



## Late Muljibhai Morarbhai Patel

01.04.1916 - 22.12.2017

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*'I will love it, I will like and I will make do with it'*

*(Late Muljibhai Morarbhai Patel)*



This is a tribute to Mr. Muljibhai Morarbhai Patel who lived until the age of 101. My father enjoyed his life to the fullest with 6 children, 14 grandchildren and at the last count 27 great grandchildren.

He had exceptionally good health and after the demise of his wife in 2007, what kept him going was his devotion to God, his family and knowing that he would one day receive a letter from the Queen - to mark the celebration of his 100th birthday. Muljibhai enjoyed listening to bhajans, took interest in the news and hearing about extraordinary people featured in the Guinness World Records. He loved reading books and would always look forward to receiving the Gujarat Samachar. He would often give us a summary of the weekly news and his memory was amazing.

His courage and hope for a better life at the mature age of 50 is to be admired. To make the hardest journey of his life so far away from his family, to a foreign land across the ocean couldn't have been easy. Back



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then, there were no phones or computers so he had barely any contact with his family. In the sixties very few people had phones like we have today and he used to use “Airletters” as a means of communication which took over a week to reach India!



When Indians began to migrate to the UK, the weather felt cold to them, houses in the sixties had no indoor bathrooms and only one room had any kind of heating. They were limited on the variety of Indian foods available and most men travelled alone without their wives. Typically, after a hard day at work, they would return home to cook and clean whilst living with a dozen people in a three bedroom house. Like Muljibhai, most of the early migrants from India at that time had to endure racism and prejudice from society daily. I am sure he couldn't have ever imagined back in 1961 when he migrated to the UK, how far and wide his offsprings would be located around the globe; over three continents in the USA, South Africa and here in the UK living comfortably.

All of his family have great admiration of what he had achieved throughout his life. He was a superb mentor to us, leading always by example, living a simple, honest, content life and always remaining very humble. He has welcomed new cultures into our family with open arms despite his generation and upbringing.



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I would like to show my deepest appreciation to both my father and mother for their love, devotion and sacrifices they had made for us to have a better life. My parents are not an exception in this regard as many families all over the UK would feel the same about the enormous contribution made by their fathers and forefathers. Sixty years on, the success of Indians in the UK in every walk of life is apparent - we should be extremely proud of our contribution.

