



Golden Gate Bridge - Not gold, but red

The truth – the whole truth and nothing but the truth! Always tell the truth!

By Dy M. Yoong , Volunteer (Sept 2005)

I was asked to do a house call for a sick diabetic patient the other day. He was an old monk who fell and for the time being not able to walk to see his regular doctor. He wanted his blood to be taken for some blood test, That was soon done and because it was not polite to just leave ASAP, I asked about his diabetic condition. His reply was that it was fine, and then he showed me the results of his recent test. I looked at the results and they were anything but good. I took a few moments to decide what to tell him. It was apparent that he has not been told the “truth” or maybe not the whole “truth” for various reasons. What was the “right” thing to do? Me, some one who he probably will never see again – am I supposed to tell him truth and discredit whatever he has been told before? And then what?

*I told him the truth, expecting that he would be upset. But none of that. His response was absolutely serene. Took a few moments to digest what I told him and then smilingly said something in a language alien to me (?sanskrit) . And as I was obviously curious he translated –
Roughly and the gist of it ;*

*“ Always tell the truth,
When it is pleasant, tell the truth,
When it is unpleasant, also tell the truth”*

Now when I look back it does not seem much, but at that moment it seemed quite profound. Maybe it was the “moment”. Maybe it was his manner.

Must the truth be always told? And always the whole truth since telling part of the truth in truth is still a lie. Really do not know. Now that the good monk has made me ponder the truth, I know in truth that I frequently lie since I seldom tell the many terribly ill patients I treat the absolute truth. And that’s the whole truth.