

There is no such things as a simple miracle

A miracle. What is a miracle. It is an governed by natural or scientific laws, probably it may be attributed to supernatural thing or a miracle worker.

In the movie 'awakening' we identify Dr.Sayer as a miracle worker.Now you may wonder why I'm calling him as a miracle worker.When moving to the plot of the movie Malcom Sayer is a dedicated caring physician at Bronx Hospital.It was summer of 1969 when the doctor gives the experimental new drug to his post encephalitic patients.It caused a miraculous rebirth to patients and they began to move after 30 years of self-captivity.

Leonard was his first patient to take the experimental drug.The movie follows Leonard through the stages of rebirth.He was a bright,lovable kid until the disease capture his delicate childhood.After the intake of drug he was awoken from his sleeping sickness in which he suffered for 30 years of his life.He was filled with wonder and gratitude to be able to move around freely.Same happiness was with Dr.Sayer.Leonard helps doctor in studying his case.

Leonard finds himself attracted to a daughter of another patient ,love and lust arises within him for the first time.As the time passed by Leonard seeks freedom to roam around in outside world rather than being an in-patient.Once he was denied from his grant he starts arguing case repeatedly to Dr.Sayer and hospital staff.At the same time doctor notices Leonard grows more agitated and number of facial and body tics are starting to appear that he was difficult to control.Soon doctor realizes that the triumph on succeeding the drug was only a temporary thing with the appearance of side effects on patients.When Leonard's tics grows more and more prominent ,other patients also puzzled whether it would happen to them too.

Leonard acknowledge sadly what is happening to him to his love Paula. Soon Leonard returns to his catatonic state thereafter.Eventually other patients too returned back to the sleeping sickness no matter how much their L-Dopa dosage is increased.Finally Dr.Sayer address a gathering and mention that the 'awakening ' did not last long.It reflects a lesson for the public to appreciate and live life with work,play ,friendship,family .They are the things that matters,yet people have forgotten them.The movie marks it's end with Dr.Sayer communicating Leonard via an Ouija board giving a tear to the eye of audience.

The movie itself leaves a landmark in the subject of medical ethics.In each and every aspect of movie we see Dr.Sayer as a dedicated and caring physician towards his patients.His practice of medical ethics improves the interaction between him and his patients than other doctors in the ward.These medical ethics improves fairness, honesty, and respect for doctor patient relationship.There are 4 basic principles in medical ethics,

1)Autonomy

2)Beneficence

3)Non maleficence

4)Justice

Autonomy simply explains that an informed adult patient can refuse or accept treatment,drugs and surgeries according to their wishes.Patient has a right to control what is doing to them.The decision of the patient must be respected by everyone, including even the doctor.

But in the case of movie we see that Leonard was not in a position to either accept or deny his treatment.He was suffering from sleeping sicknessfor about 30 years of his life.Dr.Sayer who had a keen interest on bringing Lenard back to the real world was therefore forced to get the consent from Leonard's old mother.There is a lack of patient family relationship as well as patient doctor relationship.The same fact made Leonard mother to freely decide to give her approval to experiment the new drug on her loving son Leonard.

Dr.Sayer tries his maximum in making Leonard mother aware of all the experimental aspects and possible unknown effects of the drug.Finally he was succeeded with the signing of the consent which is an essential in treating a patient.Even after successful awakening he continue the drug under the consent of patient. Once tics started to appear in Leonard,it was Leonard's will that Forced Dr.Sayer to continue medication.

"Get the camera.Watch .Learn .Learn from me "

Says Leonard in an incident when he was havingOcculogyric crisis.That is till the doctor realizes himself it was not succeeding.

Moving to the second principle **beneficence** we see it is practiced not only by Dr.Sayer but also by other nurses in the ward,the chemist and other doctors in the ward. Beneficence simply enlightens the meaning that health care providers must try to improve their patientshealth ,to do their most good for patients in every situation.The group of patients once abandoned by the society thinking that they are no more important was brought back to real life by the unyielding dedication and commitment of Dr.Sayer .He couldn't keep his eye looking at the statue like poor catatonic patients in his ward.With the assistance of fellow nurses he tried his best to find out a way to get this poor neglected patients out from their sleeping sickness.Soon he discovers that certain stimuli reach beyond the patients respective sleeping status like catching a ball,hearing music they love,and experiencing human touch.

After attending a lecture on L-Dopa and its success in Parkinson disease ,he believes that the same drug will also work with his own group.His sole effort was to awaken patients back to

the world which he made it a reality .We see that even his crew of nurses were all dedicated to these poorfellows feeding them,soaking them and looking after them humanly.

Even after Leonard was awoken doctor gives more and more priority towards him and helps him to stabilize his mental condition after 30 years and get him re-integrated to society.Actually he could have gone after reputation and professional prestige for discovering a successful treatment to post encephalitic patients which he never did.He was really bound to the beneficence of Leonard that we see he was affected a lot by Leonard's relapse. On the other hand same incident helped him to pass an important milestone in his life. That is he understood the worth of his life ,what he has forgotten so far ,family, friendship which matters an individual the most in his life.

The 3rd principle that we identify in medical ethics is **non malficience**.It is embodied by the phrase 'first do not harm'.The health care providers should avoid causing harm to their patients.A treatment to a patient is intended for good ,unintentionally causes harm.So it helps you to make difficult decision about whether actions with double effects can be undertaken.

We identify a little bit of contrast between Dr.Sayer and other doctors,that other doctors had less interest in bringing them back to real world.So Dr.Sayer had less support and guidance from fellow doctors in introducing this drug to patients and very thing gave him an enomus freedom in deciding even the dose of the drug to be given to patients.Actually it was really a dangerous fact to be considered in the movie that Dr.Sayer misses even the danger of possible side effects on applying L-Dopa in large amounts and he was premature in using that drug.If he had the guidance of other doctors he could have thought about the bad outcomes of drug.This reveals a black mark in the character of Dr.Sayer though his intension of curing patients was 100% pure.

Even the role of chemist suggests us that he was against the Dr.Sayer's suggestion of giving L-Dopa to post encephalitic patients.Chemist feels the risk of giving the drug to patients that he mentions,

"I'm just a chemist doctor.You are the physician.I'll leave it you to do the damage."

This reflects a tone of warning given by chemist to the doctor when he was coming up with his suggestion.Though treatment has a duel effect Dr.Sayer thinks only about positive side wherehe neglects the negative aspects of drug.When tics starts appearing in Leonard he realizes about negative aspects of the drug. Actually it was the chemist who make him realize that Leonard was having side effects where doctor keeps thinking it as Leonard's normal behavior.

The 4th principle that we come across in medical ethics is **justice**. There you should try to be fair as possible when offering treatments to patients and allocating scarce medical resources. You should be able to justify your actions in every situation. Dr. Sayer was seeking improvement in patient and he did not want them to have to wait a single day more after succeeding the treatment with Leonard. Maybe the fact that the patient had been in their lethargic state for years was the main reason for his not waiting. He always tried to justify his each and every action with his nurses and sometimes even to other doctors. It is well depicted when he fails the drug at the end and he addresses a gathering saying,

“We can hide behind the veil of science and say it was a drug that failed. We don't know what went wrong anymore, than we know what went right”

As the movie unfolds we are invited to meditate on the human personality, practice of medical ethics and on top of that a miracle with a failure preceding it. The movie itself reminds us how tender a doctor's heart can be and how strong a patient's soul can be in front of success and failure. Finally I'd like to say that the movie “awakening” by Oliver Sacks enlightens the world of medical ethics which is a must to become a good doctor.