

Akhil's Childhood

By Nikhil Chopra

Akhil Chopra was born on 19th May 1977. He was a chubby and healthy baby and won the 'healthy baby' competition prize sponsored by Lions Club.

Akhil had his schooling in Rachana School, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad and completed his pre-degree course from Amrut High School, Ahmedabad.

When Akhil was studying in the second year pre-degree course, he got less marks in his tuition classes. His teacher called his parents and told them that he must work hard. Akhil's mother discussed his results with him and told him that she would have been proud if his teacher had called them for good results. These words of his mother had a tremendous influence on Akhil and from that day onwards he applied himself more seriously in his studies to get better grades and to pursue his goals.

Akhil went on to complete his MBA in marketing from Gujarat University, KS School of Business Management, Ahmedabad, India in 1999.

He also did Diploma in Computer Application from the same University.

Akhil went to US and did his MS in Information Systems in May 2004 from the University of St. Thomas, Cameron School of Business, Houston, Texas, USA.

Akhil won many awards. He was awarded the membership to St. Isidore Society, the honor society for MS Majors in the University of St. Thomas.

He was awarded the National Merit Scholarship for meritorious students from India.

He was also selected as one of 100 scholars to present a research paper on "Business Challenges of 21st Century – A Global Perspective" at Nirma International Conference, Ahmedabad (Jan 4-7, 1998).

Akhil had a great love for writing. He wrote more than 50 articles on Computers, Business, Politics, Philosophy, Health and Adventure for leading US and Indian dailies like "India Abroad", "The Times of India" and "The Indian Express".

Akhil was also proficient in playing musical instruments like the piano, harmonica, banjo and the flute.

All neighbors loved Akhil and they used to call him "Krishna Maharaj". He believed in being a good human being first. He touched the hearts of not only his parents and relatives. He was a generous, kind hearted, noble, sincere, loving and caring person. He possessed all the good

qualities of a human being. Once, a small child fell unconscious in the neighborhood. Akhil did not hesitate even a minute and immediately took the child and rushed to the hospital.

Akhil was very calm and never lost his temper. People in the neighborhood say that they never saw him getting angry.

Akhil had respect for all. Whenever he called from US, he used to speak with respect to all. Also when he came down to Ahmedabad in 2004, he also came to Mumbai to meet his brother who lives in Mumbai. When he was departing to Ahmedabad his babhi asked him to bless her son Aryan. Aryan was sleeping at that time. In spite of being in a hurry, he came back to the door and said “God bless him.”

Akhil was very helpful to his mother at home. He would always accompany her during shopping, while going to the temple, or in her morning and evening walks. Even the temple Pujari used to jokingly remark “Jodi Salamat Rahe”.

His mother has not reconciled to the fact that her constant companion will not return.

We, his family members, remember him in every breath we take and miss him in every moment of our life. Akhil was our favorite, our heart, our soul and everything one can think of.

We thank his friends and colleagues in the USA who rendered all support and assistance. We specially thank Rameshji who offered him timely employment, which enabled him to continue his studies and get his Masters degree. At the same time we regret the fact that innocent people like Akhil are killed without any reason.

Akhil is survived by his father and mother, Ashok and Uma Chopra at Ahmedabad, also his brother Nikhil Chopra with his extended family, wife Mamta Chopra and their three-year old child Aryan Chopra who live in Mumbai. We very much miss him and will always miss him in the years to come.