MY TEACHER, MY FRIEND

by:
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“So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

— Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie

When asked about what’s on my bookshelf, Mitch Albom’s Tuesdays with Morrie would be the first that would come to mind. The book is a combination of love, friendship, dreams, forgiveness, acceptance and hope—all found in a beautiful narrative.

But above all, I love this book because it reminds me of someone, a person who has made me see life and learn from it outside the four walls of the academe.

Miss Ethel, my teacher and my friend.

She’s probably a typical, an average government school teacher who likes teaching and kids. She greets you back, answers your questions and even offers you help she feels you need one.

She makes you understand what books can’t explain. As a Science teacher, she tells you that a rainbow, more than just a colorful display of light, is caused by the refraction and dispersion of the sun’s light by rain or other droplets of water in the atmosphere, and is therefore produced by dispersion of light.
But what makes her special is that she shows you very well how to value relationships more than anything else in this world. More than understanding how the rainbow is produced, she tells you to be the rainbow for the people around you. To add colors to their lives by fostering a good relationship with them. And that’s what she is to her students, to me.

And in the later years, whenever I thought of Miss Ethel, I would always see a rainbow - the most radiant I have ever seen, that stretched across the great blue sky.

“Death ends a life, not a relationship.”

Reference:

Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie