

LEAD STORY **MOTHER TERESA**

Magician  
**Roshni Sil** still  
draws strength  
from the  
blessings she  
received from  
the Mother

# HYPNOTIC CHARISMA

**M**agic is something that is in my blood. My father Prince Sil is among the best-known magicians of the country. Right from my childhood, I was fascinated by magic. I knew that when I grew up, I would be a magician like my father. I am proud that I have succeeded.

It was my penchant for magic that brought me close to one of the most magical people of all time — Mother Teresa. My association with her while performing magic shows at the orphanage Shishu Bhawan transformed my life.

My father had since long been involved with the Missionaries of Charity and had performed in many of their fund-raising as well as in-house programmes. Under his guidance, I began performing stage shows when I was around five years old. However, the first time I performed in Shishu Bhawan, an

orphanage run by the Missionaries of Charity, I was around eight.

Children love magic shows and watching a young magician perform was a treat for the children of Shishu Bhawan. My first programme was an instant hit and there has been no looking back since. I was called to perform in almost all the programmes of Shishu Bhawan and till today, I must have performed no less than 150 times.

I believe what made me popular among children was the fact that I was around their age and yet could hold shows — I was not one of those awe-inspiring magicians who amaze as well as scare. To the children, I was like a fairy who could perform tricks and hold them in a thrall.

I remember the first time I met Mother Teresa. I had met her briefly several times while performing shows but that day was special. Having heard from the children about the “little magician”, she decided that she wanted to see me perform.

It was around June and my summer vacations were on. On hearing that I would hold a show especially for Mother Teresa, I was thrilled but tense, too. I was determined to put in my best as I walked into the hall of the orphanage. As Mother Teresa walked in accompanied by nuns, for a moment I wondered what it was about the frail woman that made her a messiah.

Mother Teresa was blessed with a magic touch. My father was witness to one such incident. He remembers having seen a man afflicted with leprosy writhing in pain. When Mother Teresa touched him, his pain subsided and he appeared to be much at ease.

To perform a show in front of such a lady made me nervous. The nervousness, however, disappeared the moment I looked into her eyes. They seemed to be oceans of peace. Her encouraging look instilled in me the confidence that if I tried, I could do it, and God was there with me.

I performed effortlessly and much to my joy, Mother Teresa seemed delighted. One of my last tricks was to bring out a garland from nowhere. I did so and went on to garland her and bowed before her. Embracing me, she said: “God Bless you, dear child. You



are wonderful.”

That was a magical moment, which transformed me to what I am today. I believe her blessings helped me develop my confidence.

Let me give you an example. My father is among the three magicians in the world who have performed the rare feat of holding a bullet fired from a gun in one’s teeth. A risky trick, it is believed that even the master magician, Houdini, could not muster enough courage to do it.

Over 74 magicians across the globe have died while trying to perform this feat. This is a well-known trick that my father performs and there is a great demand for it. Last February, he was performing this trick at a show. However, the person who fired the shot miscalculated and the bullet hit my father in the face. He was rushed to hospital and had to undergo three surgeries before he recovered.

Being a brave man and a magician to the core, my father was ready to perform the trick once again as soon as he recovered. The problem was that no one was ready to fire at him after the incident. Gauging the situation, I decided I had to do the job to help my father successfully perform the feat.

As I picked up the gun and took aim, I was a bundle of nerves. But a voice from far away appeared to be telling me: “God bless you my child; you are wonderful.” I fired and the trick worked perfectly. Mother Teresa’s blessings had given me the confidence that I could do it.

This confidence has stayed with me in all spheres of life. Be it achieving success in academics or in the arena of magic, I believe her blessings and good wishes have steered me forward and will continue to do so. ▽

(As told to Ritusmita Biswas)