

Remembering Prof Rashid Bhikha... Tibb legacy woven with family, sincerity and empathy



The late Rashid Bhikha (Uncle Poppy).

As tributes pour in from all over the world, after the sudden passing of Prof Rashid Ahmed Hassan Bhikha (78, last Friday Nov 24), it becomes more and more evident that he was indeed no simple man, although he lived a modest life. Not only Laudium, but indeed the country is much poorer after the sad passing of Rashid Bhai, more fondly known as Uncle Poppy. No words can do justice to the significant role Uncle Poppy played within the community and the business sector, more so in healthcare. For all those who met him, even just once, there are only fond memories to cherish. Starting as a pharmacist and later becoming a successful entrepreneur, he founded the first black-owned pharmaceutical company in 1974. His mentorship there paved the way for a new era. In 2007, after over three decades, he shifted his focus to Unani-Tibb (Greek-Arab Medicine), creating the Ibn Sina Institute of Tibb and earning global recognition. Uncle Poppy's impact extended beyond his professional achievements. He actively

supported marginalized communities, non-profit clinics, and educational initiatives earning him the Inyathelo Award in 2008. Aside from his professional pursuits, Uncle Poppy was an avid sportsman, playing tennis, cricket and squash with a contagious zest for life. His belief in inclusivity went beyond societal barriers, emphasizing the importance of humanity. Family held a special place in Uncle Poppy's heart. From his beloved wife Mariam, to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, he cherished these connections. In various interviews, he wished to be remembered as an ordinary person - remaining humble, sincere, just, and empathetic. Uncle Poppy's legacy, woven with these virtues, leaves a lasting impact in our hearts. The **Laudium Sun** extends deepest condolences to Uncle Poppy's family and friends. We pray that the Almighty grants him Jannat-ul-Firdaus. -See page 10.

Tributes pour in for father of Tibb - Prof Rashid Bhikha (78)

ALHAMDULILLAH OUR DEAR BELOVED POPPY KAKA PASSED AWAY ON A FRIDAY - May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus

A personal journey down memory lane... When I was in grade7, I could not grasp the lesson regarding the function of the heart. Our dear Poppy Kaka explained it to me so brilliantly, that I topped the natural science class Alhamdulillah.

As a young boy I would be an ardent supporter of Districts Cricket Club. I would record the score and be in awe of our dear Poppy Kaka's ability to hit boundaries with ease. He would acknowledge my support and encourage me. When I was in high school he selected me for a game above some senior players. He can still vividly remember how proud he was that I took a difficult catch. This inspired me to try even harder. Visits to Mohlender's cafe for steak and chips and butter on the innings break were special.

I fondly remember spending many evenings with our dear Poppy Kaka and his friends Ebrahim Kalang and Mahamed Hassan in the back of his car in Zig Zag. Remember we had to go to social media as this was a treat. Playing pinball at the local cafe was an exciting prospect for us, if we had change to spare. Our dear Poppy Kaka would often join us in the local cafe. I still try and imitate his magical back hand smash. On one occasion I was rude to an African man who was changing a tyre for us. Our dear Poppy Kaka gave me advice on how not to behave toward workers. I never forgot this invaluable advice.

Going with our dear Poppy Kaka and Ma (Amina Kaka) and Footi to his graduation ceremony in Durban was a memorable trip. Maybe it was the first time I truly understood the realities of Apartheid as we rushed through the Orange Free State and Ma made fair Salaat in the toilet of a garage. We required a special permit from the police station in Erasmus to enter the Free State.

When our dear Poppy Kaka got fixed to our loving Aunt Maryam I remember him telling me what a beautiful lady he was going to get married to. Memories of having the opportunity to visit the Kruger National Park with our dear Poppy Kaka, our loving Aunt Maryam and baby Nasira was a special occasion. Holidays were a rare treat and so was going to a restaurant. I vividly recall our dear beloved Poppy Kaka

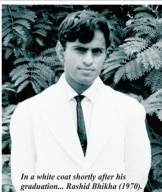
taking all of us upstairs to Khurbas garage to enjoy a special drink. At university as part of my engineering classes I had to attend some additional evening classes in first aid in the centre of Johannesburg. For several evenings our dear Poppy Kaka and dear Solly (FW), Hassan, Hussain and I prepared a proposal for them where we would pay them a rental whilst we paid off the debt. Alhamdulillah both our beloved family members assisted us with the loan free of interest. Alhamdulillah we now are able to benefit from their generosity and kindness. Our beloved Poppy Kaka financially supported and encouraged our effort at the Tshwane Muslim School. This has made it possible for us to educate so many less fortunate learners over the years. Many of them are now professionals or Alims and InshaAllah Poppy Kaka will be gaining tremendous rewards for all the good that they have learnt.

Our beloved Poppy Kaka always had great empathy for any of our family who was ill or required assistance. He would make a special effort to maintain family ties. Our beloved Poppy Kaka had a passion for promoting an Islamic World View. Besides the medical field, he generally abhorred all the immorality and confusion that is being promoted by the secular West. The suffering and pain caused by them disturbed him greatly. Alhamdulillah we have lost a special person who has left a tremendous legacy for all of us to follow. Our beloved Poppy Kaka taught me so many valuable lessons and the highest kind and generous to us. May Allah reward him abundantly and grant him the always stages in Jannatul Firdaus. Alhamdulillah it is so pleasing that he has raised such special people - Aunt Maryam, Zain, Naseerah, Naseema, Zaherah and all the lovely grandchildren and in laws. May Allah bless you all and may we all continue to live by the high standards of which our beloved Poppy Kaka left for us.

-Mohamed Ahmed (Eric) Dockrat.

"Whatever Allah takes away or gives, belongs to Him, and everything with Him has a limited fixed term (in this world), so be patient and anticipate Allah's reward." (al-Bukhari) (7377) May Allah forgive the Marhoom and grant him Jannah. May Allah grant the bereaved, patience to deal with the colossal loss with fortitude. Wa-Salam **Mohammed Seelad (Maulana) Chief Executive Officer Shauket Ally Khan (Hafiz) Principal**

The legacy of this exceptional individual extends beyond the immediate impact of his actions. Uncle Poppy was a source of inspiration, motivating others to embrace humility and humanity in their own lives. His philanthropic endeavors, coupled with a hands-on approach to community service, created a ripple effect of positive change. Through mentoring, charitable contributions, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting others, he left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him. I am fortunate and eternally grateful to have encountered his love and blessings. His efforts will never be forgotten. His legacy serves as a beacon, guiding future generations towards a more compassionate and connected world. You will forever be cherished, Uncle Poppy. -shaukirah.



In a white coat shortly after his graduation... Rashid Bhikha (1970).

Professor Rasheed Bhikha, The Humanitarian, The Philosopher, The Visionary, The Healer The Father of Tibb in South Africa The Reviver of Tibb an Nabawi (Prophetic Medicine) Your legacy interwoven with the Greats The fruits of your labour are continuous Like the streams of Paradise An endless part of the Divine rope of healing As you follow your deeds to Eternal bliss We admire you with honor, gratitude and humility At your life, your Legacy, your Light May Allah grant you his Highest Jannah Ameen.

The loss I feel is like losing my father for the second time... your dad was so much to me... and the loss runs deep the more I think about him.... Allah grant Aunt Maryam and your whole family strength sabr and healing. **Majeed Iftosah Unani-Tibb Doctor, Lecturer at UWC and dear Aunt Maryam.**

On behalf of the Tibb Treatment Centre staff and everyone in Cape town, we would kindly like to extend our deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family during this incredibly difficult time. We were and still are very saddened about the passing of our beloved Prof. He was our mentor, our father and friend.

We all have many wonderful memories and lessons taught by Prof, that we will surely carry with us for the rest of our lives. He has touched so many lives and always strive to do better and do more. We are truly grateful for being part of Prof's journey and we thank each and every one that has assisted and supported Prof during his time. Kindly know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we will assist and support wherever needed. Do not hesitate to let us know. May the Almighty continue to grant all of you love, support and strength by accepting all of the daas/ prayers. If possible, could you kindly share with mom and rest of the family please. -Tibb Treatment staff.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon. Dr Rashid Bhikha He was an epitome of dedication towards Unani medicine. He propagated Unani Tibb in South Africa and also contributed to bringing out Unani literature for modern times. He worked really hard and set up state of the art Unani centres in South Africa. I personally met him so many times as he frequently attended so many scientific deliberations in India. Later when his health didn't permit he used to call on Unani day and conveyed his best wishes. He was blessed with a lovely family and friends.

He was mentor for many. At a personal level, it's a great loss as I considered him a great and most respected human being and a stalwart. I saw him for the first time when he visited RRIUM, Delhi to see how cupping is being done in India by Late Dr Hassan Sahab. May Allah (SWT) do his maghfirat and grant him the highest place in Jannah. -Dr. Gazala of CTR/SA Messages from all over SA and the globe are pouring in celebrating Prof's legacy. Alhamdulillah we all had the privilege of knowing him his life time achievement award... he was



The late Professor Rashid Bhikha.

I have heard of the sad demise of your father. A man of legendary proportions who endeared himself into the hearts of multitudes of people. He moulded and influenced his wife and family into multifarious directions and imbued them with gentleness and kindness and truthfulness and piety. May these continue for a long time to perpetuate a memory of which you are his legacy. Allah bless you with a wonderful status in Jannatul Firdaus. We shall make dua for your dad. **Yusuf and Tabera Garsia.**

Condolences from Brazil As Salam 'alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu! Bismillah-Rahman-Rahim Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon.

We just saw today the news about Ustadh Rashid Bhikha leaving this temporary abode... Although we never met and he didn't know me in this life, in the last months I have truly benefited from his works and the e-books available for free download at the Ibn Sina Institute of Tibb. As in my country there is no formal education on the subject of Tibb Nabawi, I am resorting to self-learning, and I have been fortunate to have found an immense help, conveying through their simple, yet precise language the teachings of Islamic/Prophetic Medicine to all those who ask to learn it. I ask Allah Almighty that He bless our dear friend Ustadh Rashid and that he may receive an immense reward and blessings from his good deeds, that he continue to receive the flowing of blessings coming from the Sadaqa Jariyya for giving these books for free download in the benefit of the Ummah of Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) and mankind! May Allah have mercy on Ustadh Rashid Bhikha, I consider him one of my masters in the pursuit of the Noble Science of Medicine, may Allah forgive him and give eternal blessings for his soul. **'Abd al-Wali Maron from Brazil.**

named the Hippocrates of Tibb in South Africa it is heart breaking news. I am extremely saddened and praying for the departed soul's contribution for revival of Jannah and sabrun jami for his family, friends, well wishers and students, teachers and practitioners of Tibb medicine whom he always guided and supported. He will be remembered for long for his contribution for revival and promotion of Tibb in South Africa. His death is a personal loss to me.

The significant thing in our beloved prof's life is that he was punctual on his Salaah/Namaz. Whilst I was still practicing Tibb or an event at the medical centre he always asked me about the namaaz times and read his namaaz on time or joined us in jamaat salah, completely second all the sentiments above. Prof really dedicated every ounce of his being to the establishment and growth of Tibb in South Africa. He was a career father, always looking out for us. And yes it wasn't all sunshine and roses but Prof always went that extra mile to ensure that Tibb and all its new graduates were sorted. Indeed a huge loss, Allah grant Prof the highest place in jannah in sha Allah. **Dr. Anisha Ali | Tibb Doctor:**

HOMEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The family, friends and colleagues of the late Professor Rashid Ahmed Hassan Bhikha. It is with heartfelt condolences that the Homeopathic Association of South Africa write to you on the passing of your dear husband, father, friend and colleague. Prof. Rashid Ahmed Hassan Bhikha's contributions to the profession of Unani Tibb will be remembered for decades to come and his contribution to complementary medicine forever valued by all in complementary health care professions. The HSA wishes you strength at this difficult time. May he rest in eternal peace. Sincerely, **Dr. Bianca De Conha President of the Homeopathic Association of South Africa.**