

Treasured Moment

-- Shobi Dobi

One very sunny Christmas Day when I, Shobi Dobi, was making balloon animals for the grandchildren of a woman in the Respiratory Care Unit of a local hospital, I noticed an elderly woman curled up in the next bed.

I had been so involved with the family that I had not even noticed her. I immediately drew back the curtain between the two beds.

I got my colorful self in the line of sight of the older woman and made a greeting gesture. I thought I detected a faint smile so I gently picked up her hand and held it between mine. Then I saw a very small smile, so I sat down and gently stroked her hand.

To my amazement the woman began to sing Christmas Carols in some language I did not know. I stayed for about 15 minutes holding her hand and humming with her, fighting back tears. When I left, she was still singing.

Note: (2012) This was my very first day clowning in a hospital. It was in 1992.

Please note that in 2012 balloons are no longer acceptable in a hospital setting in the USA. This is because of potential for patients becoming allergic to latex (See Vol 2-1 Outlawed Balloons)