

Table-mates to Soul-mates

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Abstract

“Table –mate to soul mate” is a special category of marriages exclusively created by God and discovered by medicos. Isn't it? It is almost unknown in other professional courses. In medical field people are often heard talking about someone referring to their table-status. In fact in the curriculum vitae of any doctor his or her table-mate history is often talked about by the colleagues though it is not written anywhere. Identity of doctors among doctors is mostly with their college, year of admission and his or her table.

Keywords: Soulmates, Medical field, Table mate.

The following narrative is not a story of mine or yours. Rather, it is a common story of millions of doctors in our country.

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Table in the “Table –mate” refers to the dissection table, the first battlefield in the life of medicos. It is a different experience for any naive medical student filled with apprehension, curiosity and joy.

To begin with, everyone is expected to know everything while nobody knows anything about dissection and human anatomy. The euphoria of seeking admission to medical college lasts for a very brief time. The struggle continues for days as the concept of reading from handy notes is not applicable to the medical field and human anatomy in particular. It is said that humans get more attached to the one in similar problem. Same psychological principal comes in to play around the dissection table.

As with every passing day anatomy becomes intricate, relationships blossom around the dissection table. Students engage in the discussion of muscles, nerves, veins and arteries, not on the table but besides the table. Few people start enjoying the formalin flavored environment of dissection hall. Some beneficiaries become so regular in the dissection hall as if they have aimed to top the attendance record. Needless to say, there are people in the world who hates holidays. Some medical students are among them.

Most relationships culminate into the life-long friendships. Few people get more closer to walk on the

path of being soul mates. Other friends also contribute in pushing people in to relationships. Overall many environmental factors like intricate subject, dissection table, human dead body, friends and formalin contribute in some or other way in transforming tablemates in to soul mates.

The bond established at dissection table becomes stronger with the adhesives of exams, tutorials and annual gatherings. It may sound funny but it's true. Working together during difficult times help people know each other well.

This narrative of “Table–Mates to Soul Mates” is true for many doctor couples in India. It is difficult to find any research article on this topic but it will be interesting to know the global scenario.

If you get a chance to talk with any doctor couple, please do ask them, are you tablemates? I believe, nearly half of the times you will get the answer “YES”. In short, “rishtey to bhagwan banata hai par logo ko pass lane ka kaam dissection table karta hai”. Best wishes to all the soul-mates who were once table-mates.