

A Chemical Reaction

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Whenever Sir Imran would enter the class, he always had a smile on his face. We were a few days away from our exams then. Two three boys in our class were trying to evade the teacher and he had decided to stay out of class because they hadn't done their homework, not because they weren't intelligent, but because they just never liked Chemistry.

After taking the attendance Sir Imran wanted to know where Ahmed and Ali were; he had seen them this morning. Obviously, none of us said anything, since we did not want to tell on our friends. We told him that we had been asked to find out the properties of carbon dioxide gas, and we were completely at a loss. Sir smiled at the whole class and said, "Dear Students, what's there to worry about? Just wait and we will find out the properties of carbon dioxide gas."

He sent a boy to the school garden to get some limestone, where the gardener was lining the trees with limestone to save the trees from insects etc. When the boy returned, Sir poured some water in a drinking glass, and added some limestone to it. Bubbles started to rise from the mixture and the glass turned hot. When he lit a match stick and tossed it over the glass, the fire was put out.

He asked us, "What did I do? And what did you feel?" Everyone gave their opinion. We were totally engrossed in this experiment. Sir told us that mixing water and limestone led to a chemical reaction due to which the temperature of the new compound rose; we could tell this because the glass had heated up. The match stick was extinguished because there was carbon dioxide emanating from the compound; fire needs oxygen to keep burning and carbon dioxide puts out fire. He told us how the process will be represented in mathematical form.

This chemical reaction shows us that carbon dioxide is colourless, odourless and tasteless, it puts out fire, he told us. After that day we started entertaining the possibility that we might actually master Chemistry.

When we got this question on our exam, the result was amazing, all of us got it perfectly right!

A change had come over all of us, which was no less than a chemical reaction. We came to be friends with Sir Imran. He would tell us important facts, quotations etc. We would ask questions and he would give us the answers or suggest solutions.

We got so enamoured by our studies that we came to strike a friendship with books. Sir would recommend different books to us. Not only would we purchase these books, but we would also read them and then exchange views with Sir Imran. May be this was what strengthened my academic roots.

Today I have done my MSc in Physics. I still remember his words to me, 'Kamran, I have full confidence in you.' I will never break his trust and will prove that true to my name Kamran (successful), I will be successful in life.

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