

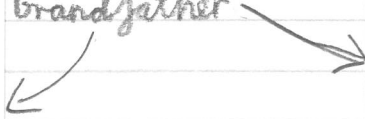
# My Grandfather's Journey From Malawi

GAMAN PATEL

My grandfather was the youngest of three children. He was born in sunny Malawi. He lived in the rainforest with his parents. I imagine this would have been like Jungle Book. He started boarding school at a very young age of 6. There were no running water at his school. It was very challenging. He remembers waking up every day at 5.30am to collect a bucket of water from the well.



My  
grandfather



My great  
grandparents



My grandfather loved reading books and he read all the books he could get his hands on. I think that is why he has very good general knowledge.

I never knew he wanted to be a doctor but his family couldn't afford it. He finished school at 17 and started lots of successful businesses. He was an entrepreneur. Many years later his wishes came true when his children, my daddy and auntie became doctors!



I can't believe that it used to take him 3 long weeks to get to India to see his parents by steam ship. It must have been difficult as he got very seasick.

In 1979, he got married to my grandmother Sangita. They spoke 4 different languages; Chichewa, Hindi, Gujarati, and English.



The wedding



The graduation



He loves art, technology, photography, wildlife and all kinds of sports. The funny thing is I love all of these things too. We even watch our favourite thing together - David Attenborough.

In 1989, my grandparents had a tough decision to make because it was becoming dangerous at that time. They had to decide whether to leave or stay in Malawi. They left everything behind for a better, safer future for their two children. I can't imagine if I had to give up everything right now! What a huge sacrifice my grandparents made for us.

UK



Malawi



My grandparents decided to move to the UK with very little money. At one point between them they had 5 jobs. They must have worked very hard.

My grandfather even went to evening classes to get a degree in printing and technology. I can't believe he went back to university in his forties.



My lovely family ↗

My grandparents are happily retired and live in Gookey. They enjoy spending time with their 4 grandchildren.

I am so inspired by my grandfather who sacrificed everything for our family.

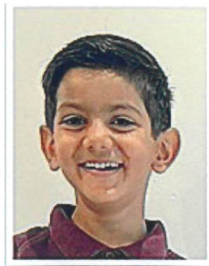
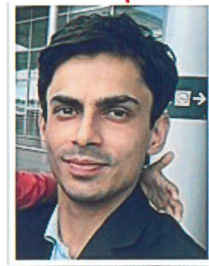
Shree Patel  
May 2024



# My Family Tree



My Grandfather



Raam

Shree