

Harmonies of Hope

*Marching down the street, he greeted each soul of the bazaar.
Swinging his lunch bag in one hand, and
An abandoned old Murphy radio in the other,
His dusty feet gave away the tales of his struggle.
Still, the tunes of some unknown land playing on his radio,
Seemed to sway this man's heart,
Away from his small Ikat work mill, where hundreds like him
Gave colours to their long-lost dreams.
And away from the daily toils of the common man,
His heart fluttered along with the tunes,
beyond the pavement grey,
into a land of unknown but familiar dreams.*

Ikat is considered a vibrant, colourful fabric that is executed with masterful craftsmanship. *Ikat*, an Indonesian word, refers to a textile-patterning technique. It involves binding yarns to resist dye before weaving and the textiles are made using this tied-yarn dye-resist technique. The technique is found in several locations worldwide and may involve binding both warp and weft yarns.

Murphy Radios belonged to the British manufacturer of radios that was founded in 1929 by Frank Murphy and E J Power. Though many had progressed to tuned radio frequency radios, this was the time when many people were still using crystal radio sets.

The brand debuted in India in the year 1948 and the rest became history. The nation fell in love with it, an affection that is still carried on for generations.

While talking about these treasures, one cannot forget the chubby-cheeked, inquisitive-looking baby with fingers placed on his lips. The poster boy shown in their advertisement campaign became a national sensation.

Murphy Radio has been a prized possession of the Indian homes of the 60s-70s era. With every passing decade, new technology and radio culture started to get obsolete, hence upgrading these treasures was a need of the hour. It is observed that even though there has been an emergence of new technological musical gadgets, the magic, and the dash of nostalgia it provokes are unmatched even in today's date.

Here at Absynthe, we rescue these old treasures and work towards giving these precious possessions a second chance. These radios are found in various corners of the country, brought here with the utmost care, restored, and upgraded with modern digital technology. It is imperative that these relics still hold the original aura yet have a more contemporary functioning.
