



## Humble Beginnings

Donald was the man with the stack of white singlets folded neatly under his row of neatly pressed work shirts. He didn't earn much, was against the implementation or acceptance

of change, and lived most of his life dwelling about his little home. Living a simple life was the only way he knew how, but there was something else about his nature that people fancied about him. Donald was a great problem solver, and could carry you out of a messy situation by his considerate analysis and viewpoints of where you might have gone wrong and how to rectify the problem.

Since the day I first came to know him (and this was umpteen years back, when we were in our late 20s), Donald and I shared the same passion: reading. Wherever he went, he brought with him a paperback novel that would be paged through with passion on his free time. I daresay that was his key to having a knowledgeable mindset, and had intuitive hindsight with the happenings of the world. Even as he read so much that happened in the world out there, Donald relished his simplistic lifestyle, and didn't require much to maintain his basic needs.

One time, Donald told me something which renewed my respect for him. "It's my son, Nelson. I am a man of simple needs, but I am no fool. For my son, I have stored close to \$100,000 away. Should anything happen (heaven forbid), or my son wants to further study, this money will be there for him."

Nelson certainly did not let his father down. Being his only son, he acquired his good habit of picking up books and being absorbed by its plot for hours on end. As he matured into a fine man, Nelson made a choice to pursue Marketing and Communication. Like the doting father that he was, Donald agreed to give his all to allow his son to achieve his dream, and Nelson was off to the UK.

Fulfilling his dream, Nelson excelled with flying colours, and made Donald proud. With such excellent grades, Nelson obtained a steady career with a conglomerate and got the chance to travel around the globe for his profession. Having such experience easily gave him essential knowledge and expertise to get information on the processes and policies of the ways of the top notch people. Mercury was in the 5<sup>th</sup> House of his chart, making him a fast study. Anything that seemed alien to him would be examined, dissected and mastered within a short period of time. Indeed, he was a true researcher, and learnt well in the ways of the working world. Nelson had that winning attitude that blended well with the international community of intellects, and his peers were willing to accommodate a man of Nelson's caliber and humbling nature, willing to input his fair share of effort and more just to reap the successes. These factors were the boost in his career, and he found himself climbing the ladder of success easily.

Even as Nelson proved his talents in the working world, Donald worried about his child ever settling down. It seemed to Donald that Nelson focused too much on his budding career, but when it came to relationships, he never seemed to be able to hold on long enough. It was no surprise to me, as Nelson had Saturn with Venus. This combination explained to me that Nelson was a very practical person; being very security conscious, his sole intention in life is to build on his security well before being able to give into any romantic developments. Another trait that might hinder his romance is that he might come across as a stingy man. Apparently, Nelson is prone to forgetting his money even when going to work. He was a man who does not make money an important issue, and ignore his own self interest in funds.

But I believe that with time, and the right one, a love can develop, and it did. Recently, I was invited to Nelson's wedding, and with the invite came a fully paid hotel room and service for 3 days, as well as their kind offer to bring me around their country. Their generosity there was overflowing, and I really felt the full appreciation of our friendship over the years. Nelson's wife was a smart lady in the business world, and I am glad that all of us were able to share such joy during this auspicious occasion and once again, renew our long term friendship.