

My Beautiful String of Grateful Memories from India to Canada to America

by Meena Chettiar



Golden memories and tears of gratitude is what I what I want to share as part of my odyssey as an immigrant from India to Canada to the USA. Born in India, raised in a conventional family as a timid, outspoken middle child, I attended universities for master's degrees in India, Canada and Minnesota. Memories of what brought me to where I am today.... a Biomedical engineer, Speaker, Author and Advocate for women's growth, a happy mother of two health care professionals, grandmother of five adorable gifts from heaven is... for sure an immigrant story to be strung as a diamond necklace.

When I was finishing my Master's degree in Applied Chemistry, my father who nurtured my free spirited, inquisitive nature was looking for bridegrooms who would take me abroad because I enjoyed bread and butter as opposed to rice and curry. In 1979, I ended up in my husband Mohan's family, who had immigrated to Canada. When I look back at what made me who I am during my 21 years in India, 18 years in Canada and now my 22nd year in the US, there have been many beautiful moments the best of which were the birth of my two children, now professionals in their thirties.

Mohan and I have worked hard, seen many cultures and have experienced "LIFE". What I am proud to share as my string of memories today, are few beautiful blessings and experiences that I am grateful for.

1. My childhood with my father's high educational and spiritual expectations, parents' unconditional love and patience with my inquisitive and free spirited nature.
2. Blessings in life to have near and dear life long friends, from all parts of the world ... thanks to our digital aids that erase time and distance!

3. The open hearted, broad minded folks I studied and worked with in Canada and America who taught me that immigrants can drop all crutches and grow as warriors in any country. The color of our skin and eyes can never stand in the way of true love that bonds the human race together.
4. Thanks to the great Indian Spiritual Gurus who taught me that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. We must impact the world at large, beyond the man made boundaries between nations.
5. I got molded through heartbreaking incidents such as my daughter's diagnosis with bladder cancer at 19. She underwent a six-hour surgery at Mayo clinic to get a neo bladder that has been working for over 13 years for her now.
6. Thanks to the highly evolved educational system in North America that continues to quench my thirst for knowledge and has enabled me to contribute passionately to the world of medicine.

As I look forward to making an impact as an author of my soon to be published "Immigration Success", and nurturing education of immigrant women, I am happy to share my blessings from crossing the ocean to establish my life as a successful immigrant.