she could never do well in her studies, it was due to the school’s goodwill that she was promoted every year but even that was not going to happen again, the school was keeping Shreana under probation which meant if she failed this time in class 5 she will have to repeat the class again or leave the school.

“How was the result” Rajiv exclaims, he has come home from the shop to have his lunch. Kavita’s lamenting look had said it all. Rajiv straightly goes to his daughter’s room and surprisingly sees her adorning herself in front of the mirror; he was expecting a sad and a morose Shreana, though he asks her about the results, at the first instance she looks back at his father absolutely dazzled and confused, after being asked again by her father she replies “I could not pass the exam”. Rajiv felt pathetic for his daughter, he leaves the room and tells her to come and have lunch.

12 years had passed since Rajiv had left the army, things had changed for him and his wife, though both of them were educated, time and the environment had mellowed down their intellect. The effect of living in a small place that too even in Bihar had taken a toll of their thinking powers. Their views had become somewhat parochial and narrow minded. Even the continuous failure on their daughter’s part was not making much of a difference to them, they had somewhat accepted the fact that there daughter Shreana was of low IQ and intellect. They had even thought of a contingency plan for their daughter, they knew one day she was to marry and leave the house so incase if now she could not clear the exams and could not get any degree then they would make her appear for the local board exams which are relatively much more easier to pass. But, still like good parents they always encouraged Shreana to do better.
Shreana – an enigma

?????

Was she really a dullard? Was Shreana really low on IQ? Well the answer to these questions was not yet ostensible. One always judges a student’s intelligence, efficiency or to be more precise his overall output on the basis of the exams he appear. Keeping exams the benchmark Shreana was indeed a total letdown, a complete failure.

But just for a moment think of something different and consider a situation where an extremely strong and muscular man, is given the task of fighting 5 swordsmen. The outcome under normal circumstances would be a no man’s show with the muscular man facing an opprobrious defeat. Two conclusions could be drawn out from the fight. One is that, just because a person who looks strong and muscular cannot be made to fight 5 different individual at the same time, secondly if we suppose that the person was extremely strong and puissant then maybe he could have defeated 5 unarmed men, but under no circumstance can he be capable enough to fight 5 armed swordsmen.

Something similar is happening with Shreana. Just because her age is 11 does not mean that she should be in standard 5 and should be at least passing the exams. Her plight was similar to the man above described who just because looks strong is made to fight 5 men and to top it, all are skilled swordsmen. Well, you must be thinking, this is no good excuse for Shreana to not perform well; no distinct aberration could be seen in her. In normal circumstances this is what happens, as you grow in age you grow in intellect and you are at least expected to pass the exams and if you fail to pass on a regular basis then you are most probably considered to be a dullard and someone low on intelligence. Shreana definitely seemed to belong to the second category of dullards. But then you always have exceptions, was Shreana an exception?

Now, just think of a layman who does not have any idea of geometry keeping track of two different points. The first thing that will come to his mind will be to join the two points by the help of a line and while he is at one of the point he can have a sense of the other point by the help of the line joining them. Well this is what that happens in general, we tend to link things. Think of a liquid, on an abstract basis it is something that flows. Whenever we see something flowing we get on to the conclusion that the substance must be a liquid, our mind links that particular flowing substance with the concept of a liquid. This linking can be thought as the joining of two different points with some sort of imaginary line. Our mind can also be thought of as a pool of interconnected points. Like here in this case the concept of liquid is one dot/point and all the liquid that we see or we perceive are the different dots connected to it.

The mind is capable of storing two different types of point: one that is connected to some other point and the other being unconnected. All the connected points that are obviously linked to any other point have some kind of meaning as it can be reached from a different point. Whereas the unconnected points are something that we cannot reach to, it is just there in the mind. Just look at an absolutely obvious scenario, do you ever think what your mind processes when you wake up and see light coming from the window? You don't give it a damn, don't you? But just for a moment, try and visualize on an abstract level, it’s again
the concept of interconnected points working. You know that sun gives light (fact 1) and you also know that there is light in the room (fact 2). The first fact is something that you have always known but the second one is something that you have just now conceived by seeing light in the room. Now these two seemingly different facts are like two different memory dots in your mind. When these points are joined then it yields a meaningful result, it says that there is sunlight (light due to sun) coming through the window. So, what seemed so obvious was not that obvious.

Based on this preposition of the mind containing innumerable points, every individual can be classified on the basis of the ratio of the number of these connected and unconnected points. An efficient mind is something that will store only those things that it understands; it does not store anything that it does not understand. It indirectly refers to the fact that it stores a majority of connected/linked points. On the other hand a less efficient mind stores a majority of unconnected points.

Now what can be said of a person who is incapable of making such link between two points? The person will constantly live in a state of confusion and forgetfulness. This was the plight of the ill-fated Shreana. Well, it was not that she could not at all join two points; the problem was in making a long chain. She could not think long i.e. she could not connect more than 2 to 3 points in a chain. This led to the generation of very short thoughts and also led to a state of forgetfulness.

She was just 11 year old, she too was not aware of her problems neither was she much bothered of it. The reason being lack of any serious motivation and again the ailment that she was suffering from, too prevented her to think deeply over it.

A normal child could have succumbed to madness because of the disease but Shreana’s cool headiness and a sort of indifferent attitude helped her remain sane. Certain things like memories of her parents and school had become permanent over the passage of time thus making her look normal. No one could even suspect of something so majorly wrong in this sweet and normal looking 11 year old Shreana.
THE GREAT DEBACLE

Leech sucks? Life sucks!!!!!!!

Time passed by, Shreana was repeating standard 5. Obviously she was feeling disgraced, she had brought so much trouble and shame to her parents. She was trying harder this time. She desperately wanted to pass this time. But her unfortunate brain was again coming in the path.

She had studied hard for the spelling test that she was to give today, the previous day she had memorized more than half of the difficult words. But again, was she going to fair well in the test. Sitting quietly in the class before the test Shreana was totally unaware of how things would turn out. “Giraffe” uttered the teacher as the first word. In that spur of the moment, Shreana got totally lost; she could not even register the word. "Giraffe” again said the teacher, now she heard the word, but instead of trying to figure out its spelling which was quite confusing for her petite brain, she got herself in the dilemma of whether she had remembered the word yesterday or not. By then the teacher said “Giraffe last time I am telling this” and Shreana had just a few seconds to respond before the teacher said “hippopotamus”, oh no what was that at least the first word sounded a bit small, this was like totally impossible for her. By then tension and fear of failure had already gripped Shreana, her hands had started to shiver, her legs were curling in, and she could hardly think anything. This test like the others also ended up in a disaster.

Akbar and its history was one of the major things that had always troubled her; she could never get it right. Starting from the first year she was in standard 5, she failed to answer any question regarding Akbar in the exams. Her basic mathematics was fine, her base was not that weak, but the new formulas and new derivations topping over them were all very confusing for her. This time she got determined to defeat Akbar in the exams, she knew that there would definitely be some question regarding Akbar in the exams. She thought of a strategy, every alternate day she read about Akbar. It was the same text that she read again and again. She also got inclined to improve her mathematics skills, she practiced math for long hours regularly and sincerely. Like other students, she studied other subjects and topics, during the gradual course of the year.

Kavita could gauge her daughter’s desperation and she could also see her studying very hard this time. She knew that her daughter was giving more emphasis on history and math. One evening while Kavita and Shreana were together, Kavita asked a simple history question to Shreana. Shreana gave a confident and a correct answer. Kavita continued asking questions and unexpectedly Shreana answered almost all of them. Kavita got very happy and anxious; she could see her daughter’s struggle paying off.

But again the same question prevailed, was just History and math sufficient enough for Shreana to clear the exams? Heart to heart, she knew that she had just studied history and math, her other subjects were still weak. It wasn't that she had out rightly ignored the other subjects; it was just that she could not handle so many subjects at the same time. The course was too enormous for her to handle. She could retain a new thing only after she saw it for many times and that was something possible for all the subjects.
The exams had come; tomorrow it was Shreana’s math exam. This time she was relatively less apprehensive as she had done enough practice to back on. But how could you expect her to become completely fearless, she knew that she had the habit of failing again and again, even after studying hard. She had practiced all kinds of division, multiplication, LCM and HCF evaluation. Questions in the exams were expected in that context.

She was revising the concepts while having her breakfast. Kavita wished her best of luck and said her to remain calm during the exam. She was also very anxious and desperately wanted her daughter to do well. Her journey to the school never had been so long, time had almost frozen, by the passing of every moment she was getting more and more apprehensive of what was going to happen. Getting down from the bus, she could hear her heart beats absolutely loud and clear. Her every step was getting heavier, she felt like she was not going for her exams but was going to wage a battle. “Hi how are you, how are your preparations” said Shradha one of Shreana’s friend. What could she say, she knew that she had quite a habit of flunking in the exams and she did not want disclose that this time she had studied for the exams and was hoping to pass. So, she just gave a smile. Answer sheets were circulated and five minutes later the question paper was to be distributed. Vaishali, not a very bright student was sitting behind Shreana in the exams. “LCM is calculated by multiplying the numbers, isn’t it?” asked Vaishali, well Shreana was in her own thoughts, she could not gauge what Vaishali was saying, but she could feel that she was saying something wrong, what she was saying was a general way to calculate the LCM. “Yes great” said Shreana to herself. That was the moment… that was the moment that gave her the much needed confidence, she could fell that her hard labor was not a waste.

The exam started, she solved the first four questions, and felt great about them. Then she saw the fifth question, she knew that she was capable enough to solve the problem, it was of 10 marks, more of a reason to solve. She read the question twice. The solution was there in her mind but was not coming out. Actually, the question tested the combined concept of division and LCM calculation. Well, that was a bit too much for the not so intelligent Shreana. The points were there in her mind but she could hardly connect them. The same old problem, she could not overcome. More so ever it made her loose all her rhythm. She really got tensed. How couldn’t she solve the problem, she just could not leave it, she had to solve it well.... even if the solution was nowhere in the vicinity. By then more than half the time had passed and Shreana had lost the momentum, she was way behind and had not even completed half the paper.

The paper ended and Shreana was not at all happy with what she had done, how could she again create such a big mess. Even the thought of failing again gave her the jitters. She just simply did not want to fail. She could not bear the ignominy of failing again. How could she even face her father and mother?

What was there in Shreana’s mind, what was she thinking? Well, she was hoping for some earthquake or some flood or any god damn disaster to happen that could stop the result declaration. But no earthquake came nor did any flood, what came was something that rocked Shreana from the very inside out, it was the bloody results. Oh no, she failed again. This time her mother and father had accompanied her to the school for the results collection. They had this premonition that again her daughter was going to fall and they did not want her to be alone. Kavita had seen her daughter studying hard, she knew that Shreana had
done all that was in her capability. Both Rajiv and Kavita could understand her daughter’s plight. On her way back to home, Shreana unfortunately met her friend Vaishali, who asked her about the results. Shreana knew that Vaishali had passed the exam, she was feeling greatly disgraced, how could she tell that she had failed for the very third time.

Back at home Rajiv told Shreana that she now had no other option but to change to a different school. Till now she was studying in the town’s best school. Now she had to compromise, she had to go to a school that was low both in quality standards as well as in stature. It was a matter of great disrespect for the small girl. Never in her life had she felt so small, her father had said nothing about the results but she knew heart to heart that he was not at all happy with her. Because of her, her mother could not socialize with her friends; she was obviously not comfortable discussing her daughter. Never had she brought any happiness to her parents.

The cause for these consecutive failures was still unknown to Shreana and her family. Moreover this result had almost established the fact that Shreana was a total disaster, a failure. By now Shreana was also completely drained up, she had now no strength to study again nor did she have the courage to give it a second try. All the enthusiasm had gone away, well this was expected, how can you ask a person to accept the fact that she can’t succeed even after trying so hard.

No one would have noticed it nor would have it made any difference to anyone. Well, what can you expect from this indifferent and cruel world? It is just like switching off one of the many bulbs. Shreana was that unfortunate bulb; the story of Shreana was coming to an end.
WAKE UP

It’s never easy to surrender.

Shreana had to go to a new school. It was altogether a new experience, though not a very good one. She had decided that she would try and remain unnoticed and would not create any undue attention. The school had a very easy and flexible curriculum. Shreana’s parents had even talked to the school administration and they knew her case. Well the school was basically for all kind of rejects.

Shreana was wrong, she had thought that she would just become a non-entity there at the school and, may be her life would become a bit better. But that was not to be. Ill luck had chased her even to this school. There was this speech competition that was going to happen this Saturday, She thought that she would just mug up the speech and say it as it is, For the speech she did not have to use her minds so she was quite relaxed. Well, she gave the speech quite nicely but after the speech she was asked a question. She was expected to answer the question as it was totally based on the speech that she just delivered. She also knew that she knew the answer; she could feel that it was there in her brain but was not coming out. She was unable to answer any of the questions that were asked. She was standing in front of the audience like a big stupid. It was again very shameful for her. And it was not even that Shreana was a shy or a under confident student, she was not afraid of the audience, so why was she speechless, why was there such a big glitch? To add to her pains, other weaker students were at least able to answer some of the questions that they were asked.

Back at home she just gave it a thought at what went wrong, she thought of the questions that she was asked, even at home she could not reach at any answer. She was absolutely confused at what was happening to her, it was as simple as solving a comprehension, even that she could not do. Now, she could get a feel of the problem that she was facing. She realized that a long essay, an extempore or broadly any new subject was not easy for her to understand in the very first go. But what was troubling her, was the reason for the problem. She had no clue of why she was facing such an uncommon problem. She decided to move on with her life in the most non-indulgent manner.

Well, even this new school was a total letdown for Shreana, the normal environment of the school was not at all friendly, and this was not something that Shreana was used to. She was more used to a refined and a light environment. She could feel that life was not going to be easy for her. Even the teachers were very crass and the discipline of very low standards.

Day by day life was getting harder for her. Now the emphasis had totally shifted, it was no more the studies; it was now the standard of living that really mattered. Study was as it is a strict no for Shreana and now even the juice of her life had gone... courtesy the new uncouth school. She felt bored all the time.

Today in the school a teacher had scolded her badly and had humiliated her in front of the class. What was hurting her most was the reason for which she was scolded, it was just by coincidence that she was caught talking while the teacher was in a foul mood. It was absolutely irrational of the teacher to scold her for such a petty reason. Back at home she was not feeling her usual self. Today all the miss happenings
and failures of her life were coming back to her mind. She was drowning into this infinitely deep well of thoughts.

Eventually she was also going to be kicked from this school, by then she would still be in class 5 but would be 16 year old, Oh no, how could she live to see that day. After all the school changing she would finally have to retort to giving her board exams from the local state board were you have the freedom to cheat. She would have to take the exams with all the rejects of the town and all the so called dirty looking, dirty minded students. How could she sit with them? After all this she would be somewhere around 20 years old and would have just cleared her boards.

She further pondered.

Since she would not have any qualifications she would be married in a sub standard family. What if the family is very conservative, well... till now she has enjoyed all kinds of freedom so how could she adjust in such a family? What if to top it all, her husband would also be conservative, then what, then what would she do, she would be forced to do all sorts of homely work she will have to look after her child and also, her child will grow up to be like her, which she knows would be really bad.

Oh hell! Where has she gone, she saw herself 20 years down the lane. Probably it was for the first time that she had thought anything like this. She was definitely scared; she just simply could not believe that she was really going the path she just thought. How could she be alive to see that day?

It suddenly stuck her, her face suddenly glowed, amidst all this tension and problems she found something, something that made her smile, she again pondered and thought why did she not ever think anything like this before, why was it that today she could think, she could foresee herself 20 years down the lane. Probably it was the intense pressure and the tension that she was under growing. It was that thrust that made her think so long. She had got it, she had got the reason for all her troubles, she could sense that she could not think long, she could not remember anything because everything was so discrete in her mind. As, she saw that under extreme stress, her mind was able to think long, now she knew, she would have to find a way..., a way by which under normal circumstances she can think long and so she can also remember long.

She could also figure that her mind was a pool of majorly disconnected memory points which was had been the major cause of all the problems.

Now the question was, will the girl be able to overcome this seemingly complicated problem.

Well... she had to. The dream had to come true.
FORMULAE FORMULATION

It’s never too late.

Now the girl knew what was wrong with her, it had taken her 16 long years to realize it. The question was, now what? What was going to be her strategy?

Sitting in her room, pondering at what she was now going to do, Shreana was just scribbling on a piece of paper. Just then something unusual strikes her; she gazes at the paper and suddenly a hidden sense of happiness and excitement surrounds her. She had got the answer. She now knew what she was going to do. A sense of satisfaction was apparent on her face. She could foresee her days of pain and agony soon coming to an end.

But what exactly did she make that appeared to solve all her problems?

It was nothing but just two crossed lines. The lines cut each other in the middle, looking like the diagonals of a rectangle. Now you usually don’t get so happy on seeing two crossed lines, then what did Shreana see in those two lines. How had those two lines solved her seemingly never-ending problem?

For a normal person those are just two lines, but for Shreana that was the answer to her problems.

She was not seeing at the lines, but was seeing at the four different points connected by the two lines. Those two crossing lines were perfectly connecting the four end points. One could go from any of the points to any other point. Normally one would connect four points with four different lines in the form of a rectangle, but here with the help of just two lines all the four different points had got connected. It was magical for Shreana. She knew that her mind was incapable of making long chains and most of the memory points in her mind were disconnected. She could not proficiently join the points. Looking at the crossed lines, Shreana was seeing at the solution to her problem. She knew that in order to be successful or for her, in order to avoid failure all the memory points in her mind should somehow be interconnected. And she also knew that she was incapable of joining all the points to each other. But now she could see that it was possible to join all the points in a manner that needed a minimum number of lines, as was with the case of the four interconnected points. Thus those so simple looking crossed lines had equipped Shreana with all the ammo that she needed.
TRICK SHIFT

It’s show time.

Shreana’s first priority was to pass standard 5 and then go back to her previous school. For going back to her previous school she had to pass this standard 5 of her present school and then pass the entrance exam.

This evening Shreana sat down and devised an absolutely terrific strategy. She first noted down all the different exams and check points that she had to go through this academic year, for this she used the school calendar and the school diary. The check points even included all the different Monday tests and class test, in short it contained everything that added to her final result. She then tried to visualize the exams and the check points in terms of different points and she also knew that normally if one has to pass the class then he has to clear all the different checkpoints. But, she also knew that she was not that normal case, she had to devise her own strategy. She gave certain weights to all the point (checkpoints) based on their importance in the academic curriculum. A normal student would just go on to accomplish all the different checkpoints i.e. he would have all the different points somehow linked with each other, now this was something that was out of Shreana’s reach. So, she decided to apply her own rule of minimum lines even to this academic curriculum. She joined the different points based on the weights associated with them in such a manner that needed the minimum possible lines which still included all the major points. Virtually what she did was giving some of the exams extra importance and simply ignoring some of the exams.

Her strategy was really a random and scary one. She decided to give importance to all the alternate Monday tests i.e. she would be skipping one out of every two Monday tests. She also had four major exams this year out of which she decided to skip two. But again there was also this big condition that she had to study extremely hard for all the exams that she was marking out. After marking all these exams she just visualized what she had done, she could see a partially connected set of points which ended up crossing the final point i.e. the ultimate hurdle of the final exams, but she could also see that if even a single joining line of the set of points had got erased i.e. if she could not achieve any one of the marked checkpoints then she would falter again. This new strategy that Shreana had devised was able to reduce the work load to the bare minimum; she could just simply not reduce it any further. By reducing the work load she was giving her not so competent mind enough time and space to cope up with the enervating academic curriculum. Well, by doing so she was also taking a big risk as this whole idea could have backfired and she could have failed again, but again what else could she have done. She had tried almost everything, this was her final shot.

Shreana had to keep this whole plan a secret; she could not afford to leak it out. No one was going to believe her; she knew that even her mother was not going to believe her. Well, how can you convince a mother saying her that by not giving two of the mid terms you can pass your final exams? You just can’t do that.
Now it was Showtime, it was time to implement her plan. She stuck with her new strategy, in the beginning she was very apprehensive of what was going to happen but she had no other plan to rely upon, she had to back up her instincts. She studied hard in accordance with her devised plan, what was remarkable was her new rejuvenated approach. Now, whatever she studied, be it a new topic or a new subject she studied with her own developed strategy. She knew that she was weak at memorizing and was also incompetent in making long linked memory chains. So, by her new approach she attacked the very problem that she suffered from. She tried to find as many possible similarities between anything that she studied and thus tried to link them with some sort imaginary line. Like this she was able to increase her retaining power and also made her more effective in grasping newer concepts. She also used checkpoints for the purpose of memorizing. She used to mark whatever she studied, this mark was in the form of some sort of summary of what she had read, so now resuming the marked topic had become very easy, she just had to go through the summary and then she could resume the topic.

It was her first midterm exam that she was giving after all her hard works. She was quite confident that she was going to do well in her exams. Well, she really did well. She managed to pass in all the subjects which were more than just a revelation for her. Her mother Kavita could not believe it, it was like years after which her daughter had passed. An unlikely hope had reaped in Kavita’s heart, now she wanted even more. She wanted her daughter to do well and not just pass. Little did she know that all her dreams were soon going to come crashing down in just the next exams. She was totally unaware of the game that her daughter was playing. Shreana stuck to her plan, she did not study for her next midterms, instead she just revised all that she had studied till now and just moved on slowly with newer topics. By doing this she was making permanent memory lines in her mind which would aid her to clear her final exams. She knew it very well that if she jumped the gun and study for the coming midterm then she might pass this time but would definitely falter in the finals. So, against her mother’s desires and dreams she had to stick to her plan and sacrifice this midterm. And she did the same and she was expected she did poorly. What came positive was that even after outrageously ignoring the midterms she managed to pass in two of the five subjects. It was really magical for her; it was something that was totally unexpected. Kavita’s hopes scuttled with Shreana’s poor results, she again became disappointed and hopeless.

Shreana was pretty happy with her progress; everything was going as she had planned. She had managed to pass all the exams that she had targeted. Now it was the finals, she gave it with all the preparations. Well, indirectly all through the year she was preparing for the final exams.

It was the result declaration day and Shreana had gone to collect her results. Kavita was anxiously waiting for her daughter, though she was not hoping much, but her deepest desires were that her daughter passed this time. Shreana had come back home after collecting her results. Her face was grim and saddened. Kavita was ready for all kinds of shocks and surprises. Seeing her daughter she could gauge that she had not performed well. Out of disappointment Kavita turned her back and moved to do what she was doing. Just then Shreana gave a mysterious and deceptive smile and Kavita got it all. She could feel that her daughter was playing games with her. Soon Shreana said that she had passes and was now going to the next class. Kavita felt like she was in the seventh world, she became very anxious and hugged her. It was after such a long time when Shreana had brought such immense happiness to her family.
The Big Transition

Change to become the best.

Now as she had decided, the next thing in her priority list was to get back into her previous school. She was pretty confident of achieving this feat. She had to clear an entrance exam. Something unusual struck her, now instead of sitting for the entrance exam for class 6 she decided to sit for the exam for class 7. She could also gauge the extreme consequences of her decision; if she failed in the exams then she would have to stay back in her previous school. Well, she was willing to take that risk, she was confident that if she studied strategically then she would definitely crack the exam.

What prompted her to go for such an extreme decision? There were two reasons. Firstly, she knew that she was now 17 years old and according to that age she should have been in class 9 or 10, instead she was going to class 6, which was much more than just shameful and degrading for her. Secondly, she could somehow feel that extra bit of confidence in her, after what she did to pass the jinxed standard 5; she had grown a lot in terms of self-confidence. She liked the new challenge in her life, the new attitude that she followed and the new rejuvenated spirit with which she did everything. She was so much willing to take that risk.

There was also this problem of convincing her parents, she could see that her parents would never support her dangerous endeavor. She was left with only one option; she had to fill the exam forms on her own. She was left with 2 months and one complete year syllabus to complete, that really was a daunting task. But she was all for it. She again had to devise a strategy for the exams. She knew that math, science and English were the most important subjects, she also knew that she could do without studying the lesser important subjects like Hindi and Social sciences. She first analyzed her strengths; she marked all the topics that she was really good at. She then by the help of some of her friends found the chapters of standard 6 that were linked to the chapters which she was good at. Her first aim was to extend the chain by mastering the newer related topics, she gave somewhere around 15 to 20 days to do this. Later her next stage was to create newer chains, she again took the help of her friends to select the relatively easier topics and then she started working on them. What she did was to proceed in an absolutely hierarchical manner; at no stage did she jump the gun. She could also see her memory chain growing, at no stage in her preparation did she gave any sort of extra pressure on her fragile mind.

At the end of 40 days she was left with 1 third of the syllabus, She could feel the pressure building but then she stayed calm and totally relied on her basic strategy. She mapped the completed syllabus and the incomplete syllabus on a paper and visualized them in the form of points. The completed syllabus were all connected and the incomplete syllabus were unconnected, she knew that in order to pass the exams she had to have all the points connected in some manner so that there could be path that would help her to reach the other end of the maze. She did it in the most effective manner, she studied only one third of the left incomplete syllabus and left the rest. By doing this she had covered all the major topics and had in a way traversed the maze. Last five days she had left for Hindi and Social Sciences. She had taken the risk of ignoring these subjects because she knew that if she performed well in the important subjects Math, English and Science then even then the school would consider her case.
Well, she gave the entrance exam. Her parents were not expecting much from her.

It was a quite morning with Rajiv preparing to leave for the shop. He was completely unaware of what was going to happen today. He ate his breakfast and was ready to go to his shop. Just then the phone rang. It was a call from the school for which Shreana had given the entrance exams. They said that her daughter Shreana had cleared the entrance exams and was eligible to get admission in class 7, Rajiv could not believe her ears; he was thinking that her daughter had given the exam for class 6. He confirmed the class and it was class 7 that they said. He could not control himself, never before had Shreana given them such enormous happiness, he shouted all the way and straightaway went to his daughter. He told Shreana of the results and embraced her. He was simply amazed he could not have asked for anything more. It was like a miracle unfolding in front of his eyes. Never had he expected Shreana to do so well, he then asked her about the class for which she gave the entrance exam. He was totally startled to hear a confident and completely changed Shreana. The entire family partied that night; well they had all the very reasons for it.

Shreana was now a totally changed girl, oozing with self-confidence. Her perspective towards life had completely changed. She had attacked the very problem she suffered from. Now she tried to visualize everything around her in terms of points and the she tried to look for the shortest possible path to connect them. It was simply wonderful, seeing her strategy work so fine.

Time passed by and she cleared all the exams that she targeted. Though she never used to excel in any of exams, she managed to pass them comfortably. She had managed to occupy a fixed sort of rank, somewhere half through the class.

Three years had passed and she gave her board exams where she managed to score 76%. Well, it was not something that you can boast off, but thinking of what Shreana was three years back it was really a commendable performance. Now the question was about her further studies. The school that she studied had classes only till tenth. There was just one school in the town that had 11th and 12th standard and that school was not a very good one. Only mediocre students used to study in that school, all the bright students used to ward off to a different city for their further studies.

Shreana also had the desires to study in a good school. She wanted to go to Delhi. But the major problem was convincing her father. Rajiv was financially capable of sending his daughter to Delhi. It was just that dilemma in which he was caught; on one side was his daughter’s desire and on other side was bare reality. He was unsure if his daughter would be able to settle down in a different city, away from her parents also he knew that competition would be really tough out there and so he feared if his daughter would succumb to the pressure.

Finally after constant pestering from his daughter, he took the brave decision to send his daughter to Delhi. How could he disappoint his daughter, he had to give her the one chance, and that’s what exactly he did, he gave his daughter the one chance to chase her dreams.
CITY LIGHT

Bring it on

The time had finally come. The small town girl was going places. She had got admission into Amity International School, saket, one of the better schools of Delhi. She was in the second best section of standard 11. She was quite content with it, well…, how could have she asked for more. Looking her 6 year, back no one could have told that this girl would even be able to pass her boards. But look at her, she is right there, challenging and fighting every barrier coming her way.

The journey from a small town to a big city was not that easy. It took her several weeks to adjust to the new lifestyle. Never before in her life had she seen so much of dazzle. Everything was so different, traveling by bus, living at such a fast pace. First week was a complete nightmare, autovaallas looted her, missed her buses, forgot most of the road paths, it was really terrible. But she had not forgotten her weakness. She knew that if she would let this new fast and somewhat mean lifestyle of Delhi baffle her then she would not be able to concentrate on her studies. Her petite mind would not be able to handle it; it would succumb to the extreme pressure. So, she had to let everything go, she stopped bothering, it did not make any difference if she had to pay 60 Rs instead of 40 Rs to the autovaala. She just concentrated on her studies and took everything else in the lightest possible manner. She knew that with time she would surely settle down but if she lagged behind in studies then she would never be able to bounce back.

She was staying in the school hostel. Her roommate was Anjana Bhattacharya a girl from Asansol, west Bengal. She was very studious, and was in the top-most section of the class. Shreana and Anjana used to gel very well, they both were good girls. Anjana had understood that Shreana was not a very intelligent girl and that she just managed to pass her exams. She could feel that Shreana was not of her league but never showed it to her. She did not show any air of superiority towards her, actually she did not had to as she just knew that she was better than her.

Life was going pretty smooth for Shreana. She did not worry much about her studies and just followed the same old strategy of hers where she distributed her total loads on some selected checkpoints. It was all working well for her. She managed to pass all her selected exams and got a consistent rank of somewhere middle in the class.

But was she really content with her performance?

It is a very normal human trait, a human always seeks to do better, he is never content and satisfied with what it has, and he always wants more. Well, the same was the case with Shreana. She had got bored with her monotonous life. She had become so damn regularly consistent in her performance that she had started to hate it, now she just did not want to pass she wanted to excel. She was sick of being labeled as an average she wanted to go in to the league of the toppers of the class.

Was she dreaming too much, did she have the right to dream, well… a girl of Shreana’s caliber who has never been on the fore front and now suddenly aspiring to be there at the top, it did sound a bit impossible.
But Shreana had already shown... impossible is nothing; she had bounced back from such a dearth from where only a few could have recovered. She was now a fighter and mind you a lethal one.

But this time what was going to be her strategy? Answer. The same old strategy, but this time a lot more exhaustive. She had her plans well sketched out; she knew that she will have to study real hard for achieving what she set to achieve.

Shreana knew that studying was really not her forte; she had to dwell on some other means to achieve the so called impossible fete. Other than studying she did three other things. The first very obvious thing that one always normally does was attending all the classes. Earlier she did not attend all the classes, she only attended the classes that she intended to do; now she did not miss any class. She not only just attended the classes, but also heard what the teachers said, she tried to grab as much as her little brain could retain. She had this uncanny trait of hearing/listening to those things that the teacher gave more emphasis on, she noted down all such points. She could figure out the important points from the class, and as I told noted them down. Now, when she reached home the first thing that she did was to study all those points that she considered to be important and then she tried her level best to fit them in any of her memory chains.

The second thing that she did was quite unlike her, she had to compromise. Before now, she had never asked Anjana anything related to studies, but now she had to, she started to constantly bug Anjana. She asked Anjana everything that she could not understand on her own, earlier she either used to skip any such topic or used to find a alternative for it, but now she could not do that, she had to cover everything.

Third thing that she did got her closest to achieving her fete. She practiced everything that she had covered by writing them down and while she wrote, she made a set of questions that she labeled as “probable questions”. She could narrow down to such a question set only after an extensive research say... extensive study.

The exam time cam and she was all set to fire.

Guess what happened?

She came second in the entire class, this was more than just miraculous for her, she had just defeated her room partner Anjana, and she could also not believe what just had happened.

Now, Shreana was a different person, full on confidence, ready.... to live her dream.
MAN FROM HELL

*Run lola run!!!!*

She was all set for it; her senior, Sambhavi soon going to get married. Sambhavi’s parents were on a groom searching spree. They wanted her daughter to get married at the earliest; even Sambhavi was also excited on the prospects of getting married. Shreana was a close friend of Sambhavi.

Now, this Sunday Sambhavi was to see a boy, say, her most probable husband. Sambhavi’s parents were quite enthusiastic and sure that he would be the perfect guy for their daughter. The boy Vikram was an electronics engineer and was now well settled in Mumbai. Shreana was also invited and she was also quite excited about it. All preparations were made; Vikram and his family were soon going to arrive. Sambhavi was obviously both tensed and excited.

The door bell rang, thrice; Sambhavi’s parents went to receive the guests. Well..., Vikram was quite good looking. Sambhavi had three uncles and all three of them were present there, the boy Vikram shook hands with Sambhavi’s dad, his two uncles and as soon as the third uncle put forth his hand, he backed off. Initially it looked very awkward, instead he joined his hands and said Namaste. All went to the drawing room.

There was surely something strange about Vikram, did everyone notice or was it just there in Shreana’s mind.

“How is the work there in Mumbai?” asked Sambhavi’s father. “It’s good, it’s really good, it’s great” said Vikram. Sambhavi’s dad was obviously very happy to hear that, he was looking for this perfect son in law in Vikram.

Shreana noticed this one strange thing in Vikram. He was all the time moving his ring.

Soon, Sambhavi came down. Vikram and Sambhavi looked great together. Everything was going really well, just then Vikram’s dad put forward the proposal for engagement, it was the icing on the cake. Sambhavi’s dad could not have asked for more. They decided for the engagement to take place the next Sunday, the date was actually proposed by Vikram.

Again, while leaving, Vikram touched the feet of all three uncles’ of Sambhavi. He just simply did not touch his to-be father in law’s feet. Again it was a bit awkward, but was... fine, Sambhavi’s dad had found the perfect groom for his daughter, what else could have he asked for.

All the guests left for their homes, Shreana also went to her home. There was this unusual glitch in her mind. She somehow appeared to be a bit perturbed. She did not like Vikram, What!!!!! Well... hello... no one was asking for her suggestion. She could not help thinking about Vikram, she had to find out, she had to find out if there was anything wrong with him.

She decided to visit Vikram’s house, well... she was not sure how it was going to end up, but she was not left with any other choice. Her conscience was not simply leaving her; it was forcing her to find the truth.
She visited Vikram’s parents, they lived in Delhi. Everything was absolutely fine, no distinct aberrance could be seen. She was greeted well by her Vikram’s parents. She told that she had come to meet Vikram, well... she had to give a reason.

Now, she had just started to feel fine and was about to leave, something strange and unusual struck her. She noticed that there was absolutely no photo of Vikram in the house, well... normally an old parent have the photo of their son in their house. There was some photo of the old couple but none of them had Vikram.

This may have not appeared strange to many but it surely did startle Shreana.

Now, what next, what was she now going to do, was she going to go to Mumbai. Oh no, how could she go to Mumbai, it was not like going to Chandigarh from Delhi, it was bloody Mumbai, and besides why did she had to care so much about Sambhavi so much, her parents were there to look after her.

Well, this is what anyone else would have thought, but not Shreana, she just simply could not stop her; she decided to take the brave decision of going to Mumbai. Her aunt lived there in Mumbai and she was always asking her to come to her place, so staying in Mumbai was not a big problem. She got the permission from her parents and flew off to Mumbai.

She was quite excited, for the first time was she doing this detective sort of thing. Vikram knew that Shreana was there in Mumbai, Sambhavi had already told her. So, as was the formality, he asked Shreana out for lunch. Shreana thought that this was the perfect chance to observe Vikram closely. There was also this fear in her mind, she had always had this gut feeling that there was something terribly wrong with Vikram. She had to take this risk, besides it would be all in the daylight.

They went to a restaurant, where they had food and they talked. Shreana could not exactly find anything wrong in Vikram, though here also he was continuously fiddling with his ring. Everything went fine and Vikram dropped Shreana to her aunt’s place. Shreana was now pretty much content, but just for the sake she decided to recollect everything that she had seen and known about Vikram. She decided to visualize everything about him as different points.

She was taken aback, she had never thought of this before, She found the most unexpected thing. All the points that she had drawn regarding Vikram were pointing towards just one thing. How, did she miss it before, how did it take her so long that Vikram was suffering from one of the most psychologically dreaded disease the OCD (obsessive compulsion disorder). She had once read about this disease in the library. Vikram was an extreme manifestation of this disease.

Now, what is this disease?

Well, OCD is a generalized form of a philological disorder and Vikram was having one of its kinds. He was forced to do everything in numbers of three. Right from the day Shreana saw him first till today he was exhibiting the symptoms of the disease. Ringing the bell thrice, touching the feet of only three, replying with repeating the words thrice (like it’s great, it’s good, it’s fine) all were dear indications of his suffering from the disease. It is not that he wants to do things that way; he is simply forced to do it. His disease was
again reaffirmed today. Vikram called for the waiter thrice, the waiter had heard him only the first time, but the disease forced him to call him two more times. It did not strike Shreana there at the hotel, but now it was all clear in front of her eyes. To add on when she remembered what he did with his ring all the time, she could again see that he used to sometimes touch it thrice, sometimes move it thrice; it was there with him all the time.

The reason for the disease: “obsessive fear of committing sin that creates excessive anxiety that he is compelled to do something that can ease that anxiety, and that something is doing everything in multiples of threes”

Now what, now that she knew what was wrong with Vikram, what was going to be her next step.

Now the question was, was the disease a dreaded one, what could have been the consequences if Sambhavi married him?

Now, that she had something to back on, she decided to go further into the matter. She decided to go to Vikram’s place, not in his presence but in his absence. Thos could have definitely been risky but she was willing to take the risk. How could she enter his house, Oh, she knew that, she was quite sure that he would be keeping his keys in three different position, she just had to be a bit clever and she would find the keys.

As she had decided, she went to his house; it was 10 in the morning. He used to leave to his office by 9:30. And, as she had thought she found the keys, they were beneath the flower vase kept outside the house. She entered the house, everything appeared quite normal. She looked for all the minutest details that she could see. She also found one strange thing, the house did not have any photos of his parents.

She was moving through the different rooms, just then she entered one of the rooms, her eyes went wide open, she was openmouthed, she had never seen anything like that, she found everything in the room kept in the numbers of tree, starting from a mere paste to a television. She just simply could not believe what she was seeing. Then, she was going through the different files kept in one of the drawers. What she saw almost made her skip a beat, she got extremely frightened, and she almost froze. Just then the door bell rang, Oh hell, now what, what could she do, she just simply did not know what to do, Never ever in her life was she so frightened, she was sweating profusely. She simply did not know what to do? The bell did not stop, she had to do something, she went to the door and, saw from the door’s hole, it was a woman, she was probably the sweeper or the maid, she gathered all her guts and said “sir is not here”. On listening that, the maid left. Shreana took a sigh of relief.

But what did she see in the files. It had to be something really horrendous. She went and took photos of the file and instantly left the place. She was virtually running all the way.

She could take a sigh of relief only after reaching her home. The same day she left to Delhi and straightaway rushed to Sambhavi’s house. She had to tell Sambhavi and her parents of what she had found about Vikram. She knew that if she would not have brought any proofs then no one would have believed her, so she had brought the photos that she took from the file.
First she told them about the disorder that she had found and told them how Vikram was also suffering from the disease. Later she took out the photos and what followed next was simply as I earlier mentioned horrendous. The first photo was Vikram getting married to a girl in the Bengali tradition; the next one was he getting married with a girl in a south Indian tradition. Both theses photos were accompanied by two terrifying photos showing both the women dead. She now showed the next most dreaded picture, the picture showed an empty slot for two new pictures, probably to be filled by Sambhavi.

She next told that she was Sambhavi was going to get married on the 3rd march which was a Tuesday and you could see March is the third month of the year and Tuesday the third day of the week. And after she would get married, she would have completed Vikram’s trinity.

One thing that was unclear to Shreana was that how did Vikram keep such an intriguing and dangerous file in the open, maybe he might be just going to move them from that place or maybe he may be having some of his own plans.

Sambhavi’s parents could not have been more grateful, she had just saved their daughter from getting slaughtered.

Soon, Sambhavi parents reported to the police and guess what the old coupe who told to be Vikram’s parent were not his real parents. Vikram was a total fraud and a sick person was soon was held captive by the police.
**MONEY it’s a GAME**

*Show thy world*

She knew she had it, what she just did was surely something different. Well, it had taken her 20 bloody grueling years to realize that.

She was now ready to take on the world. Was ready... to be noticed, to be heard... to speak loud and yes... also earn some money.

News papers, what, was she now going to sell newspapers. Oh no! Our girl has more wits than that. She daily used to read news papers and one day it stuck her, now instead of just reading the paper she was going to analyze and bloody memorize it. Yes, she was now going to make big bucks, she was going to do business. Well, every business needs some investment, now, who was going to invest in her? She had to first prove her credentials then only could she get some money. She started to spend hours reading the business section of the news paper; she tried to visualize the different news not independently but, tried to link them up. She read the headlines of the section and then applied what she called hers principle of connected points. She searched for news that was any how remotely related to the main news. She maintained a notebook, where she wrote down whatever inferences she got from the daily paper.

Every day first she saw the previous day’s news that she had written and then she read the day’s news and believe me the result was magical. She could now see everything in the form of a web or say a graph whose points were different news that was somehow related to each other. She could even relate some vegetable price hike with a price increase in the shares of a cement industry.

Within a few weeks she had understood how the share market worked and what its consequences were. She was now all set to make some dangerous predictions. It was all quite in the morning and she was just going through the news paper when suddenly she stood and went on to read the notebook that she maintained, she just made some calculations and said today reliance share prices are going to get double, all those who will buy its share today are going to get doubly rich. Well, she was not actually announcing or telling it to somebody but was just saying it to herself and this time luck was with her as her tenant overheard it. He at times invested money in the share markets. Well, he also heard it casually; it was not that he was going to rush to the share market and buy a lakh rupees share or anything like that.

She did not realize but she had got her investor, just as she had predicted reliance share doubled that morning and the tenant was unexpectedly taken aback, he could not have imagined a petite looking girl like Shreana making such a prediction. It just stuck him why he did not listen to her. Well now he wanted to take help from the girl, he wanted her to predict the daily market. Though she had predicted it right the previous day, but still how could you tell that she was not just guessing. Next day, the tenant just casually asked her how the market was going to behave; Shreana could see a glimpse of hope. Now, she again had to make some accurate predictions in order to win over the tenant and guess what, that’s exactly that she did.
Now the game was to begin, Srikanth the tenant made a deal with Shreana, he was going to trust her and was going to do some serious investment in the shares, and Shreana was going to get 20% of the profit that he was going to make. Well 20% was at least a beginning, she was content with it. They had not decided on the condition where they incurred any loss in the transaction.

Now, this morning was the D day, she was to lead, she was to tell Srikanth which share they had to invest in. Well till now nothing was for real, it was all on papers, her predicting the share market, but boy this was for real, and if she made any wrong predictions then they were going to lose some real money. So she was quite nervous that morning on the other hand Srikanth was quite happy and eager to invest as he felt that the girl was not going to let them down. Just to do some real business and get a feel of it, Srikanth decided to take Shreana to the real stock market, where real physical transactions used to take place. They reached the place earliest they could.

They should not have done that, Shreana could not handle, the rush and the crowd was too much for her, the constant commotion was simply beating her down, she just simply could not concentrate, the big board having the price of the different shares changing continuously, it was too much for the girl. She wanted to tell Srikanth that she was not able to concentrate a she would not be able to predict the right share. But Srikanth was so very eager and anxious that he just simply did not want to step out. Shreana was now left with no other option but to give a try. She did her best, he thought and again thought and then told that L an T cement stock prices are to increase, Srikanth had already seen how correct Shreana predictions were, so he did not want to make a small bid, he went for the big shot. He bought Shares worth 1lakh of rupees.

God forbid, the decision back fired and instead of the share getting doubled, its price reduced to a half, that meant Srikanth had lost half of his money. Oh hell! What had she done, she just simply could not believe that she had just lost a half lakh of rupees. She was definitely feeling sad and tensed and was also worried on how Srikanth was going to react, she thought that Srikanth would get angry at her but she was confident that she would be able to convince him to once again trust her and she would be surely able to bounce back. That's what she had thought but that's not what that happened what happened was much worse than her imagination. Srikanth came to her and threatened her to pay him back his half lakh of rupees or otherwise he would inform her parents and would even retort to other unfriendly methods to get his money from her.

Never had she expected anything so disastrously happening to her, she just simply could not digest the fact that this was happening to her. She was in a situation where she simply felt helpless. But our girl has seen situation worse than this, well failing thrice in the same class can be surely regarded as a equally terrible and traumatizing experience. But, now the situation is slightly different as now there is a physical threat that she has to face.

Shreana was not going to let this wave her spirits, she was going to come back and this time she decided she was going to come back hard. She asked for a five day time from Srikanth after which she would be pay him the fifty thousand rupees. She knew, she had to do this but now who was going to finance her,
she knew one person who would definitely help her it was her friend Shambhavi, She decided to borrow ten thousand rupees from her. She was quite sure that Shambhavi would give her the money.

She had to make sure that this time she did not fumble, she started visiting the stock exchange, now instead of getting afraid of the crowd and the general hostile feeling, and she started to absorb the whole thing. It was a bit difficult in the beginning, but she soon coped up. She again tried to visualize everything as interrelated points; she saw how people reacted when the share went up, when it went down and every minute details. She saw how the stocks fluctuated and how the market worked. She did this thing for four consecutive days; it appeared that she was all set to challenge the complete stock system.

The fifth day had come and it was again the D day for her, she had to prove her worth, she had to convert the ten thousand that she got from Sambhavi into fifty thousand so that she could give it back to Srikanth. She went to the stock exchange, as if all set to wage a battle. It was a different morning, the market was fluctuating every moment, the general trend was on a downward slope, and people on a whole were losing. This again was a difficult scenario for Shreana, now she had to make the right predictions just at the right time or else she could go down under further trouble. Well from all the experience that she have had in those previous four days, she could feel that she was not going to lose today. The market was going down at the most tremendous rate that it could have gone, people who had invested earlier this morning were facing great losses our Shreana was not among those unfortunate. Everyone was in anticipation on how the market would behave, if it would at all rise or not. Shreana was well concentrating on the stock price display board; she was in some sought of deep thought. Just then, when the situation appeared the gloomiest, she made the bet of her life, if it would at all rise or not. Shreana was well concentrating on the stock price display board; she was in some sought of deep thought. Just then, when the situation appeared the gloomiest, she made the bet of her life, she invested all the ten thousand that she had on some local company that was almost unnoticeable, and guess what happened, the stocks worth rose from ten thousand to 18 thousand that was magical, but as soon as the price rose she sold the stocks and got her 18 thousand minus some taxes, she had a gut feeling that the price would go down in just a few minutes and guess again what happened, as soon as she sold her stocks, the price belted down to a mere 7 thousand. She continued with the process and within three hours she was richer by a lakh, it was a whooping amount, she knew that, it was even sufficient to clear all her debts so she decided to move from the place. People who saw her carry on her transactions were simply dazzled and were left agog at what they just witnessed. Hardly anyone had made any profits on that dull and gloomy day except Shreana who not only just made a profit but made a bloody fortune.

Now, it was payback time, she returned fifty thousand to Srikanth well she decided to teach him a lesson, instead of giving her 50 K she gave her 60 K and said him that she earned 5lakh that day and also told that she got someone else who is willing to invest her and also she decided to shift to a different place. She also gifted a saree to Sambhavi and returned the money that she took from her.

She shifted to a new place, this was relatively calmer and a soother place. She was on the roof of the house, it was evening time, she was all alone, she was staring or say gazing at the sun and wondering what exactly it was, what was the sun linked to, she had this uncanny or say an inherent habit to find links between different things, well as is evident she is here in Delhi just because of this unnatural ability of hers. Just then something very unexpectedly happened, as she was looking at the sun, she got very engrossed in it, she was thinking something, something that might be amazing her. Just after a few
minutes when she turns back and looks at a cloth hanging it starts burning. Unnaturally or say unscientifically it simply started to burn. She just simply could not understand. Before she could think how it all happened, the cloth was in flames. She had to rush to put the fire off.
CAN I?

*If you can face the mirror then you have it in you*

Did she have any special powers? Was that for real, was that by some fluke or did she really set that cloth on fire?

Oh! She was bloody confused. She did not know what happened to her, she was feeling scared, she went on to the roof. It was a 10 floored building and so the roof was at quite a height.

Next, what happened is simply legendary. She was at the railing, she saw something that she could not relate to, she rubbed her eyes hoping to get a clearer view, but nothing changed.

What was happening? What did she see? I think the question is wrongly framed; it should be, what did she not see?

She could see everything within her eyesight. Well every one can see everything within its eyesight, so what was the difference in her case. She just simply did not see everything in their normal form but saw them differently. She could see everything like a dot. For instance she could see a flying bird in some sort of a concentrated point; similarly she could also visualize a kite in the form of a point. In addition to this she could also see an imaginary line joining the two points. Well, you must be thinking that anyone can find similarity between a kite and a bird, both fly, but the thing was that, she could implicitly see that relationship, it was like that she could really see them linked to each other. More importantly it was not just with the kite and the bird, everything she saw was in a form of a point linked to each other in any way they resembled. It was like a movie unfolding in front her, normally one saw such thing happening in movies and not in real life.

The view was magnificent; she simply could not control herself, everything down from the building looked so different, the feeling was incredibly ecstatic. She was not trying to do this, it was just happening on its own, everything around her was in the form of some sort of dots, it was unbelievable, it first took her some time to get into groove and realize what exactly was happening, but soon she could find that what she used as a weaponry in everything that she did, had now become her part.

She got down and stepped on to the streets, she just simply could not believe it. It was marvelous, just by looking two different people she could say if they had any thing in common, she just simply did not know how it was happening but it surely was happening. She just needed to talk to a person and then she could tell everything about that person’s habit.

But how exactly did it all happen?

Well... it was like a database in her mind. It just simply came to her mind from only god knows where. The database contained set of different points each related to one another in any way that they resembled. Now when she spoke to a person, she scanned her database to find a point resembling the person she was communicating, then she saw the links connected to that dot. For instance she could scan the database for any particular style of the person she was talking to, or she could scan for any common or any
particular trait she observed in the person and then could see the links attached to that point. In that way all the points linked to the point were somehow also linked to that person. This is how the magic worked for her.

Earlier she really had to do this scanning, she had to think but now it was different, she did not have to scan her mind it was all happening automatically, she did not have to think and find if a particular case was there in her mind or not, if it was there then it was simply visible to her.

Now where did that database come into her mind, it was still a mystery. Well, it was not something that just popped up from nowhere; it had its origin well sketched out. Starting from the day when she started to visualize everything in the form of interconnected dots till today she had probably made more than a lakh of memory chains, these chains had an inherent feature of being linked, well just the name “chain” suggests a link. These chains were so very simply and efficiently linked that they just simply persisted in Shreana’s mind. It never vanished. Till now it was just there in her brain, it needed just a little impetus for her to realize what she was storing in her little mind. And when she defeated Srikant and earned for the first time, she realized that she was not just a normal being, she reinforced the belief in herself and just that moment saw the birth of the real Shreana, the Shreana who is unafraid of any challenge, any barrier that comes her way. That bank of memory dots just simply came in to the forefront and she could now see them in front of her eyes. It was not that the database was complete or it was static, it was growing day by day, every day she saw different things and those entire new thing went into her mind with the obviousness of being linked to any other earlier dot.

You can say that Shreana was a living memory bank that constantly grew in size and strength.

She just simply started to amaze people with her newly found ability or say a form of magic. You will soon see the outcome of her power was more than just magical. She just had to talk to the boy and the girl to know if they were at all compatible or say if they could marry and live happily. If there existed two paths for the same destination, then by the numbers of cars moving and their density in the respective paths she could tell which path to follow. She could back trace any observation. She could even frame the perfect question if she was told the answer.
Limitlessness

But wait..., how did the fire on the roof start, one day sitting idle, it simply stuck her from nowhere. She again got into a quandary, the same deep thought, how exactly that cloth caught fire, was it like destined to catch fire or did she do something, well, what exactly could she have done, she can at least have not created the fire. Why waste time, she decided and went straight to the roof and thought to redo everything. She remembered that she was gazing the sun and was thinking of any relation the sun had with anything. She tried to do the same thing yet again, she tried to concentrate hard and just like the previous time, she turned back and saw a hanging cloth but unlike the previous time nothing happened. She tried it again, many number of time and all the time the result was the same.

After sometime, she had lost hope and was pretty convinced that the fire was destined and she had no hand in it. She was just about to go down when a kite caught her attention, she started looking at the kite, it appeared that she was really spellbound by that simple kite, may be that was no simple kite, maybe she was seeing a kite for the first time or may thy almighty had some other plans. She was leaning against the railing and was looking at the kite, soon she noticed the boy who was flying the kite, he was on the edge of the roof, he must be somewhere around 12 years old. That house had a very low railing. Shreana had the fear that the boy might fall down as he was almost on the edge and while she was thinking that, the boy really ripped down. It must have taken a few microseconds i.e. a thousandth of a second before Shreana decided to jump, can you believe what happened, she flew at a speed faster than the lightening, she flew, yes, yes, she flew, she was in the air, she did not drop but flew, in the way she caught the boy and landed safely, the boy would have otherwise died. As soon as she got on the ground, she started to run.

While on the roof she was thinking what if the child fell, she thought... if he falls then what if she could move at the speed of the lightening and catch the child in between. While she was thinking all of this the child actually fell and she actually flew... faster than the lightening.

Now, this really was serious, it really needed some real explanation.

She was running and running, she was not able to think anything, how do you expect her to believe that she flew, some day back she had had initiated a fire and now today she was flying. Something was seriously wrong with this girl. She must have run about 2 – 3 miles and now she had reached the highway, she was still running. While running, she took a big leap and... she was in the air, she was again gliding in the air. She then ran and jumped and flew, it was magnificent, grandiloquent and glorious.

Now, she was laughing. She loved it, she was not at all getting tired, and she simply went on. While in the air she knew, she could also light fire, she knew, that day the fire was not by any fluke, it was she who had initiated the fire, she again looked at the sun and said “fire” and she was blazing with it, this was impossible, this was godly, she was really on fire and still nothing was happening to her.

Did she have any explanation of what was happening to her, yes, she did have; well... now it appeared that she had explanations for every possible thing.
She knew that all the points/dots that were present in her mind had now become a part of her, everything that she knew, that was there in her mind, was now hers. Like that day on the roof, she was seeing the sun and was thinking what it was related too, well... it was nothing other but her, she had the sun in her, she could start fire, and that’s what she had done.

Well, now there was probably nothing that she could not do. She could start fire, she could freeze things, she could fly, and she could goddamn do anything.

She just though, it’s was always there in the dot.

... The dream finally had begun.