I am Genghis, a tiger, and your national animal. I am one of the most imperious and majestic animals known to mankind. If you ever come close to me as a full – grown tiger, you will feel the power radiating from within my body. My lifetime is full of hard work, experience and blood. Like every living thing, I started my life with little baby steps…. The sun had risen on two cubs born in the heart of the forest.

One was me, a male, while the other was a female. We were no bigger than a cat. We had blunt teeth, small claws and curious, playful eyes. Our mother’s first priority was to find us a safe, discreet home. She took us to a ravine which was completely surrounded by bamboos since our mother considered it safe. Since we could not hunt, mother had to go out for our food. While she was out, my sister and I began to play a step towards vicious hunting. We stand on our hind legs and lashed playfully.

It was once when a leopard had emerged from behind the bamboos. It had threatened us but there was hesitation in its movements. With our mother out hunting, our only mode of defense was the fear in the animal’s mind for tigers. I roared to signify that I was going to protect my sister. But my roar was still undeveloped. Hearing this, the leopard made up his mind. He had prepared to strike when our mother returned. She was on the leopard in a fraction of a second. She let him go, though. It ran away. She laid down her kill and let us feed. However, she did not consider the ravine safe anymore. The next day, she shifted us to a cave near a lake.

Following days were much easier. After a few months, we were ready to learn to hunt. First, she showed us how to pounce and that our attempts would be fruitless unless we had patience. She showcased a brilliant display of techniques. Slowly, but gradually, we started to learn. In the beginning, she brought the live animals for us to kill. Then, we started to move to larger animals. As time passed, I started to grow more vicious. I could not tolerate anyone eating the kill before me. Sometimes, we saw some humans in jeeps. Mother told us to ignore humans in jeeps and stay alert when humans on foot were around. I left my mother and sister to find my own life. Today, I live alone, and independently.

I meet my sister sometimes, whose cubs look just like we did when we were small. Someday, the sun will dawn on my time and rise in another life. Until then, fare well, mate.