The Parcel



et me tell you an amazing story that happened a few weeks ago.

"Dear Abhay"

On a Sunday afternoon I went to my friend, Abhay's house and was playing computer games with my best friends - Abhay & Sai. Then the doorbell rang and a postman delivered a parcel. It was addressed to "Dear Abhay". As my friend Abhay opened the parcel - we were very surprised. It contained baby clothes and was addressed to "Dear Abhay" who was over 10 years old!

"Hah? Baby stuff?" said Abhay in a very surprised manner "It was sent by my grandfather ..."

Sai & I started laughing "Baby stuff! Your grandfather thinks that you are a baby!"

"Something is very strange" said Abhay "This letter was sent from Cape Town in South Africa. But I don't have any relatives in South Africa!"

Then I suggested "Ok, let's go to the post-office and find more about this strange parcel."

- Amartya Mukherjee, Grade VI

The Post-Office

The following week, the three of us went to the post office and showed them this letter. After a while the postman told us something very strange - "Believe it or not, this letter was posted more than 20 years ago!"

I asked, "You mean to say that a letter addressed to Ojima 6-14-4-201, by a South African, in the name of Abhay was posted more than 20 years ago?" The postman replied "Exactly!"

Then Sai said "So there must have been another Abhay, living in the same address 20 years ago!" Abhay replied "Exactly - but how do we find out who it was?"

Then I had an idea. I suggested "Let's use Google to find out all the Abhay's living in Japan. We can contact them if it is possible."

My friends agreed. "That's a terrific idea" said Abhay "I am also curious as to how many more Abhay's live in Japan!"

Abhay Ranjan Shah

As we Googled using the search phrase "Abhay Japan" we got 16 contacts. We then found the email address of each one of them and emailed them asking if any of them had relatives from South Africa.

A few days later we received an email from Abhay Ranjan Shah. Abhay told us that he was now 20 years old and was born in Ojima 6-14-4-201. He also told us that his maternal grandfather lived in South Africa. Several times - his grandfather had enquired if they received his gift. However Abhay and his parents thought that the old man was perhaps dreaming and didn't take him too seriously.

"Unfortunately, my grandfather died around 5 years ago." said Abhay Ranjan Shah, "and I never got a chance to say 'Thank you' for this wonderful gift!"