

REMEMBRING MY DEAR DADY JAN

Mian Zafar Iqbal Kalanauriⁱ



Today is the death anniversary of my father. Please recite *Surah Fatiha* and *Surah Ikhlās* for my daddy Jan. 5 years without him have undoubtedly been tough. Prayer is the best gift we can give to the best gentleman I ever came across.

Mian Iqbal Hussain Kalanauri Senior Advocate Supreme Court: My Dad, My Boss, My Mentor

When I began law school at the University of Punjab, I always knew that I shall to be an advocate because I studied law as a death bed wish of my mother. All the while I knew that after I graduated and after I got enrolled by the bar that I was going to practice law with my father, What I didn't know was how much I still had to learn after law school, and that is where this article really begins. If you want to be a great lawyer, then you better find a great mentor.

For me, that great mentor just so happened to be my father. When I joined my father he had been practicing law for thirty (35) years. He started practicing law in 1952. He was one of the top most lawyers on the Civil side. I joined the firm in 1987, and now I'm in my thirty third (33) year practicing law. As I look back, I realize how much my father has taught me. His words of wisdom echo in my head every day. I am constantly quoting him to my clients, prospective clients as well my students.

It always goes something like this: "My Dad always said ...," and then I hit them with a pearl of wisdom from my illustrious father. They have all served both me and my clients well.

So, I thought I would share some of them here for all of you to enjoy and to learn from too. Below is a list of things my Dad, my legal mentor, always said and a "translation" of what they really mean.

My Dad: "Don't over try your lawsuit."

Translation: Don't say too much. Don't do too much. Don't be over zealous. Sometimes finesse is better than aggression. Don't make a murder case out of a shoplifting case.

My Dad: “Never sell out your name, your reputation, your law license for one fee, one case, or one client.”

Translation: Never take a case simply for the money. Never take a case you don’t honestly believe in. Don’t file frivolous lawsuits or applications. Don’t just be a hired gun or mercenary. If it doesn’t have a good faith basis in the facts or the law, then don’t file it!

My Dad: “Don’t let the perfect deal be the enemy of a good deal.”

Translation: Don’t let some mythical perfect deal that you will never get, keep you from accepting a reasonable and fair settlement offer.

My Dad: “Remember the 24-Hour Rule! You can only stay mad at opposing counsel for 24 hours, and then you have to get over it!”

Translation: It is just business. It isn’t personal. Also, if you take things personal, then you will get off your game. You have to remain unemotional and above the fray, because your client will be emotional enough for both of you.

My Dad: “Always be good to the judge’s staff, and to other advocates, paralegals/*munchis* because they run everything. Also, most of them know more than you do. If you act like you think you are better than them because you are an advocate, then you will never get anything done.”

Translation: Treat everyone like you want to be treated. You aren’t better than anyone else.

My Dad: Always be honest! Your word is your bond! A bad truth is better than a good lie.

Translation: Your credibility is your number one form of currency in the practice of law and in life.

My Dad: “Do things because you should, not just because you can.”

Translation: With great power comes great responsibility. Don’t abuse your power or your position. Do justice. Do what is right and in the best interest of all concerned, especially children.

These are just a few of the lessons that my father has taught me over the years. These words of wisdom have been extremely helpful to me and valuable to my clients. I have truly loved practicing law with my father. I have learned about the law and about how to deal with people from all walks of life. I have also learned from many other top lawyers whom I have assisted in my earlier years. I have even learned from opposing lawyers. On the occasions that I “lose” a case or it doesn’t come out exactly like I would have hoped, I note where opposing counsel did things well, and on the occasions that I “win” a case, I note where opposing counsel may have gone wrong. I can assure you that I have learned a lot more from my mistakes than from my successes. Failure is a great teacher. It humbles us, and makes us want to work harder. However, failure is inevitable. The only way to avoid failure is to avoid trying to do anything. This is why they call it the “practice of law.” Practice makes perfect and tough cases make good lawyers. Great mentors, help make great lawyers too!

The reason I am writing this is to share some of the knowledge that was passed down to me by my Dad, my legal mentor, but I also wanted to publicly thank my Dad for all that he has done for me and for all that he has taught me. Sometimes fathers and sons don’t always say what is on their mind until it is too late. I didn’t want that to happen to us. So, thanks Dad for being my mentor! It has been my honour and pleasure to practice law with you and you taught me many things beyond law, including Philosophy, History, Geography, Religion, Literature, Mathematics, Anthropology, Honesty, Truthfulness, Thankfulness, Boldness, Bravery, Humanism, Tolerance, Public dealings, Courage, Humbleness etc.

Being a Dad is not about creating a life, for that demands little of your life. It’s about cultivating a life, for that demands all of your life.

The great Masters are great Mentors. Mentoring is a critical part of personal growth and development and affords a lifetime of opportunity to grow and develop.

Fathers are one of the most influential people in our family. My father was unique and special. He taught us to be reliable as well as caring. I felt safe and secure with our father, just like how my father made me feel. I always wanted to be like my father and try to behave just like him. He influenced who I make friends with and how I interact with people around me.

My father always taught me to be independent and brave. He helped me to solve problems by taking more risks in my lives. My father always respected my mother and treated all his children equally.

May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah and grant me the courage to carry his mission and legacy forward (Ameen).

ⁱ **Mian Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri** Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan Arbitrator, Mediator, White Collar Crime Investigator Cell # 0300-4511823 E-mail: kalanauri@gmail.com <http://www.zafar.kalanauri.com>