

Obituary

A Bright Lamp: Prof. Abbas Raza

Muhammad Imran Hasan Khan

Last leg of six month house job just started. Duty roosters were assigned, and once again it was same!! I could not believe. What is this? Why not everyone? Is my batch the only one left for night shift? I went straight to the registrar and confronted him with my view infuriatedly.

He laughed, then said, you still don't understand? Your batch is doing the night duty regularly because these are the people who stay awake at night. You must notice that the medical officer with you has not changed. Doctor Abbas also doesn't leave his duty place. This wasn't my first introduction to Dr. Abbas. Last five months have been witness of his punctuality, knowledge and every hard worker was his friend. He loved to teach as well, helping with keeping the stethoscope at the right place, or teaching through oral voices, perhaps there were other better teachers around at that time, but no one had time to teach like him. There came a time when we got a chance to work together in Jinnah Hospital. He had not change at all. Examining and treating a patient in detail was his prime quality. Due to our old relations, we were casual. When I decided for MRCP UK, he helped me in such a way that our relationship got stronger. When my departure got closer, he told me that he will be surprising me the next day. I got to understand that only when I found him standing next to me on airport. He had to stay at his brother's but those eight hours spent together were very beneficial for me since the exam was after two days. One day, he asked me if I had written a research paper. On my denial, he asked me the reason and invited me in the evening for a cup of tea. He guided me in such a way that after six months, I wrote two research papers instead of one. I got to know the importance of those when I went for an interview.



In 2011, he got ill due to a heart problem. This made me realize how strong he was and high in spirits. He showed us that despite problems, He swung between life and death for many days, then came back to work and kept himself busy till the last breath.

I happened to meet him few days before his demise. While cherishing old times, he asked me, "You used to sleep on this couch right?". I told him that it was not the same one. He then told me that he had changed the furnishing and not the entire sofa. He said that he knew my visit was due, and my affiliation with this couch was very strong as I slept on it during my training years for some time, He bid me farewell with the same warmth afterwards. Today, it is difficult to believe that he is not among us. Only Allah knows how good or bad is a person, but I testify for his Professional ethics. I have not seen a physician more professional than him. His students are a source of light for the community, and I believe that they will follow his suit. May Allah bless him with the highest rank in Jannah.