

# Tribute To Dilip Kumar



**Dilip Kumar Is No More:** It is a deep personal loss to me that Dilip Saab, one of the heroes of my life, passed away a few hours ago. I discovered him in my mid-teens when I was living in Srinagar, Kashmir. During those years there was not much going on in a teenager's life except reading books, listening to music on Radio Kashmir, seeing movies, and imagining romances with pretty girls. The last item was more in the realm of imagination than in reality, as the existing morality strongly looked down upon it. When I saw the first Dilip Kumar movie, I was hypnotized. His emoting, speaking, walking, and everything else was sharp, sensitive, coming deep from his heart. And the tragedy roles he played were in sync with my soul. After seeing a Dilip Kumar movie I used to be so moved, that for several days I would be knocked out. It would take me effort to come back to real life. After seeing his many movies I came to think that he must be a special personality in his real life. My thinking came to be true after I delved deeply in his real life. I found that he was an intelligent and a sensitive man, who had a strong character. Also, I came to know that that he was very selective in the roles he played, was very good to people, so much so you could not criticize any person in Bollywood and beyond in his presence. If you did, he would come out with many good qualities and deeds that the criticized person had to his credit. In the last few years I had a wish that he live up to 100, to add aura to his personality. His life, beyond the cinema, I studied keenly. I found that he knew how to live it, true to his personality. He maintained his artistic personality, knitting it with realism, and constrained to practical difficulties of life. The same qualities of sensitivity, intelligence, and character he used in his movie roles, he also applied to his life. He was selective in his roles, so that he ended up working in less than 60 films; while actors of his level of success would act in more than 100. This was a delineation of his character. He did not want to work in all kind of cheap movies, just to make money. Using Tagore's language, Dilip Kumar was greater than his deeds and

truer than his surroundings. His name will not only live on in Bollywood, but in India, and beyond. He was the first hero of my life; subsequently, I added four other heroes, as I grew up. But none of them chipped away anything from the magic of Dilip Saab. Today my hero has left me, but his life will keep on inspiring me by its sensitivity, tenacity, talent, realism, and strong character. Maharaj Kaul

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