

Guest book in memory of Akhil

Arun Jonnalagadda

I met Akhil for the first time at Sanskrita Bhaاراتي camp, summer 2004; we spent 2.5 days together practicing Sanskrit speech. I was totally charmed by the young man on the very first practise session. It went as follows; I said, "Mama naama Arun aha, saha Akhil aha". He said, Mama naama Akhil-aha, saha Arun-aha". Then I said, "Mama naama Arunkumar Sarma-aha. Saha naame Akhilam Chopram". The he said, "Mama Akhilam Madhuram". I said "Akhilam Chopram Ati Madhuram". He said "Akhilam Sakalam ati Madhuram". He floored me with that reply and that was sweet and warmth!

Apurva Sahijwani

I have just been informed by my friend, Preeti Nair about Akhil's untimely demise.

I remember Akhil as an extremely affable, kind and caring soul, who was always willing to help anyone in need. Although he was a year junior to us in college at K.S. School of Business Management, he was like a part of our batch.

It has been many months since I last met Akhil, but the very mention of his name conveys the image of a helping and jovial person, who could always be relied on if help was needed.

My deepest condolences to Akhil's family and friends. May the Almighty give you the strength to bear this loss.

Indira Mysore

I had a very brief interaction with this gentleman once, while attending yoga classes in Kesav Smrithi. He helped to find some one's telephone number. It was a trivial incident, yet he must have left an impression on me to remember him after several years, when I saw his face in the news.

Why do I feel so deeply about the loss of someone that I barely knew? This shows that we are all connected. God had a purpose for his short life and that was to teach lessons to other on how to be kind, dedicated and caring. May his soul rest in peace.

Pratik Shah

You and me share the same birthdates. And I feel very proud when I remember this. Akhil was a wonder wonderful person. He was senior to me in college. I don't remember when first time I came into contact with him but it was inevitable to talk with him. Always smiling and ready to help anybody without any ulterior motives. Akhil was the first person who introduced me to Internet in late 90s. He also helped me searching jobs on internet. I remember once he came to my place also. Akhil, I never contacted you after your going to US. I really want to talk a lot with you.

Nikhil Chopra

I Nikhil Chopra am thankful to all the people for sharing their generous views for my late younger brother AKHIL. Akhils demise is an unrepairable loss to me and my family but I am proud that my brother was doing a generous job for the humanity. My request to all his known people would be to pray to GOD so that his soul rests in peace.

"Vicky urf Akhil" - is the way he had closed his last e-mail of 4th June, thanking me for the Birthday greetings to him and at the same time confirming that during his next visit to India, he will definitely come to Delhi and meet everyone in the family. Who could have imagined at the time that not he but his body would arrive in New Delhi for the last rites.

M.M. Malhotra

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The very thought of Akhil now fills my mind with the famous couplet of Saint Kabir;

Jab hum paida hue, jag hansey hum roye;
Aise karni kar chalo, hum hansey jag roye.

(i.e., when we were born the world laughed and we wept, let our actions be such that we laugh and world weeps).

With his simple life-style being known to the world from people around him now, we can say that Akhil has relived the above after his death

Vidyaa

I received an email from my uncle yesterday(08/22) the subject which read "BE SAFE". When I read through the contents, I just cried. It was about Akhil Chopra.

As an elder my uncle was concerned and hence the subject " BE SAFE" was understandable.

I have never met Akhil before but in one way it feels ok that I didn't, otherwise, I would have been greatly torn apart like the rest of you.

To this morning, I have been doing nothing much but think about WHY. Why this face? I read his message to GOD and remembered something similar which my mom wrote too - TO GOD.

Sorry abt the long message folks, but just unable to control my thoughts. And Akhil if you are listening to us and smiling, which I am sure you are doing, bless this world more, for now you are all the more powerful.

Rekha Malhotra

Thus far I had known Akhil Chopra as Vicky - a bubbly, sweet and loving nephew. He was so warm and affectionate, as respectful as he was helpful to all of us in the family. Little

did I know that behind this innocence such great depth of inner enlightenment was camouflaged.

His daily diary speaks of his organized style of life, his philosophical strivings and the earnest to rise as a disciplined, above average young person. At twice his age I am experiencing a deep itch to treat him as my guru and learn from him the precious tips he has penned to overcome many weaknesses most ordinary mortals like we nurture. I do not wish his soul to rest, rather I pray to god to give him birth as quickly as possible so that he can finish innumerable tasks he left in between. This Earth is definitely deprived in the absence of human beings of such immense potential.

COL. Ashok Malhotra

Yesterday (The 19th Aug 2005), a pious soul departed for his heavenly abode, when we lit his pyre in Kankhal area of Haridwar, India. This what came to my mind, standing there watching Akhil Chopra liberating himself from his body which got enflamed in the holy fire. I had never imagined he had so much depth and his soul had reached such high levels of perfection in the methods of oneness and unification with the ultimate.

Today (20th Aug 2005), we opened his baggage, read through what all he had scribbled in his personal diary and his diary updates. This all appeared to be a great collection of deep thoughts which, I have been told by my son, Gaurav Malhotra, Akhil not only harbored, cultivated but also followed them religiously and resolutely himself and also spread the message of GOD ALMIGHTY to the others. He was a practical philosopher, who just did not preach, but followed himself some basic principles of "SIMPLE LIVING AND HIGH THINKING".

I now wonder, can one achieve so much in so less time. Had GOD given him some more years, he would have done a great job in turning India into his dream "MY BHARAT". One cannot imagine the greatness of his dream about his country unless one reads of what he wrote in one of the pages of his daily updates.... (Extracts from his daily diary). Was he a great saint in the making or was he really a great saint. God, did you take him only from us because you had another bigger role for him somewhere else??

Shall we pray to the GOD to bless his soul or should we all pray - GOD, to give Akhil back to us once again to guide us in spreading love to all humanity, to be always smiling with Akhil's lovable dimples even in the face of adversity. From his scribbles in his daily diary, Akhil has many great jobs still unfinished, which he will surely come back to complete.

Brij mohan Malhotra

Saints are not the persons who preach or renounce the world or put on clothes of specific nature. Rather saints are the persons who relentlessly, selflessly spread love and affection and try to help everyone, whosoever they come across. Akhil Chopra was such a great and grand personality who can be called a SAINT.

Arun Bhatia (Bittoo)

Akhil (Known as Vicky in our circle) was my cousin, with whom I had spent very little time, but knew him to be a charismatic personality. Ever smiling face, in whatever circumstances, I can remember. Its only after that has gone, have I learnt so much about

him and feel proud in some manner to be known as big brother, yet at the same time I wish I could have spent more time with him.

I am sorry dear Akhil, on having not spent time with you, but I have learnt a lot about you from your dear ones. I wish I could imbibe at least one great quality of yours. Remembering you now, I cannot imagine the loss we have had. I pray to GOD that your soul rests in peace.

" Days Shall Pass Into Years, But We All Shall Remember You (Loved Soul) In Our Silent Tears". Come Back Soon..... We All Love You.

Sudesh Thakur

I knew Late Shri. Akhil Chopra only through E-mails. He used to regularly send me articles and press releases. I was very much shocked when I received press release informing about his death. It is unbelievable that anybody could shoot such a kind hearted gentleman that too while he was deeply meditating. I convey my heartfelt sympathies to his bereaved family and I pray that his soul may rest in peace. I sincerely hope that we all shall continue to contribute similar selfless/dedicated work to the betterment of our society.

Tony Patel

Akhil Chopra was my first employee when I started my tax business in 2002 at the University of Texas at Arlington and his first time in the USA. He had the biggest smile, always positive, work hard, ever ready to help everyone. He always had nice things to say about everyone. His social skills were excellent and we had great conversations in Gujarati at my house. Like he use to tell my mum how birth, marriage & death were made in heaven or how when you meet people GOD would have sent them. On the emails to me he would always end it like.

"My regards to your parents, and best wishes to your sister and your wife. My apologies for any mistake I committed. My prayers that your business prospers." I wish you and your family a Happy New Year 2004. I sincerely thank you for all the help you provided in my studies May God fulfill all your wishes. May your wife be as intelligent and smart like you.

Regards from
Akhil Chopra.

People cannot just forget you. You have touched so many lives. Akhil my brother I will miss you a lot. You are finally in heaven and looking down at us with your big smile. You will never be forgotten.

Linda Moen

Akhil & I were co-workers by phone only. working from star pipe products Orlando, Florida. Across the phone lines you could feel his sincere kindness. His eagerness to help you with our related job functions. Akhil always treated me with respect. When I did not understand him guiding me threw new computer upgrades. We shared many laughs, on his young mind and my "season" mind. his young and patient laugh will remain with in my heart.

Paras Dagli

I have known Akhil since childhood and we had grown together for number of years. We were neighbors in India for more than 8-10 years. I have seen his parents working so hard to give great education to both the brothers Akhil and Nikhil. I was in touch with him when he came to UTA and I had met him several times at UTA. I was in touch with him on and off and also we had some other common neighbors from India in Houston so I used to get updates about him regularly. He was very obedient, quiet child and always used to put family first before anything. We had great time in our childhood together playing marbles and all the other activities.

My mom and brothers recall so many pleasant experiences with the family. He and his brother had even visited my home while I'm in USA now for many years.

It was very sad to hear the incident. May God give strength to his family to overcome this tragic event. His brother Bunny(Nikhil) is equally loving person and so is his family.

I will never forget him as a kind hearted, cheerful and helping personality.

Satish Malhotra

Ten years back Vicky bhaia, me, mom, dad n prem went 2 "vaishno devi". I wanted him 2 accompany all of us 2 manali(a hill station in India).... but he said "no", n then I asked him y ?? so, he said "I want 2 go back bcz my mom is not well n she would have 2 go back alone 2 ahmedabad" n asked me..."do u want me 2 stay now.... n I said no bhai. That was d time I learnt that he wasn't a normal human being..... Vicky bhaia was very simple n down to earth.... I'll never ever forget his big smile n I wish that I could be 10 % of what he was. v'll miss u 4 ever ever..... were Vicky bhaia v all will miss u...

Melissa Howell

Sweet, sweet Akhil....How you will be missed by so many. His smiling face was such a blessing to me each day. I worked closely with Akhil for several years, he was my assistant. He was very thorough and dedicated to any job that was given to him. Besides his great work qualities, he was the nicest person and made everyday a joy. He was the most disciplined young adult I have ever known. Akhil, was admired and adored by all that had the privilege of knowing him. He was too pure a soul for this earth. I know that he is now sitting at the feet of GOD looking down upon us with a "SMILE".

Harshada & Sanjeev Jashwant

Akhil is the first person I met in my life who has qualities beyond imagination in today's world – most of us would probably read a character like him in scriptures and think that such a complete pure hearted human being could exist only in fiction, but no – Akhil proved this belief wrong, he actually silently demonstrated that one could have all those virtues and practice them. He was layers and layers of virtues, good habits, spirituality all embodied in one very pure soul. What was amazing was the fact that he never boasted or talked about his achievements or claimed credit for it – he was truly a great man in deeds. What we learned about him in the last one week was more that anybody would have known about him in the last 3 years – this was Akhil – a silent crusader and selfless serviceman. We sincerely salute the parents who had given birth to such a wonderful son.

What he used to do, he used to do it with great love and sincerity ...he had sent us an e-mail congratulating us on the birth of our daughter- Soha. It wasn't just another e-mail; it

was one of the best e-mails that we had received. He had put in efforts to note all the important events in the history that had happened on our daughter's birthday and in the end he mentioned that above all the best thing he believed that happened was birth of Soha on that day. His lovingness & thoughtfulness used to make even small things like this very special for others.

We were fortunate to have worked with him. He has been a tremendous inspiration .You don't come across this kind of man everyday and maybe in decades. It is an irony that a pure soul like Akhil had an untimely tragic end, his loss has certainly created a huge void.

God grant us the strength to accept the things that we cannot change & give us courage to change the things that we can! We promise to try & practice at least one good thing that Akhil believed as that would be the best tribute to him in true sense. Arunji mentioned that Akhil's e-mail id reflects what he wanted to be...Akhil forever! Akhil, you had made your mark in our hearts ...because those who bloom in the hearts of others never fade away. Akhil will be in our hearts, in our thoughtsforever !!! We can visualize you in the eternal peaceful company of the Almighty - the same gentle smiling face, blushing and maybe getting embarrassed looking down and seeing people praising him like this ... How we wish if time could turn back and we could see Akhil's smiling face again and we could tell him 'how precious he is to all of us' - Akhil we will never be able to forget you and will truly miss you ...

Jayshree and Pankaj Ramani

Words cannot express the sorrow and grief that one feels on hearing this news. Is life so cheap? Knowing Akhil, if the person needed financial assistance and had asked for, Akhil would have been the first to help. We have known Akhil for over two years in Houston, before we moved back to Bangalore.

An individual who was so committed to social cause, well read, enthusiastic and always there when you seek his assistance. We can never forget the broad smile, deep voice which reverberated with enthusiasm, articulate when he read the news for "Sanatan Hindu Radio".Akhil, will be missed a lot. Let's all pray that the almighty provide peace to his soul and the strength to his family to face the huge loss

Sunil W Wagh

Akhil, May Almighty rest your soul in peace and bear fruits of your hard work of this life in the next many lives. Your sudden demise is not only a loss to your family and friends but I believe it is a loss to the whole world community and especially to the great country India to which you belong. From your sudden demise now I am very sure to say that God selects only those persons in his service who are really true,simple,and honest and I do not have words to describe but in fact they are like you.

I truly believe that this world is not a right place for a person like you and I strongly pray to god and I will always that you should get a place in heaven and not back again on earth, though by doing so we will all be in loss as we will always miss a loving friend, a great philosopher and guide like you. This guestbook is quite small to give my views but as soon as I get some more words again I will come and proceed.

I and my family members pay a great tribute to you. My brother Rishikesh, wife Sarika, son Nisarg, mother and father and all friends remember you a lot. I pray to god to fulfill all your wishes and complete all your undertaken works and your goals which you have taken for the benefit of humanity. At last I will only say that the person who shot you never

knew that he is shooting to God himself and that he has to pay for the loss which he had to the whole mankind very badly. India has lost another great sage SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Christine Vo

I know that you can see us now, and you must know that we cherish the memories that you have honored us with. I am sorry that I could not see you face-to-face one last time, but my mom and I stopped by last night to pay our respects and to say goodbye before you leave today...to go home and be with your family. Though I am very sad and angry at what happened to you, there is only a smile on my face when I think about your smile. I will never forget spotting you on Westheimer with your bike, holding up traffic. You were so calm despite the chaotic cars honking all around you, and you just smiled and waved at me so peacefully. You kept me awake while driving home from Dr.Dykman's class at night, talking about books you read, food, and India. Your mind was truly exhilarating and brilliant. You've come a long way, sharing your wisdom, your humanity, and your heart. Thank you Akhil...for you, and thank you to your beautiful Parents for giving such a dignified, compassionate, and inspirational gift to this world.

Andrea Staff Malhotra

Vicky was my brother in-law, who sadly, I never met. We spoke on the phone several times- he was sweet and easy to talk to. I just wanted to thank his extended family in Houston for creating this beautiful web site for Vicky. It is a beautiful memorial to the rich life he led- it is also much more. For me, this web site is like a window into his life.

I can see some of the great and cool things he did and what a truly beautiful and generous person he really was. It is true that the world will be a poorer place without him. I can see that Vicky was truly loved by his "Houston family" and I thank you all for the love, help and support you have given at this unbelievably sad time. Vicky will be terribly missed by people around the world.

Venkat

Akhil had all the qualities of a great soul which we can only read in books. Akhil was selfless, ever smiling, devoted in all his activities, be it at work or personal life, never interested in material life, always devoted to serve others and put to practice whatever he learnt. Akhil felt very shy or never liked somebody appreciating or thanking him for what he did. Everyone was a best friend for Akhil, there was no preferential treatment to anyone.

In a team, Akhil never wanted to be first, but his contribution would be the best. Even during bike rides, the MS150 and practice rides, though Akhil had the capacity to be ahead of all of us, he would always be with the last of us. We would miss Akhil's motivation and company.

I pray God to give Akhil's parents all the strength to get through this tough time. I also pray God to give me the strength to imbibe at least one habit of his and that would make my mark of respect for Akhil.

Dr Yashwant Pathak

Akhil was associated with ICCS since last two years, whenever we had a conference he was helping us in preparing excellent press report and send it to all the news papers and later when the report appeared , he send to archive it for us. He did this selflessly without

any compensation or expecting his name anywhere in the press. As a human being he was one of the finest young man we have ever met, very helpful, caring and we all felt very comfortable in his company, when we thought of him we always used to see him as a laughing personality riding his bike, we all from ICCS will remember him for ever and we all pray to the God to offer eternal peace to the untimely departed soul and pray God to offer enough strength to his parents and family to bear this great loss.

Dhananjay

Your memories shall last forever in our hearts & minds. Everyday your smile enlightened us. Your sweet & loving voice rings in my ears. Your dedication to social; personal & official work was amazing. It is unfortunate that a man who hit & lit everybody with his smile was finally hit by a bullet. Brother I bow to your parents what a fine son they had.....

Bhavin Juthani

Akhil was a very good friend of mine, we have been friends since school and we had shared some wonderful memorable moments together. He had this charismatic personality, was always energetic and so inspirational, every time I met him I always felt like my inner soul is recharged and energized. He has been like mentor or big brother in the face of very good friend. I always felt proud having him as my friend. I cannot believe that he is no more with us, his smiling face keeps coming in front of my eyes. I am really going to miss you my friend. I pray for the peace of his noble soul and hope God gives enough strength to his parents to face this tough time.

Keith Bowsher

I am shocked to hear about Akhil. I want to let you know I have been thinking of all of you each day and wish to extend my sorrow to all your fellow employees and families and also Akhil's family and friends.

After reading the note about Akhil, it sounds like all of you were fortunate to have gotten to know him and it doesn't make any sense to lose such a great person. Thank you for sharing the information about him and I hope he will in some way continue to live on by his influence in all of you.

Natalie Duran Ariz

"Happy Man", this is the nickname I gave Akhil as soon as I met him and his contagious smile. His smile was from the radiance he had within, I'm sure of it. A very spiritual and selfless soul, he was. Truly a man well beyond his years.

In life, we can only hope to impact one person in our life time, he has managed to impact hundreds, and I feel these hundred will continue to multiply in his legacy. His work is not done, his thoughts and his views will live in us all....I can attest to this, for I have changed and will continue to change.

Ever since the news of his passing, the saying that I could come up with, one that would encompass my thoughts of him was, "I want to live my life as if he is always watching". I want him to be proud and to know that he has influenced my life in many ways, even ways I was not aware of until now. My only regret is that I wish he could have known how much he was respected and how he was put on such a pedestal in my eyes.

I know for us all, we cannot express the loss we have endured. We lost a wonderful

colleague, a wonderful friend, but most importantly, a wonderful soul. A gaping whole will exist for us all and I am uncertain if this loss will ever be filled. As he will be greatly missed, his legend will live on...as Arun suggested, "Akhil Forever"

Vivek Kalani

I first met Akhil in Dec 2003, when I had just come to the US. He would pick me up from the hotel and then I would go to office with him. On the very first day he befriended me, by helping me settle down in the new environment. I used to play Volley-ball with him and I always wanted to be in his team, because he was always so positive and played the game with complete honesty and spirit. This is the same way he lead his life, with great spirit and utmost honesty. I still can't believe that he's no more. The world is a lot less without him. Probably God felt the same way and hence he took him away from us.

But I would surely like to take a lot of positives from the way he led his life and put them to practice in my life. May God give his family and all of us the strength to bear this huge loss. Akhil will live forever in my mind.

Kathy Brandvold

I think I am still in shock over the senseless death of Akhil. I really don't know what to say about such a warm and giving person. The following poem was sent to me after a death in my own family and it has given me some comfort when other people I have known have been called home. I hope this gives some comfort to all of you who are suffering this unbelievable loss.

Don't grieve from me, for now I'm free!
I follow the plan God laid for me.

I saw His face, I heard his call, and I took His hand and left it all....I could not stay another day, to love to laugh, to work or play; tasks left undone must say that way.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss... Ah yes, these things I, too, shall miss. And if my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. My life's been full, I've savored much; good times, good friends, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief - don't shorten yours with undue grief. Be not burdened with tears of sorrow. Enjoy the sunshine of the 'morrow."Akhil, may you rest in peace.....

Lin shushing

We can not believe that Mr.Akhil will not work with us in future. In our mind he is a person who is very kindly to anyone, who is smiling everyday, who is handsome in STARPIPE that most of the ladies like to talk to him. We are talking about him usually for his friendly words, most aged people call him "my son". He is a man full of love in his mind, He is a man shining all the way.Mr.AKHIL, your the person who will live around us forever.

SAMI FIROZ

I have hardly ever come across a person who had such a bright smile on his face. It is really sad to miss a friend like him.

Beverly Williams

Akhil and his family are in my thoughts and prayers~ I am extremely sorry and upset to hear about such a tragic death to such a wonderful person, who was cared about by many.

I also have in my heart, all the Star Pipe employees in Houston, who were so fortunate to work with Akhil on a daily basis. They are also in my heart and prayers.

From all the Richmond Star Pipe Employees, You are in our hearts and prayers.

My condolences to you
in your time of sorrow
May your heart be comforted
today and tomorrow

You'll miss his presence
being there all around
But I can assure you
he has moved to better ground
He has closed his eyes
here on this earth
But opened them to heaven
where there is new birth

Dr. Pramod Pathak

We all will miss Akhil for long time to come. He was an ideal student of Hindu Dharma and the more I think of him, I feel many more qualities of him blooming in short span of life of just 28 years. Akhil was like a saint in making step by step progressing to godhood. As we say in Marathi, "jo aavadato sarvaalaa tochi aavade devaalaa". The person who is liked by all is also liked by God and so he is called back by God. There is no other explanation for Akhil's visit to Park only for 15 min just to walk in the death trap. As stated in Geeta he will be born with better "Purva sanchit" in the next birth to be a born "jnani". We have really no words to express the loss of such a gem for his parents and family.

Vivek Thakurdesai

Akhil... was a nature loving, kind, spiritual, ever smiling & extremely helpful person. It was a terrible shock when I heard the news... I have lot of memories with Akhil...I do not know what to write here. But I will mention one which happened in my house a year ago. One day my son for some reason was not in mood. My wife told him to cheer up & have a smile on face just like Akhil Uncle. After hearing that my son asked my wife that can you always keep smile on your face? My wife had no answer. Seeing that mom is not replying... my son said that it is only Akhil Uncle who can keep smile on the face, nobody else could do it. This is how Akhil had touched even the lives of younger ones...

Looking behind I feel he was a complete person. Though he was 10 years younger to me I think there are so many things that I can learn from him. I have rode bike with him for last two years from Houston to Austin. I will physically miss him next year but his memories will be with me throughout my life. I feel God wanted him "there" in the heaven & then here. May his soul rest in peace...

M.M. MALHOTRA

I am the maternal uncle of dear Akhil (now late, an expression which is very difficult to digest). For all of us in his maternal family, he will remain "VICKY", his nick name. Vicky was very polite in dealing with all individuals, humble in nature and had a very cheerful personality.

Another aspect of his personality - he was deeply religious. He had confided to me that he daily recites "AMRITWANI" by Shi Swami Satya Nand Ji Maharaj. Since the time he had left for US, our main contact was through E-mails. He was a modern day SHRAVAN KUMAR and was a role model for all the youngsters of today. I can say with confidence that every parent would aspire to have child like him. On behalf of Malhotra family members in India & USA, I convey my deep condolences to all his friends and colleagues.

Pawan Sharda

Akhil.. as his email id he will really be forever in my memories. Charming, disciplined, systematic & devotional & helping person I ever met in my life. He did not only kept his experience & knowledge with him but always shared with me. "Hey Pawan, today I learned something new". He sits very next to me and we use to share things among us.

Whenever he use to enter in the office, he use to first give me smile and I use to ask him jovially " Why do u smile with no reason" and his reply would be same always... "Child smiles 500 time a day & I am trying to match him"... I really miss him. The way we use to enjoy our lunch, work, volley ball still everything is fresh in my memories. In any social activity I use to volunteer and required any additional help, Akhil use to be the first person I use to approach. He was ever ready to help anyone. May your soul rest in Peace.

Kusum Vyas

With Akhil, what you saw – was what you got. He lived without pretense and gave of his pure heart completely. He had more "best friends" than I can count, because he made each one of us feel like his best friend. Akhil was utterly unique. A genius. Compassionate. Generous. Kind. He told us, and he showed us.

In the short time that I knew him I developed great admiration and respect for a man who endeavored to do so much for others, especially those who were in need of help. Akhil's most captivating attribute was the twinkle in his eyes. While talking to Akhil, I always felt that his eyes appeared to smile and do all the talking. There was something very special about this young man.

He was the sort of guy any one would wish for a younger brother or a mother would wish for a son. Even at the tender age of 26, Akhil displayed tremendous maturity and at times it felt like I was dealing with a learned sage from some place very special. I shall always remember Akhil with deepest admiration and affection and I shall always feel honored by the short journey we traveled together for the "Vatsalya Gram Day" in search of better and more secure tomorrows for the orphans and destitute women of Vatsalya Gram.

I bow to Akhil's parents for sharing with us their remarkable son. I know that like us, their hearts are also grieving for Akhil and the loss that we have suffered from the hate fueled injustices pervading our world. It is unbearable to think of such a senseless loss. My heart goes out to the Chopra family. Please know that we empathize with you, we can feel your pain. I pray that God in His infinite mercy dry your tears and grant you the fortitude to bear this unfathomable loss.

Daniela Scarlatescu

Akhil was an amazing young man with a sweet smiling face. He was truly a "gift from God" who touched many lives and made everyone feel happy just looking in anyone's eyes. To him, dreams were finally coming true, but in the afternoon of August 11, 2005, Akhil dreams died and our world collapsed. How could it have gone so wrong? Who could have done such a cruel thing without giving him just one chance for life ? Our hearts are broken and ripped apart, but we will always be in our hearts.

Jigar Shah

I and Akhil studied together from kindergartens till tenth. Also being fortunate enough to live nearby to his place, we walked to and back from school together. I really dont know that when this best buddy of mine became my mentor and then my only role-model. Infact, whatever little I have achieved today (I had one real big failure that shattered me) is attributed to one and only one person that is Akhil. He constantly encouraged and motivated me. Indeed he made me believe in myself. My parents loved him as much as me and were absolutely delighted at his sight.

Whenever he uses to address me as Dear Brother I thought God could not gift me greater or better. He really made a huge huge difference in my life and I really am at a loss of words and thoughts to express his loss. The best time of my life has been the moments I spent with him. And I am proud to accept that I always tried to imitate him in all my actions. And I know how much his parents were attached to him and what a loving and caring son he was. I can only pray to God to give them enough strength and peace to Akhil.

G.S.RAO

He was the first person I saw in my life to smile always like a kid and make others to feel happy. There are many good things to learn from him. Let us keep him alive by following his qualities and his interests. He will be in our hearts forever. I can see God in him through his smile, hardwork,helping nature, principles, Discipline, soft nature, Happiness, etc.

Kristin (Hemenway) Reid

As I write this, I have an image of Akhil's smile and find myself smiling in response as I struggle to find any words. Akhil was blessed with a good nature and the persistence to complete any task he set himself to. I will never forget the many questions he had while training for his first MS150 - and the way it was impossible to refuse "just one more question" Akhil held his patience through many situations and never lost his positive outlook. I wish I had been able to learn more from this.

Padmaraj

I met Akhil only once, during July last year when he was in India. I know Akhil, as he and my brother stayed together at Houston. Couple of times when I called my brother he use to pick up the call and talk to me, so nicely, politely and friendly like my own family member.

At such a young age and living in that advanced country, I surprise to know his interest in yoga. When he was in India last year, I met him his brothers residence in Mumbai, and to my surprise he gifted me book on yoga and suggested me to practice, such a kind person.

This was enough to know what a great soul he was. Today Akhil is not there with us, but he has left a book with me for ever to remember. As all us like to have good, kind and humble people around us, God also perhaps had liked Akhil's kindness and taken him away from all of us.

We pray together that God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to Akhil's parents, family members and friends to bear the greatest loss.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh

The Houston Chapter of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, Inc. ("HSS"), wishes to express its deepest sorrow on the death of our swayamsevak, Akhil Chopra. On Thursday, August 11, 2005, Akhil was senselessly murdered in broad daylight while walking in a park during lunch, apparently the victim of gunshot wound during the course of a robbery.

Akhil was young and dynamic, endearing everyone with his friendly nature and willingness to serve. He moved to Houston three years ago, but in this short time, he had offered his volunteer time to numerous Hindu organizations in the Houston area. Akhil attributed his willingness to serve to his firm belief that service to humanity is service to God.

Arun Kankani

Akhil will be greatly missed in the Houston Hindu community. We pray that God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to Akhil's family and friends to bear this enormous and untimely loss.

Akhilforever@yahoo.com.....this was the email ID which reflects his wish to be with all for ever. God perhaps had different plans and has taken him away from all of us. We all have to respect God's wishes. As friends whose life was touched by kindness of this great soul, we can still keep his memory alive in our hearts for ever by imbibing in us the great virtues that he had. That is the best way to pay the homage to a dear friend....akhilforever.....

Seema Pathak

Akhil always seemed like an advanced soul to me. His readiness to help all and sundry never failed to astonish me. He never seemed in a hurry to stop for himself always putting others before him Seems like he finished his job of learning for this life time earlier than rest of us. His road to school was shorter than us, being a noble soul. Words seem hollow to consol his parents . God give us courage to bear this loss.

Ranjana Narasiman

I have had the opportunity to meet Akhil on several occasions at Keshav Smrithi in connection with ICATS programs. His kind, humble, respectful demeanor always surprised me because it was so unusual in such a young person. He served the community with such love and care. Even a simple chore such as adjusting the thermostat or preparing the trash cans, he would do with such loving care. One could always count on him to deliver the goods. I pray that his parents and brother somehow, through God's grace, cope with this greatest and irreparable loss.

Meera & Rama Rao,SVYASA

We met 4 years before in our Yoga Classes. Very soon, he completed yoga teachers' training and became very successful yoga teacher who was liked by all yoga students. He lead a 'yoga way of life'. His laughing yoga sessions are remembered even to this day by one and all.

Personally, to both of us he used to help us in every field. For all our problems and requirement, the only person who was coming to our memory was Akhil. Day before to his unfortunate incident, we had the opportunity of meeting and offered his help. His memory of smile, friendship, co-operation, understanding, remains with us for a long time.

Blake Harrison

I truly am a better person for knowing Akhil. I wish I would have told him that before he went away -- I believe he knew that though.

The only way I can begin to process what happened is to rely on my faith that God has bigger and better plans for such a wonderful soul. We had our time with him and from what I hear about how many lives he touched... it was enough to last a lifetime. We can all be a little better for knowing Akhil -- for that smile will forever be embedded in our memory.

Madhav Naidu

I stayed in over a weekend during 2005 KKM in Akil's apartment and I have seen and experienced all the great qualities he possessed. His winning humbleness and ever blissful smile can not be forgotten. Every time I think of him, it is as if I knew him for too long and still met him today. I could not imagine my eyes when I saw the email about his leaving this world in a sad circumstances. Pray God give his parents and family the strength to cope with such an untimely loss....I can not express my shock at this incident....

Atul Moharir

It is very hard to accept that a person like Akhil who was full of life is lifeless now. It is still unbelievable that Akhil is no more. I still feel his presence all around in the office & home in which we stayed together for 2 years. He was a outstanding person with all good qualities, a godly figure who has spread happiness with his presence. He was like my brother & I feel very fortunate that I could share all good & bad moments of life with a person like him. He was so caring & kind that it is unlikely to have person like him. He was young in age but was very big in all other fronts.

I have lot of memories with him while cooking together, playing together, sharing with each other about friends & family. He was very respectful, polite & kind, helpful, cheerful. He was very good in yoga & he taught me & encouraged me to do yoga, pranayam, exercise to keep mind & body healthy. He used to sing very nice bhajans everyday.

I never remember that he ever spoke anything bad about others. He used to talk all nice things about others which made him a great person.

He used brought me good books, good articles to read. He used to always show concern about my parents & family & always jumped in whenever I asked for anything. He used to talk to parents so sweetly as if he is talking to God, so much respect, so much care & love

which I cannot express in words. May god give his parents & all of us enough strength to bear this shock.

I wish Akhil to come as my son so that I can give him all the happiness which he gave to others. I am sure that such a nice & clean person was not really made for this dirty world with evil thoughts which he was not even aware what they are & is surely called by god seeing his bhakti, dedication & kindness. May his soul rest in peace.