

## MORAL DILEMMA—HOW I SOLVED IT

She handed over a bunch of medicines to me across the fence. I looked up at her in complete amazement. There was no expression on her face as usual. Not even a smile.

“What are these medicines?” I asked her.

“These are the medicines that my husband tells me to consume everyday” she replied.

“What are these for?” I asked “ Are you suffering from some disease or do you.....? “ Even before I could complete my sentence, she said “That is the problem. He never tells me why I should eat these medicines. If I don’t eat them, he would beat me up.”

I had no clue as to what kind of medicines they were. Her eyes seemed to be begging for an answer. Something deep inside me told me all was not well. I noted down the names of the tablets and assured her that I would get back with the details very soon.

Those tablets in the clinky metal wrapped strips, I placed them back into her hands. She walked back into her house and somehow I could not forget the look on Priya’s (name changed to protect identity) face that day.

I was in a fix. Priya’s husband Hari(name changed to protect identity) was a financial advisor. He was unreceptive and narrow minded. He would seldom answer the morning greetings that we tried to exchange as neighbors.

But my first concern was to find out about these medicines. The next day, I visited my family doctor. I showed him the names of the tablets that were being used by Priya. He almost screamed out “Who prescribed these medicines to you?” The shout clearly indicated that the medicines did not serve a good purpose. I narrated the entire scenario.

As far as my knowledge goes..... Priya did not suffer from any psychiatric disorder. The doctor told me that the husband might be wanting to make her mentally depressed and physically inactive. I returned home with a heavy heart. I could not contemplate Hari’s move but I knew without a shadow of doubt that there was something fishy in the situation.

“Why is Hari doing this to Priya? I can bet she is not suffering from any psychological disorders. Though quite shy she is very disciplined and organized. I suddenly felt like a strong guardian angel and wanted to do everything possible to save poor Priya from consuming those dangerous drugs”. uhhh!!!.....I shrieked.

My investigative brain fetched me the news of an affair that was sprouting between Hari and one of his female colleagues at his workplace. Probably Hari wanted to spend the rest of his life with that female. So the sedations to Priya were to stop her from finding out these details. I felt myself at the crossroads... ..My friendly neighbourhood instinct wanted to save Priya..... what would be the consequences of my revealing the truth .....I wanted to tell it all to her .

And this is where I realized my moment of moral dilemma. .... to speak out the truth and save Priya out of the situation or just keep mum over the issue and save myself from any further troubles. I decided to follow the truth

I knew a talk therapy would not work with an introvert Hari. So I decided to talk to Priya. The first step was convincing her to stop the intake of medicines. She was reluctant and afraid that Hari would find out . After coaxing her for a few days, I convinced her. One day when Hari thought Priya was dazed under the influence of medication, she caught him unaware. This gave rise to abuses & arguments. Priya was annoyed and decided to leave him . While at the door, she reminded Hari , “Having financially duped your dear ones in the past, and left isolated, I was the only one who stood by you.” He recollects how Priya was his only hope then. He surely did not want to lose her. Hari reconciled, mended his ways and started leading a good life with his wife.

Let me tell you all that almost a year back Hari suffered a massive heart attack and passed away. Today I feel proud and contented with my morally right decision to deal with a tricky situation because my initiative gave Priya and Hari few more years of togetherness.

Moral of the story –

We all confront such moments of moral dilemma in our lives. Our social bindings do not often allow us to take the right call. I knew that day would be ruined for Priya but, I thought, a day lost is better than a life ruined. Isaac Asimov said,” Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what is right.” This quote will surely help us be morally right always.

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