MIRAE ASSET
Mutual Fund

The First Financial Lessons Don't Come from Books

M-FinBytes

A Parent's Day Reflection

For a few months, Aman had been paying closer attention to money. He had started SIPs, read about index funds, and added a small equity allocation. Some days, he felt confident. On others, he wondered whether he was only learning the language of finance without fully understanding what it meant in real life.

One Sunday afternoon, while home for the weekend, he sat across from his parents at the dining table. His laptop was open between them, showing charts and numbers. His father, as always, sat in the same chair Aman had seen him occupy for years, reading the newspaper with unhurried focus, while his mother sorted a small stack of household bills beside a cup of tea.

That was not the answer Aman had expected.

“My first salary was gone in twelve days,” his father said. “I thought **earning and managing money** were the same skill. They are not. **Earning depends on what you know. Managing depends on how you behave**”

Neither of his parents were speaking like someone who had studied finance. They were speaking like someone who had spent decades living with the consequences of financial decisions.

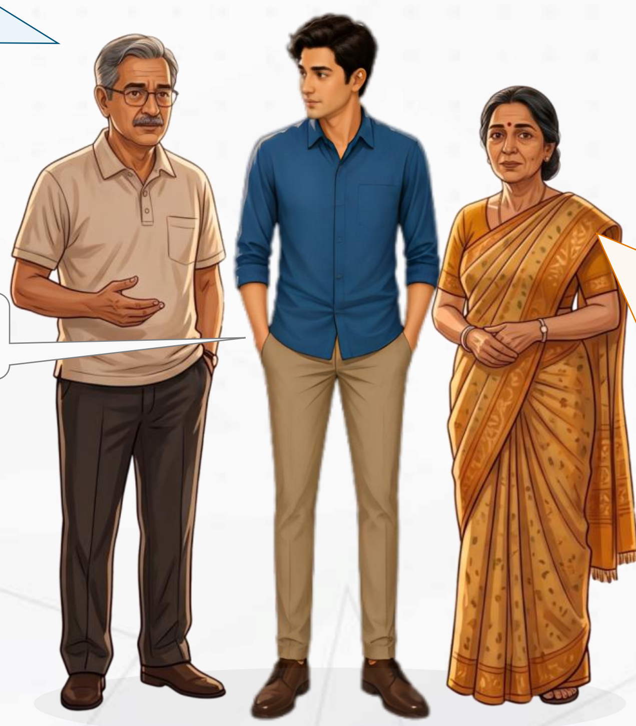
“When your grandfather was hospitalised,” his mother said, “we did not have to borrow money. We did not have to sell anything at the wrong time. That emergency fund had sat untouched for years, doing absolutely nothing. Then one day, it became the most important money we had.”

Aman had never thought about it that way.

People track portfolio performance. Nobody tracks the crisis that did not become a financial crisis because the backup was already there.

“Same with insurance,” his father said, **“Paying premiums never felt exciting. It felt like an expense with nothing to show for it.”**

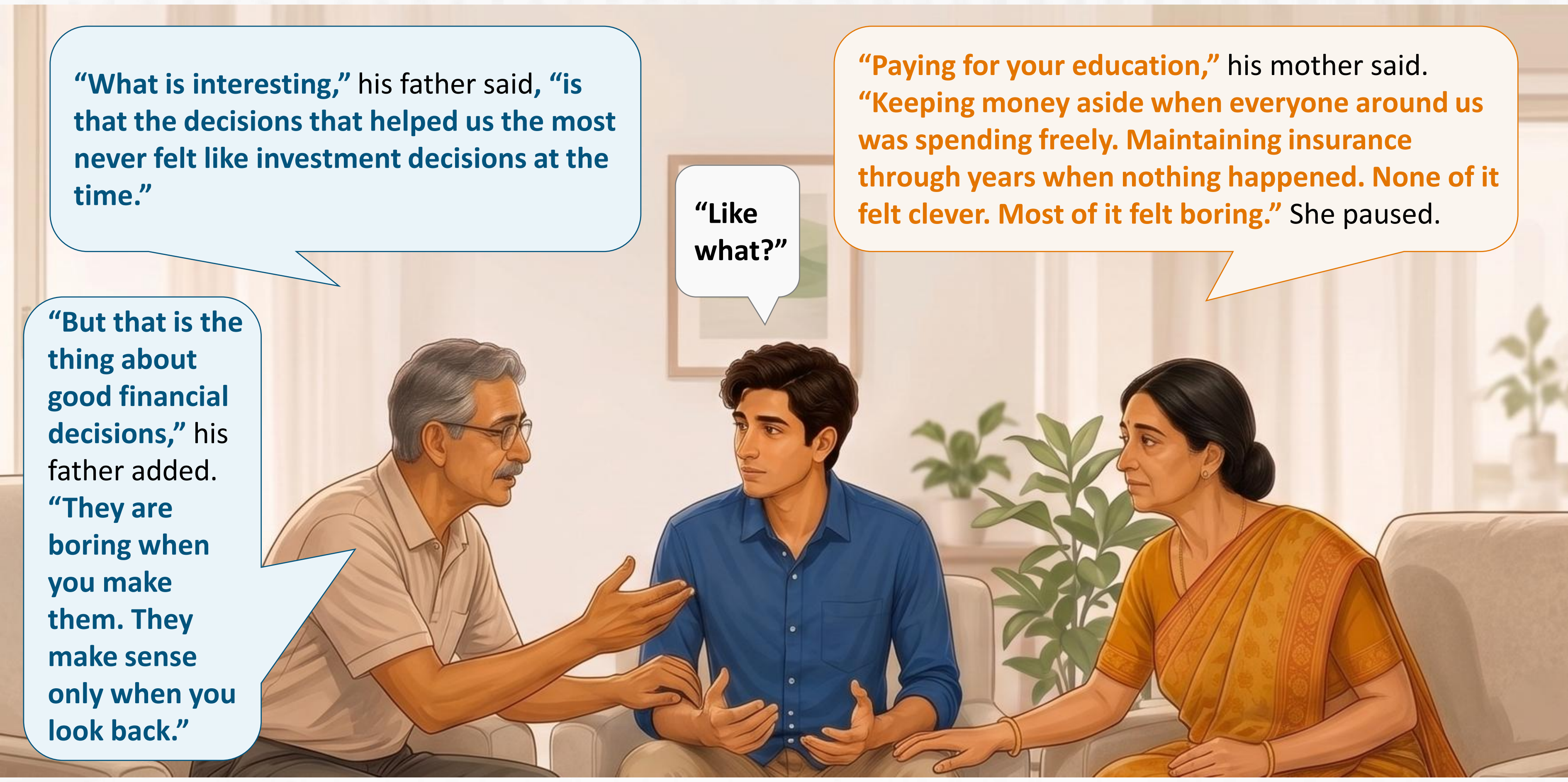
“But you kept paying.”



“Because some decisions are not meant to make money,” his mother said. **“They are meant to prevent damage.”**

The line stayed in the room for a moment...

For years, Aman had thought of financial planning mainly as a growth problem: which fund, which allocation, which asset class. Listening to both of them, he began to see that it was just as much a protection problem. And most people understand that only after something goes wrong.



Aman glanced at the fixed-deposit details on his screen.

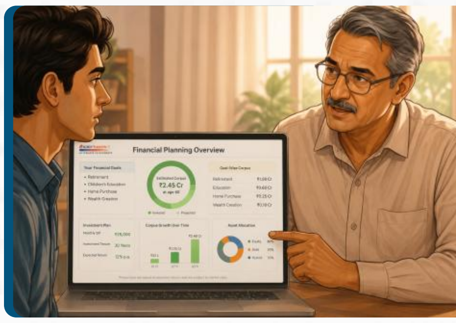
"So you planned all of this together?"

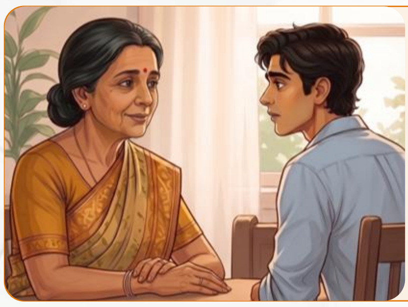
His father laughed.

"Not as neatly as it looks now."

He folded the newspaper and placed it on the table.

"I handled most of the investments," he said. **"Your mother made many of them possible."**





How?

"I knew what the household needed before your father did," his mother said, smiling. **"Which expenses could wait, which ones could not, and when we had to manage quietly without making the house feel like it was struggling."**

His father looked towards her.

"The fixed deposits may have carried my name," he said, **"but the discipline behind them belonged to both of us."**

Aman looked away from the laptop.

He remembered school trips that had somehow been paid for, medical expenses that had been handled without discussion, and family celebrations that had never felt constrained, even during years he now realised must have been financially difficult.

None of those moments had looked like financial planning.

Perhaps that was why he had never noticed them.

MIRAE ASSET Mutual Fund

"What is the biggest thing money taught both of you?" Aman asked.

His parents thought for a moment.

"Money is not the goal," his mother said. **"What it makes possible, that is the goal."**

"The ability to handle a crisis without panic," his father added. **"The ability to support your family when it matters. The ability to give your children opportunities you may not have had. The ability to retire before your health makes the decision for you."**

He paused.

"And the ability to choose because you want to," his mother said, **"not because you have to."**

Aman closed the laptop a while later.
The portfolio looked exactly the same.
Same funds. Same allocation.
But what he understood about it had changed.

The mutual funds and fixed deposits were visible. What sat underneath them was harder to see: the discipline to keep saving through difficult years, **the habit of planning before spending**, the patience to leave money untouched, and the willingness to prepare for problems that had not arrived yet and, in some cases, never did.

- There were other things no account statement recorded.
- The expenses quietly postponed.
- The wants placed behind family needs.
- The difficult months managed without allowing the children to feel the difficulty.
- The decisions discussed after everyone else had gone to sleep.

Most people spend years looking for financial insight in the usual places: books, podcasts, advisors, and market research. Much of that is genuinely useful. But some of the first financial lessons we absorb are taught much earlier. One parent may teach us to save before spending. Another may show us how to make limited money stretch without making life feel limited. One may manage the investments. The other may protect the household decisions that allow those investments to continue. Often, they do both. These lessons rarely arrive as lessons. They appear as bills paid on time, emergencies handled without panic, opportunities created quietly, and sacrifices understood only years later. Aman had asked who taught his parents about money. The answer was not a book, a course, or an advisor. It was responsibility... shared over years by two people building the same future.

And on Parent's Day, that is worth remembering.

SIP - Systematic Investment Plan