

**Shared by courageous Muji A Karim, member of the Phoenix World Burn Congress.**

The first few weeks after I found out the extent of my injuries were extremely difficult.

I remember lying in the blood soaked hospital bed watching the ceiling fan go around and around. Wondering if I was even happy to be alive. I wish I was dead or hoping I didn't wake up were the last things I remember thinking before the meds kicked in and I passed out.

Sleeping wasn't much better because I would have dreams of when I was active, when I scored the game winning touchdown or hit that buzzer beater three pointer, but I would wake up the next morning disappointed and forced to face the reality of my situation.

I'd been in the hospital for about six weeks and one day I got a knock on the door. I said 'come in' and in walks this older, well-dressed, bald-headed guy. I'm thinking to myself, 'here comes another Doctor who's going to tell me all the things that are wrong with me and that everything would eventually be okay'.

But this guy was different. He wasn't a doctor. His name was George Pessotti and he was from the Phoenix Society for burn survivors. He had been burned in a house fire in 1979 and suffered second and third degree burns on 80% of his body.

As we got to talking I realised that we had a lot more in common than I had initially thought. I remember joking and laughing. This was a huge milestone for me because it was the first time I had smiled in weeks. Anyone who knows me knows that I'm smiling all the time.

At the end of the visit I wasn't cured by a long shot. But, what George did was give me hope that maybe just maybe I could get through this. Here's a guy whose accident was over 30 years ago, who walks in, well-dressed, great sense of humour and a thriving business career after the fact. I'm thinking, if this old bald-headed guy 😊 can do it then maybe I can too.

As my attitude changed I noticed that positive things started to happen around me. As these positive things continue to happen the confidence that I could ultimately get through this began to grow and grow.

Mujiblates friend/fan of the year - George Pessotti! Honestly not sure where I'd be if it wasn't for this dude!

Much ❤️🙏

