



En. Mohammad Afif Bin Daud

(26th October 1991 – 23rd May 2019)

“Mohammad Afif bin Daud was born on the 26th of October, 1991, in Kota Tinggi, Johor. He is the second child born to Daud bin Abu Bakar and Faridah binti Taib, as well as brother to siblings Natasha Ashila binti Daud and Muhammad Akmal bin Daud. Afif’s unrelenting desire to reach for the stars and succeed in life, he admits, is greatly attributed to his modest upbringing.”

That was the opening paragraph of Afif’s scholarship application letter back in September 2013. The rest of the letter goes on to explain the rest of Afif’s incredible accomplishments, such as his academic success, his involvement in co-curricular activities, and his desire to eventually transition from corporate practice to the judiciary, where he wanted to make his mark in the legal community in a big and meaningful way.

All of these things were true, by the way. Afif was not the type of person to toot his own horn without the evidence to back himself up.

Having graduated law school with First Class Honours and several impressive titles under his belt (recipient of the Universiti Teknologi MARA’s coveted *Tan Sri Arshad Ayub Excellence Award*, *Tun Abdul Razak Award*, and national champion of the Philip C. Jessup Moot Competition 2011, to name a few), Afif then chambered and started legal practice with law firm Messrs. Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill after being called to the Bar in August 2015. In 2017, Afif made the bold leap from lawyer to partner of his own private practice, *Afif, Rahman & Chong*, where he specialised in corporate and commercial dispute resolution, as well as foreign corporate and M&A law.

The Selangor Bar was gracious enough to give us this opportunity to memorialise Afif forever, but the truth is, Afif is far more than a list of accomplishments.

Afif was only 27 years old when he started his own practice, and just like any other 27-year-old, he was still figuring things out.

When he was not running in and out of court for his clients, or sprawled out on the floor reading new case laws with his earphones in, Afif was trying his hand at a new recipe for *sambal belacan*, or painting a new canvas for his room. When he was not being awarded, “Best Student in the Room” by whoever was authorised to do so, he was laughing with friends, reading a new book or talking about something that recently happened to his favourite K-pop artist.

Afif was the type of person who was always down for anything— he would be the first person to say “yes” to late-night car rides around the city when you were feeling down and just needed to be in the presence of someone you trusted, he would always say yes to the crazy idea to get your hair shaved off, and he would always be optimistic about new experiences.

Natural talent and intelligence aside, Afif stood out from the crowd for two reasons— his childlike sense of curiosity and his ruthless desire to truly live life.

In an article he published on 1 January 2017 called, “Your Breakup With Walter Mitty”, Afif recalls the tale of a fictional character named “Walter Mitty” from James Thurber’s short story, “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” Walter Mitty in this story spends more time daydreaming than he does paying attention to the real world.

To maintain the authenticity of Afif’s thoughts regarding this character, allow me to quote the following statements in his article—

It is a sad thing indeed for any one of us to live our lives as Walter Mitty-s.

While it may be impossible to disregard the humdrum of our “realities” all together, we should nevertheless not allow our realities to get in the way of our ability to achieve our dreams and reach our potentials.

*It is a shame for our imaginations to stay hidden in the corners of our minds. We have to stop limiting ourselves to Walter Mitty. **We have to start doing.***

Stop living your life within the limits you have put upon yourself. Now is the time for you to shine and become the person you always dreamed of being.

This is your world. This is your life.

Breakup with the Walter Mitty in you.

The universe has done a great injustice to our legal fraternity to have taken Afif away from us at such a young age. I have no doubt in my mind that he would have been a great and impartial judge.

If there is one takeaway to be made from Afif's story, it is that passion is a defining trait in great minds.

Afif always lived his life passionately.

Afif lived his life passionately until the very end.

Written by,

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