

Contributors to 'First Days Project' Invited

In 1959, 18-year-old Tariq Abbas departed from Lahore and arrived in New York City, en route to Dallas where he had been placed through the American Field Service foreign exchange program. Texas, he soon realized, wasn't exactly the America he imagined: "I only knew of New York... I had no idea, no concept of what to expect or what I was going."

In 1973, Mamata Misra left Mumbai for Maryland with her husband of six weeks, and came to her own conclusions about the country she had just adopted: "I realized that for days and months I would be meeting only strangers talking strange and it was up to me to make friends out of strangers and create familiarity out of the unfamiliar."

These two snapshots form a part of the "First Days Project," a new initiative by the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) to collect and share stories from South Asians about their first day in the United States. An ambitious and interactive online exhibition, the First Days Project creates a platform for community members to upload and share the story of their first day in the U.S.

As Abbas and Misra's stories illustrate, the first days in a new country can be full of both excitement and anxiety, a sense of loss and gain, and a mixture of other emotions. It was with that in mind that SAADA Executive Director Samip Mallick began to imagine the First Days Project. "As the South Asian American community is starting to see its second and third generation in the U.S., it is imperative to begin to document these stories and provide a way for generations to connect with each other," Mallick explains. "Through interviewing my parents about their first days I learned something new about their experiences, hopes and dreams when first arriving in this country."

With the First Days Project, SAADA continues its longstanding effort to showcase stories that reflect the diversity of the South Asian diaspora. According to the 2010 census, there are more than 3.4 million Americans of South Asian heritage, a growth in 81% between 2000 and 2010. In other words, 1 in every 100 Americans traces their heritage to South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives. Yet there is also a critical danger in narratives of South Asian Americans being lost, particularly the ones left out of history books and not featured in the media. Stories like Tariq Abbas and Mamata Misra's underscore just how diverse and complex the lives of South Asians in the U.S. have been. The First Days Project reveals the intimate details of arrival that are often lost in the grand sweep of history.

First Day stories will be accepted through August 31, 2013 and can be submitted as video or audio (up to 3 minutes) or text (up to 300 words). Submit your own story or interview a family member or friend. No story is too big or too small.

You can browse stories, learn more and submit your story at www.saadigitalarchive.org/firstdays. Based in Philadelphia, the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) is the only independent nonprofit organization in the nation working to document the rich histories of South Asians in the United States and ensuring that this community's stories are protected and preserved for future generations.

All materials and stories that SAADA collects are made freely accessible to the public through its website at www.saadigitalarchive.org



Samip Mallick

Horoscope (Aug 16- Aug 22)



ARIES MAR 21-APR 20

A favourable and a fun-filled week is on the cards for you, says Ganesha. It is good that you take a logical and a practical approach towards your life and work. However, sometimes, you have to look at things from a different perspective altogether, which shall also give a fillip to your creativity. Now, you will also try to broaden your knowledge by interacting with various types of people. This is not a favourable period for litigation and legal hassles – steer clear or postpone.



TAURUS APR 21 - MAY 20

This week, you may face undue pressure at work. Pacing yourself with the set deadlines may become an issue, feels Ganesha. Due to your unnecessary attention to detail, you may also get stuck in unproductive pursuits, affecting your work adversely. Hence, you are advised to discard this tendency in you and get your act together, otherwise more trouble on the work front may embroil you. On the financial front, you will be anxious to save much from your earnings.



GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Ganesha foresees some hectic activity on the work front. You are likely to discuss various issues affecting your work with the top management or with your superiors. If you have your own business, then this period will prove to be rewarding. Even though financially you will be in a comfortable situation, you need to control your urge for impulsive buying and save more to secure your future. As far as relationships are concerned, your equation with your spouse will be good.



CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

You may get deviated from your goals and work this week. Hence, Ganesha advises you to maintain your focus and try to control your wavering mind. You need to maintain your composure, both in your personal and professional life. Work burden on you may increase too much, and you may have to put in extra hours to fulfil all your work obligations. You shall do it without complaining, since you don't like to pass the buck as far as work and taking responsibility for it is concerned.



LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

This week, be careful and do not let unscrupulous or shrewd people take undue advantage of you, warns Ganesha. You may experience some significant changes in your personality, thankfully which will have positive overtones. You may feel that you are discarding your rigidity, and becoming more flexible in your approach. Restrain yourself from taking part in speculative activities, as time is not favourable for them. On the romantic front, you may share a great equation with your spouse or partner



VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

During this week, you may be prone towards taking undue stress, mostly about your work and your performance in the assignments allotted to you. You shall be anxious about the outcome of all the hard work that you have invested in your professional life, and may actually be too engrossed in determining the possible outcome of your efforts, even though it may not be entirely in your hands. In such a situation, Ganesha advises you to be reasonable in your approach.



LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

A favourable week for you is in store, as you look set to be all bubbly and cheerful - in everything you do. Brimming with zest and enthusiasm, you will work hard and shall earn a great deal of respect and recognition. If you have been planning to initiate some new project/s, this is a favourable period and your success is guaranteed, says Ganesha. You will utilise each and every minute you have in learning new things and equipping yourself with enhanced knowledge.



SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 22

This is a favourable period to formulate plans for fulfilling all your ambitious goals and targets. However, Ganesha advises you to be patient, and don't be in a hurry to implement your plans immediately. Consult your near and dear ones, and wait for a better time to initiate new projects. Don't make any major decision in your life, which may affect your stability. If you are married, avoid the temptation of an extra martial affair. Rather stay loyal to your spouse.



SAGITTARIUS NOV 23 - DEC 22

Tide turns on your favour, and this week luck shall favour you in all your endeavours. You look set shall have an excellent time during this week, foretells Ganesha. You just have to be careful of your health, which may give you some jitters this week. On all other fronts, things look rosy. This period may fetch you a raise in your job or see your business flourish due to your hard work and past efforts. In business, however, try not to be over ambitious.



CAPRICORN DEC 23 - JAN 20

This week, you shall be totally engrossed in your work, taxing your brain to come up with a better solution to your work related woes. Since you yourself have set very high standards of delivering quality work, you tend to expect the same from others too. This may lead to some disappointments, as everyone may not measure up to your stringent quality standards. At work, you may organise brain-storming sessions and impose tight deadlines to complete the work on hand.



AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 19

You shall be cool and composed at work, handling everything with ease, this week. You will be mature and straightforward in your dealings, and this will impact your work in a positive manner. This positivity shall have a spill-over effect, and your colleagues will feel happier too in your presence. Naturally, the work atmosphere shall be vibrant. This will also help you all to achieve what you have set out to – within the stipulated time. Stress wanes, and things seem easier.



PISCES FEB 20 - MAR 20

You are all set to make excellent progress on the work front, and you may accomplish a lot, making you feel happy and positive. Ganesha advises you not to be judgemental in your approach towards others, and shun all your misconceptions. Also, don't be gullible, as due to your simple and uncomplicated nature, you may be taken for a ride by people with some vested interests and ulterior motives. Try to strike a good equation with people around you.

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