



A THOUSAND MOONS

PERAMPALAM SARAVANAMUTHU'S STORY

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

A Psalm of Life

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What The Heart Of The Young Man Said To The Psalmist.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act, — act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

A THOUSAND MOONS

THE LIFE OF

PERAMPALAM SARAVANAMUTHU

HIS ROOTS, PASSION, FAITH & LOVE.

AS NARRATED BY HIS FAMILY & CHRONICLED BY RAJIV A.G.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give” - Winston Churchill

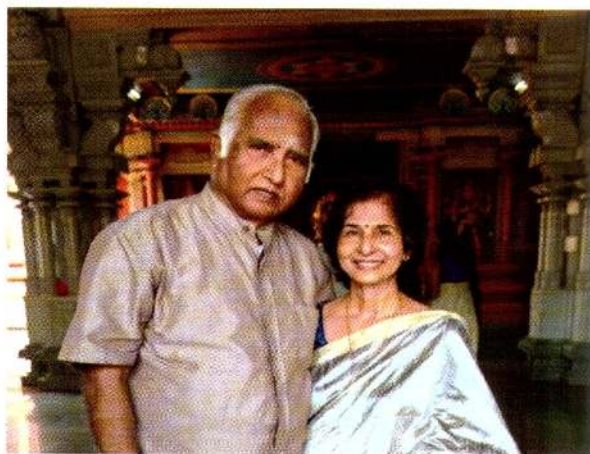
Acknowledgement

In Hinduism Sahasra Santhira Tharsanam is the celebration of a person's sighting of 1,000 3rd day crescent moons during his or her life as a special occasion. In Sanskrit sahasra means 1,000, Santhira means moon, and Tharsanam means sighting. It is celebrated to signify that a man has completed all his family-duties and day to day commitments and is now relieved from monetary involvements, handing over to his children to continue on the legacy that he has strived and built. He is free to leave the world and move towards liberation from rebirths. It is a day of pride and joy for the children and grandchildren to celebrate with all the relatives.

I would like to take the opportunity of this auspicious function to launch this book to document my life for the future generations to appreciate their forefathers and the strive and struggles my parents and my generation went through to build this legacy for them. This project has been in my mind for many years, but it is only now that I have had the time to document it.

I would like to thank Sivasri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal, the Chief Priest of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple for his advice and guidance, and for the time he took to write the foreward to this book. I also wish to thank Miss T. Nirmala for the translation and Mr. M. P. Nathan who contributed many hours of his time.

My gratitude goes out to my family for all their support and hours spent assisting this old man with the use of technology, scanning photos, and for being my biographers. Mention must be made of my siblings, my in-laws, and their families who have always looked out for me.



I would like to express a deep sense of gratitude to my late parents, whose values and guidance have helped me navigate through life.

Last but not least, I must thank God for 83 fulfilling and blessed years. His Grace enabled me to face all trials and tribulations with fortitude.

ஆத்மிக வழி நின்று ஆயிரம் பிறை கண்ட அருளாளர்
“சைவ சித்தாந்த கலாநிதி – அருள் நெறி நேசர் – சங்கபூஷண் –
சிவதொண்டர் – கந்த சேவா தொண்டர்”

தரு. சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம் AMN, AMP, PJK அவர்களது
சகஸ்ர சந்திர தர்சனம் என்னும் ஆயிரம் பிறை பார்த்த
பெரும் பேறு பெற்றதை முன்னிட்ட விழாவிற்கு
கோலாலம்பூர் – ஸ்கொற் றோட் – ஸ்ரீ கந்தசுவாமி கோவில் பிரதமகுருக்கள்
“சிவாகம கிரியா பூஷணம், சிவாகம கிரியா தத்துவநிதி, பிரதிஷ்டா கிரியா சிரோமணி,
ஸ்கந்தாராதன ஸம்கிரகர், பிரதிஷ்டா வித்வ சிரோமணி, ஈசாந சிவாச்சார்யார்”
சிவஸ்ரீ சபாரத்தின பரமேஸ்வரக்குருக்கள் அவர்கள் வழங்கிய

ஆசியுரை



வாணுலகும் மண்ணுலகும் வாழ மறை வாழ
பான்மை தரு செய்யதமிழ் பார்மிசை விளங்க
ஞானமத ஐந்துகர மூன்று வழி நால்வாய்
யானை முகனைப்பரவி அஞ்சலி செய்திற்பாம்

“தோன்றிற் புகழொடு தோன்றுக” என்னும் பொய்யா
மொழிப் புலவனின் பொன்னான வாக்கிக்கு இணங்க
“புகழொடு தோன்றுதல்” என்று சொல்லும் போதே அது
மனிதப் பிறப்பின் மகோன்னத்தை புலப்படுத்துவதை
நாம் உணர முடியும். இதனை “ஐந்துநாமம் நரஜன்ம
துர்லபமிதம்” என்ற வேத வாக்கிய மூலமும்
“அரிது அரிது மானுடல் ஆவதரிது” என்ற ஓளவை
மூதாட்டியின் பசுந்தமிழ் மூலமும் நாம் அறியலாம்.
எனவே உயிர்ப்பிறப்புகளுக்குள் உன்னதமான தாய்
மகிமைமிக்கதாய் மனிதப்பிறப்பே திகழ்கின்றது. அதற்குக்
காரணம் என்னவெனில் உயிர்களின் தோற்றம், பயணம்
யாவும் கடவுளிடமே இருந்து தொடங்கின. அதுபோல்
உயிர்களின் பயணம் யாவும் கடவுளிடமே சென்று முடிய

வேண்டும் என்னும் தத்துவத்தையே உபநிஷதங்கள் முன் மொழிகின்றன. இப்படியான
உண்மைகளைச் சிந்தித்து அறியும் ஆற்றல் மனிதர்களுக்கு மட்டுமே உள்ளனவாகும் எனவே
மனிதப் பிறப்பு அதி மகோன்னதமாயிற்று.

இதனடிப்படையில் நமது சைவ சமயப் பண்பியலின் வழியில் மனித வாழ்வியல் என்பது அந்த
அந்தக் காலக்கிரமங்களுக்கு ஏற்ப பல்வேறு அர்த்த புஷ்டியுள்ள சடங்குகள் சம்பிரதாயங்களால்
ஒழுங்கமைக்கப்பட்டு தூய ஒழுக்கமுடைய வாழ்க்கையாக நெறிப்படுத்தப்பட்டு உள்ளது.
ஆகவே மனித வாழ்வு என்பது இறைவனை அடையும் பயணமே என்னும் மெய்ப்பொருளைக்
கருத்திலே கொண்டு பிறந்தது முதல் அந்த அந்த வயது, அனுபவம், அறிவுக்கு ஏற்ப
முன்னேறி உயர்ந்த ஞானத்தைக் கண்டறிதலுக்கான பணியே இன்று சடங்குகள்,
சம்பிரதாயங்கள் நமக்குக் கற்றுத் தருகின்றன. இதனடிப்படையில் பால பருவம் (குழந்தைப்
பருவம்) யௌவன பருவம் (இளமைப் பருவம்) விருத்த பருவம் (முதுமைப் பருவம்) என்று

முக்கிய மூன்று பிரிவுகளாக வகுக்கப்பட்டு அதற்கு இன்னோரன்ன பல தத்துவக்கிரியைகளை சடங்குகளாக நமது சமயம் வழிப்படுத்தி இருக்கின்றது.

ஓரெட்டில் வளர்க்காத வளர்ப்பும்
 ஈரெட்டில் படிக்காத படிப்பும்
 மூவெட்டில் கோணாத கோளும்
 நாலெட்டில் செய்யாத விவாகமும்
 ஐந்தெட்டில் தேடாத மழலையும்
 ஆறெட்டில் பங்கிடாத பொருளும்
 ஏழெட்டில் போகாத தெய்வ யாத்திரையும்
 எட்டெட்டில் அறியாத புகழும்
 ஒன்பெட்டில் செய்யாத தர்மமும்
 பத்தெட்டில் தெய்வத்தின் அருளும்

என்பன மனிதவாழ்வுக்குரியனவாகும். எட்டு வயதுக்குள் நல்ல பண்புகளையும் பதினாறு வயதுக்குள் நல்ல கல்வியில் தேர்ச்சி பெற்று இருபத்தினான்கு வயதுக்குள் நல்ல பக்குவம் அடைந்து நிரந்தர வேலையும் பெற்று முப்பத்திரண்டு வயதுக்குள் நல்ல மனைவியை அடைந்து இன்பந்துய்த்து நாற்பது வயதுக்குள் நல்ல அழகான மழலைச் செல்வங்களைப்பெற்று நாற்பத்தி எட்டு வயதுக்குள் குழந்தைகளுக்கு வேண்டிய கல்வி, பொருள், வீடு ஆகியன சேர்த்து ஐம்பத்தாறு வயதுக்குள் தெய்வ அருள் கிடைக்க வேண்டி தெய்வ யாத்திரைகள் செய்து அறுபத்தினான்கு வயதுக்குள் புகழ், கீர்த்தி அடைந்து போற்றுதலுக்கும் வணக்கத்திற்கும் உரியவராக வாழ்ந்து எழுபத்திரண்டு வயதுக்குள் தாங்கள் வாழ்ந்த நல்வாழ்கை பற்றிப் பிறருக்கு போதித்து தானதர்மங்கள் செய்து இவைகள் அனைத்தையும் நினைத்து மன மகிழ்ந்து தெய்வத்திற்கு ஏற்ப நிலையை அடைவதே என்பதாவது வயதாகும். இந்தப் பயனை அடைபவர்கள் “வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்ந்து தெய்வத்தன்மை அடையச் செய்கிறது” என்பது இப்பாடலின் கருத்தாகும்.

மனித வாழ்வியலின் பூரணத்துவ நிலையாக முதிர்ச்சியடைந்த நிலையில் அதாவது வாழ்வின் அர்த்தம் உணர்ந்து ஞானம் பழுத்த நிலையாக உள்ள தருணத்தில் கடைப்பிடிக்கப்படுவது “சகஸ்ர சந்திர தர்சன யோகம்” எனப் போற்றப்படும். “ஆயிரம் பிறை கண்டபெரும் பேறு” எனப்படும் சதாபிஷேக வைபவமாகும்.

பஞ்சபாண்டவர்களின் மூத்தவரான தருமர் கிருஷ்ணபெருமானை தரிசிப்பதற்காக துவாரைகைக்குச் சென்றார். அப்போது கிருஷ்ண பெருமான் பூஜையில் இருக்கின்றார் என்றும் சற்று தாமதித்தே அவரைப் பார்க்கலாம் என்றும் வாயில் காப்போன் தருமருக்குச் சொன்னான். இதைக் கேட்ட தருமர் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார். கிருஷ்ணபரமாத்மா பூஜிக்கும் கடவுள் யாராக இருக்கும் என்று யோசித்தார். பூஜை முடிந்த பின்பு கிருஷ்ண பகவானைக் கேட்ட பொழுது அவர் சொன்னார் வேதம் சொல்லும் அந்தணர்கள், என்பது வயதான முதியவர்கள், முறையாக ஏகாதசி விரதம் இருப்பவர்கள், அன்னதானம் செய்யவர்கள் இவர்களே எமது வணக்கத்திற்கு உரியவர்கள் என்று விளக்கம் கூறினார் என ஸ்ரீ பாகவதம் என்னும் நூல் கூறுகின்றது. ஆகவே என்பது அகவை காணும் நிலை என்பது ஞான முதிர்ச்சி அடைந்து வணக்கத்துக்குரிய நிலையாகும்.

சாதாரணமாக “அபிஷேகம்” என்ற சொல் இறைவனது திருமஞ்சனத்தையே குறிப்பதாகும். ஆனால் “சதாபிஷேகம்” என்று சொல்லப்படுவது. பெற்றவர்களுக்கு, அறநெறி வாழ்ந்து சிறந்த பெரியார்களுக்கு, அதாவது எண்பத்தொரு வயது நிறைந்து ஆறு மாதம் கழிந்த பின் செய்யப்படும் சிறப்புக்குரிய கைங்கரிய வைபவமாகும். இறைவனது திருமஞ்சனத்தைக் குறிக்கும் “அபிஷேகம்” என்னும் வார்த்தை முறைப்படி வாழ்ந்து என்பது வயது கடந்த

ஞான மனிதர்களுக்கும் பயன் படுத்தப்படுகிறது. அதுவே “சதாபிஷேகம்” என்று வேத வைதீக முறையில் சொல்லப்படுகின்றது. இதுவே திருவள்ளுவப்பெருமானின் திருக்குறளில் கூறப்பட்ட

**“வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்பவன் - வானுறையும்
தெய்வத்துள் வைக்கப்படும்”** என்பதாகும்.

அந்த வகையில் பிள்ளைகள் - மருமக்கள் - பேரப்பிள்ளைகள் - சகோதரர்கள் - உற்றார் - உறவினர்கள் - நண்பர்கள் - அன்பர்கள் - அறிந்தவர்கள் அனைவரும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து ஆசிவேண்டி நிற்கும் சதாபிஷேகம் என்று வைதீகக்கருத்துடைய ஆயிரம் பிறை கண்ட அற்புதத்தருணத்தை விழாவாகக் கொண்டாடும் புனித நிலை என்பது அறவழி நின்று அன்புப்பணி, சமூகப்பணி, ஆன்மிகப்பணி என்பவற்றில் திளைத்து ஒருவர் காணக்கூடிய அதி உன்னத மகோன்னத நிலையாகும் என்றே சொல்ல முடியும்.

இப்படியான அருமை, பெருமை, சிறப்புப் பலன் நிறைந்த சகஸ்ர சந்திர தர்சன (ஆயிரம் பிறை காணுதல்) பலனை அடைந்தவர்களில் ஒருவர் திரு. சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம் அவர்கள். இவர் அரும் பெரும் புண்ணிப்பேறு பெற்றவர் என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது.

கடல் கடந்து வாழ் இலங்கைத் தமிழ் பெருங்குடி மக்களின் சமய, மொழி, கலாச்சார உணர்வினை வெளிப்படுத்தும் வண்ணம் மலேசியாத்திருநாட்டிலே தலை நகர் கோலாலம்பூரிலே ஸ்கொற் றோட் பதியிலே 1902ம் ஆண்டு முன்னோர்களினால் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்ட ஆலயம் ஸ்ரீ கந்தசுவாமி கோவிலாகும். ஸ்ரீ சக்தி வேற் பெருமான் அருளாட்சி புரிந்து அடியார்களுக்கு திருவருள் பொழியும் இவ்வாலயம் பல மஹாகும்பாபிஷேகங்கள், கலசாபிஷேகங்கள், சங்காபிஷேகங்கள், திருவிழாக்கள், ஆராதனைகள் ஆகியவற்றுடன் அருள்மிகு திருக்கோவிலாக புகழ் பெற்று தற்போது 2017ம் ஆண்டில் ஆலய நூற்றுப் பதினைந்தாவது (115) ஆண்டு விழாவும் சிறப்பாக நடைபெற்று கம்பீரமாக திருக்காட்சியுடன் திகழ்கின்றது. பல பெரியார்களின் தலைமையின் கீழ் நிர்வாக சபையினரால் சிறப்பாக நடாத்தப்படும் இவ்வாலய சபையின் தலைவராக 1982ம் ஆண்டு முதல் 2014ம் ஆண்டு வரை திரு. சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம் அவர்கள் சேவைமனப்பான்மையுடன் பணியாற்றி அனைவரது பாராட்டுதல்களையும் நன்மதிப்பையும் பெற்றார். எம்மை முதன் முதலாக ஸ்கொற் றோட் ஸ்ரீ கந்தசுவாமி கோவிலுக்கு குருக்களாக நிர்வாக சபையின் சார்பில் அழைத்த பெருமை அன்று தலைவராக இருந்த திரு. சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம்., AMN., AMP., PJK அவர்களையும் அன்று கௌரவ காரியதரிசியாக இருந்த “சண்முகத் தொண்டர்” அமரர் திரு. கணபதிப்பிள்ளை சோமாஸ்கந்த மூர்த்தி AMN அவர்களையுமே சாரும். அன்று “மலேசியா சிலாங்கூர் கூட்டரசுப் பிரதேச இலங்கைச் சைவர் சங்கம்” என்ற பெயருடனும் இன்று “மலேசியா இலங்கைச் சைவர் சங்கம்” என்ற பெயருடனும் விளங்கும் இச்சங்கத்தின் தலைவராக இருந்து ஸ்ரீ கந்த சுவாமி கோவிலில் 1984ம் ஆண்டு 1997ம் ஆண்டு 2011ம் ஆண்டு ஆகிய காலங்களில் நடைபெற்ற மஹாகும்பாபிஷேகங்களையும் இவ்வாலயத்தில் 1928ம் ஆண்டு ஸ்தாபனம் செய்யப்பட்ட கூறும் அடியார்கள் வினைதீர்த்து திருவருள் புரியும் ஸ்ரீ வள்ளி தேவசேனா சமேத ஸ்ரீ சண்முகசுப்பிரமணியப் பெருமானுடைய ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்ட 60ம் ஆண்டுவிழா 70ம் ஆண்டு விழா 80ம் ஆண்டு விழா ஆகிய விழாக்களை 1988ம் ஆண்டு 1998ம் ஆண்டு 2009ம் ஆண்டு ஆகிய காலங்களிலும் 1902ம் ஆண்டு ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்ட ஸ்ரீ கந்த சுவாமி கோவிலின் நூறாவது (100) ஆண்டு விழா நூற்று ஐந்தாவது (105) ஆண்டு விழாக்களை 2002ம் ஆண்டு 2007ம் ஆண்டு ஆகிய காலங்களிலும் கிரியா கர்த்தாவாகத் தலைமை தாங்கி நிர்வாகத்தினர்களதும் சங்க உறுப்பினர்களினதும் அடியார்களுடையதும் பேருதவியுடன் சிறப்பாக நாடாத்தித் திருவருட் பேறு பெற்றவர் திரு. சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம் அவர்கள். எதற்கும் “கந்தப்பெருமான் துணை செய்வார்” என்ற அசைக்கமுடியாத நம்பிக்கையுடன் செயற்பட்டு வாழ்பவர். இவர் மலேசியா இலங்கைச்

சைவர் சங்கத்தில் மட்டுமின்றி இன்னும் பல பொது ஸ்தாபனங்கள் – சங்கங்கள் – சபைகள் – விளையாட்டுத்துறைகள் ஆகியனவற்றிலும் பங்குபற்றித் தம்மால் முடிந்த பணிகளை ஆற்றுவதில் சிறந்தவரானார்.

முருகப்பெருமானை இஷ்டதெய்வமாகக் கொண்டு வழிபட்டு வாழ்ந்து வரும் இவரது குடும்பத்தினர் அனைவரும் சிறந்த முருகபக்தர்கள் எனலாம். நீலங்கொள்மேகத்து மயில் மீது இரத்தின வேலும் சேவற்கொடியும் தாங்கி வள்ளியம்மை தெய்வானையம்மை ஆகிய சக்திகளுடன் சரவணபவமுத்துக்குமாரனாக வீற்றிருந்தருளும் பெருமானை அனு தினமும் வழிபடும் இவருக்கு திரு “சரவணமுத்து” தந்தையாராகவும், “வள்ளியம்மை” தாயாராகவும், திரு “இரத்தினவேல்” அண்ணாகவும் கிடைக்கப் பெற்று பாசம் மிகுந்த மற்றும் பல சகோதர, சகோதரிகளுடன் “ராஜன் ராஜன்” என்று அன்பாக அழைக்கப்படும் “ராஜாதி ராஜனாக” வாழ்ந்து வருகிறார். ஆலயத்தில் பஞ்சபுராணம், திருப்புகழ் ஆகிய பாடல்களைப் பாடும்போது இறைவனே பிரசன்னமாவது போல மனக்கண்ணில் தரிசித்து பக்தியுடன் மெய்மறந்து பாடுவார். இறைபக்தியும் குருபக்தியும் கொண்டு கடமை, கண்ணியம், கட்டுப்பாடு ஆகியவற்றுடன் சிறந்த குடும்பத்தலைவராக வாழ்ந்து வரும் திரு சரவணமுத்து பேரம்பலம் அவர்கள் ஆயிரம் பிறை தரிசித்த பெரும் பேறினை முன்னிட்டு ஸ்ரீ கந்தசுவாமி கோவில் நடைபெறும் அபிஷேக ஆராதனை வழிபாட்டில் கலந்து தரிசிக்கும் திரு ச. பேரம்பலம் சற்குணவதி தம்பதிகள், பிள்ளைகள், மருமக்கள், பேரப்பிள்ளைகள், மற்றும் சகோதர, சகோதரிகள், மைத்துன-மைத்துனிமார், உறவினர்கள், நண்பர்கள் எல்லோரும் எல்லாம் வல்ல ஸ்ரீ கந்த வேற் பெருமானுடைய பரிபூரண திருவருள் பெற்று நீடுழி வாழவேண்டும் என்று சரவணத்து உதித்த ஸ்ரீ வள்ளி தேவசேனா சமேத ஸ்ரீ சண்முகசுப்பிரமணியப் பெருமானுடைய சுவர்ணமய பாத பங்கயங்களைப் பூஜித்து எமது மனமார்ந்த நல்லாசிகளை நல்குவோமாக!

வேலுண்டு வினை இல்லை!
மயில் உண்டு பயம் இல்லை!

ஏறுமயில் ஏறி விளையாடும் முகம் ஒன்றே
ஈசருடன் ஞானமொழி பேசும் முகம் ஒன்றே
கூறும் அடியார்கள் வினை தீர்க்கும் முகம் ஒன்றே
குன்றுஉருவ வேல் வாங்கி நின்ற முகம் ஒன்றே
மாறுபடு சூரரை வதைத்த முகம் ஒன்றே
வள்ளியை மணம் புணர வந்த முகம் ஒன்றே
ஆறுமுகமான பொருள் நீயருளல் வேண்டும்
ஆதி அருணாசலம் அமர்ந்த பெருமாளே

“கந்தப் பெருமான் பாதம் கனவிலும் துணை செய்யும்”

சுபமஸ்து

சிவஸ்ரீ சபாரத்தின பரமேஸ்வரக்குருக்கள்

Foreword

BENEDICTION MESSAGE

By

'Sivaagama Kiriya Pooshanam' 'Sivaagama Kiriya Thatthuvanithi'
'Prathishta Kiriya Sironmani' 'Skantharaadhana Samkirahar'
'Prathishta Vithva Sironmani' 'Eesaana Sivaachaariyaar'

Sivasri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal

on the

Auspicious occasion of 'Sahasra Santhira Tharsanam or
'Tharsanam of a Thousand Crescents' of Saiva Siddhanta Kalaanithi,
Arulneri Nesar, Sanga Pooshan, Siva Thondar, Kantha Seva Thondar

Thiru Saravanamuthu Perampalam AMN, AMP, PJK.



*Vaanulahum mannulahum vaal(z)a maraivaal(z)a
Paanmaitharu seyyathamil(z) paarmisai vilangga
Nyaana madha aindhu kara mundruvil(z)i naalvaay
Yaanaimuhanai paravi anjaliseyhitpaam*

Pulavar Poiyamoli says that having taken a human birth one should live a praiseworthy life. Saint Auvaiyaar also says that a human birth is very, very rare and thus it is understood that among the various births, the human birth is indeed a gift and the highest. As stated in the Upanishads the birth of a soul and its journey begins with God and ends with God. It is only man who can understand this truth and thus human birth is very special.

Based on the above, the Saiva Faith has stated the duties and conduct of a man and the various customs and traditions that one has to follow to lead a religious life. Understanding that the human birth is a journey towards God, one has to perform the right duties according to one's age and attain the right knowledge. Basically there are three important stages in a man's life – childhood, youth and old age and for each stage the Hindu religion has stated the respective custom and duties.

Footnote:

Sivasri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal refers to Perampalam Saravanamuthu as Saravanamuthu Perampalam in keeping with the traditional Hindu naming convention.

***Orr ettil valarkatha valarpum
Eerattil padikaatha padipum
Muuvettil konaatha kolum
Naalettil seyyatha veevakamum
Ainthettil thedatha malalaiyum
Aarettil pankitatha porulum
Ellettil pokaatha Theiva yaathiraiyum
Ettettil ariyatha pugalum
Onpatettil seyyatha tharmamum
Pattettil Theiva thinarulum.***

By the age of eight one should possess good conduct, by the age of sixteen one should have acquired good education and by the age of twenty-four one should possess good virtues and a steady job. By the age of thirty-two, one should be a householder and by forty be blessed with children. At the age of forty-eight, one should possess all forms of wealth including education for his children. At the age of fifty-six one should go on pilgrimages to receive the blessings of the Divine. With divine blessings, by the age of sixty-four, one should be a person laudable and praiseworthy. At the age of seventy-two, with all his learning and experience, he should guide others and perform charity. At the age of eighty, one should be happy and contented with fond memories of the past. Those who have led such a life become divine and that is the meaning of the above poem.

Having performed one's duties rightfully and understanding the purpose of life, one observes the Sahasthira Santhira Tharshan' or popularly known as 'Tharshan of a Thousand Crescent' (Sathabishegam).

In the Bhagavatham, it is stated that, Tharmar, the elder brother of the Pancha Pandavas went to Dwaraka to pay homage to Lord Krishna. At that moment, Lord Krishna was performing pooja and the guard requested Tharmar to wait. Tharmar was astonished and puzzled. He wondered whom did Lord Krishna perform pooja to when He Himself should be worshipped. After the pooja Tharmar asked Lord Krishna to whom did He perform the pooja. The Lord replied saying that He worships the brahmins who chant the Vedas, the aged devotees who observe the Ehkaathasi Fast and those who perform Annathanam, for they are worthy of being worshipped. Thus when one reaches the age of eighty he is worthy of being worshipped.

The word 'abishegam' generally refers to the bathing of the Deity. Ancient tradition uses the word 'Sathabishegam' which is observed for parents, noble and great persons after six months of the attainment of the age of eighty one. It is indeed a grand occasion observed for those who have led a good and virtuous life. Thiruvalluvar says:

***He who rightly pursues the householder's life here on earth
Will be rightfully placed among the Gods there in Heaven***

According to tradition the Sathabishegam occasion is observed for one who lived a life of love and service and thus seeks the blessings and wishes of his children, sons and daughters-in-law, siblings, relatives and friends. Such a noble soul who deserves the benefits of Sahasthira Santhira Tharshan' (Tharshan of a Thousand Crescent) is Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam.

The Tamils who migrated from Sri Lanka brought along with them their religion, language, tradition and customs. This can be seen with the consecration of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple at Jalan Scott in 1902 by our ancestors. Lord Sakthivel Perumaan who resides at this Abode has been gracing and blessings all His devotees. Many Maha Kumba Abishegams, Kalasaabishegams, Sangaabishegam, festivals and worship has been performed here. Standing majestically, the sacred Sri Kandaswamy Temple recently celebrated its 115th anniversary grandly.

Many religious and devoted members of our community have served as Presidents and also in the Management Committee with utmost dedication. From the year 1982 till 2014 Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam offered his services to the Temple and Association and earned the respect of everyone. He was the President of the Selangor / Wilayah Persekutuan Ceylon Saivites Association, which later came to be known as Malaysian Ceylon Saivites Association. On behalf of the then Management Committee, it was Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam who was President and the late Shanmuga Thondar Sri Canapathy Pillai Somaskantha Moorthy, who was secretary who invited and appointed me to serve as a priest in the temple. Under his presidentship, 3 Maha Kumba Abishegams were held i.e. in 1984, 1997 and in 2011. The 60th, 70th and 80th anniversary of the installment of Lord Valli Thevasena Sametha Shanmuga Subramaniam was held in 1988, 1998 and 2009 respectively. In the year 2002 the temple celebrated its 100th anniversary, followed by its 105th anniversary in the year 2007. These occasions were grandly celebrated under the able leadership of Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam, the Management Committee and cooperation of all members and devotees. Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam has ardent faith in Lord Kanthan and is always fond of saying 'Kantha Perumaan thunai seivaan' (Lord Kanthan will always help).

Apart from his services to the temple, he also extended his service to other religious organisations and temples. He also served in the field of sports and other social services. All this was carried out with utmost devotion to the Lord. Lord Muruga is his Ishta theivam and this strong belief has also influenced his family members. The Gracious Lord Muruga together with Valliyamai Theivanaiyamai seated on the blue peacock, bearing the Ratna Vel and cockerel as His flag emblem, born of the Saravana pond is daily worshipped by Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam. He has the gift of having Sri Saravanamuthu as his father, Valliyamai as his mother and

Sri Ratnavel as his elder brother. He has other brothers and sisters who fondly called him 'Rajan'. Till today he lives like a King of kings (Rajathi Rajan). Whenever he recites the Panchapuranam and Thirupugal at the temple, he does it with utmost feelings and devotion completely engrossed and forgetting his own self. As the head of the household, Sri Saravanamuthu Perampalam carried out his duties with a sense of responsibility, dignity and faithfulness. This he did with devotion to the Lord and Guru.

On this auspicious occasion where a special abishegam and pooja is held at the temple, I pray that he and his beloved wife, Satkunavathy together with his children, sons and daughter in law, grandchildren, siblings, relatives and friends would receive the blessings of Sri Sakthivel Perumaan. I pray at the Lotus Feet of Sri Valli Thevasena Sametha Shanmuga Subramaniam to bless everyone with a long and prosperous life.

***Erru mayil erri villayaadu mugam ondre
Eesarudan Jnana mozhi pesum mugam ondre
Koorum adiyaargall vinai theerkku mugam ondre
Kundruuruva Vel vaanggi nindra mugam ondre
Maarupaadu soorarai vadhaittha mugam ondre
Valliyai mannam punnara vandha mugam ondre
Aarrumugam aanaporull neeyarullal vendum
Aadhi Arunnaachalamam amrnda Perumaalle!***

Kandhan Paadham kanavilum thunai seyyum!

Subamasthu

Sivasri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal

Preface

*I'd like to think when life is done
That I had filled a needed post.
That here and there I'd paid my fare
With more than idle talk and boast;
That I had taken gifts divine.
The breath of life and manhood fine,
And tried to use them now and then
In service for my fellow men.*

*I'd hate to think when life is through
That I had lived my round of years
A useless kind, that leaves behind
No record in this vale of tears;
That I had wasted all my days
By treading only selfish ways,
And that this world would be the same
If it had never known my name.*

*I'd like to think that here and there,
When I am gone, there shall remain
A happier spot that might have not
Existed had I toiled for gain;
That someone's cheery voice and smile
Shall prove that I had been worthwhile;
That I had paid with something fine
My debt to God for life divine.*

Compensation by Edgar Albert Guest

The poem reflects the values we have seen our father live his life by. Even today at the age of 83, he is a man driven by this principle that he must show his gratitude to God for the good life he has been granted.

Ask yourselves, who will come to your birthday when you turn 80? Who will you invite to be with you when you are frail and have little to give? The answer will be all those people who are part of you; the people you have loved and given yourself freely to.

Life for many of us is not about monuments and titles. It is about small pleasures, rich relationships and the ability to make peace with your soul. It is about what author Katrina Kenison calls "The Gift of the Ordinary Day". How will you measure

your life's worth? By spreading your love and affection to as many people as possible with tolerance and generosity. Though he has led in the construction of a monument and has garnered many a title, our father showed us that affection is not about what you do; it is about who you are.

As we looked at the material our father was gathering for his book and as we listened to what people had to say, we realized how much he is loved and respected. When we were growing up, our dad was a stern disciplinarian who was seldom home. He told us that he had learnt from his dad that a man must spend his day working earning a living for his family, and then spend the evening doing social work to help society. Between his involvement in hockey, the temple and TPCA, it was a rare day when we saw him home before 10pm. Despite his busy schedule, there were family holidays and extended family gatherings galore where he showed us his lighter and fun side. He was a great tour guide encouraging off the track explorations and egging us on to try exotic delicacies.

He showed us through example the values we were expected to have. Simple things like making us walk back to return extra change, flying the national flag on Merdeka Day, the pain and trouble he took to balance the accounts and validate all expenses for the many years he was the treasurer of the Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) – a feat that surprised all, as his papers were spread all over the dining table that could never be used for dining.

Today as we go about our adult life, we find these values and principles that he imbibed in us useful to guide us in our working life and life as parents. All four of us are trying our best to continue his legacy by instilling these same values in our children.



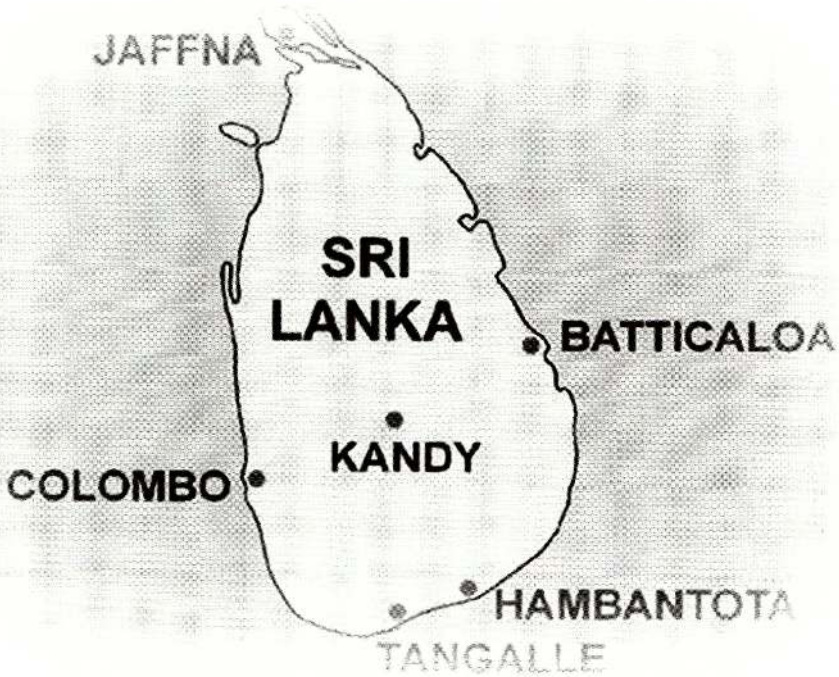
Sharmini, Premini, Saravana & Vinothini Perampalam.

Contents

Chapter 1.	Roots	1
Chapter 2.	Childhood	21
Chapter 3.	School and Early Sports	39
Chapter 4.	Young Adult	55
Chapter 5.	Finding Love	75
Chapter 6.	Loss	91
Chapter 7.	Love Rediscovered	95
Chapter 8.	Life with the In-Laws	111
Chapter 9.	Fatherhood	115
Chapter 10.	Service to God, Country & Society: Temple	151
Chapter 11.	Service to God, Country & Society: Hockey	175
Chapter 12.	Service to God, Country & Society: TPCA	209
Chapter 13.	Reflections from the Grandchildren	225

Chapter 1

Roots



“Family is like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.” - Unknown

Perampalam Saravanamuthu was named after his paternal grandfather, Perampalam Vellayutham. V. Perampalam was a landowner who was involved in farming in Tholpuram, a village in Jaffna Province, Sri Lanka. His wife, Sithambaram, was a very learned woman whose knowledge and interpretation on legal matters were sought highly by traditional lawyers in Jaffna Province. Perampalam himself was a man steeped in traditional and religious customs, and he often took it upon himself to conduct traditional ceremonies and religious rites for the surrounding community. By God's grace, he lived to the ripe old age of 103.

Perampalam's father Saravanamuthu Perampalam was born in 1890. He was the sixth out of seven children of V. Perampalam. Saravanamuthu gained his early education at the Victoria College, Jaffna. In 1907, at the tender age of 17, he joined his three brothers, Muthukumar, Vythilingam, and Krishnar on a voyage to seek greener pastures in a distant land called Malaya. Here, he earnestly continued his education at the Methodist Boys School, Kuala Lumpur.

In 1911, he began his career as a Hospital Assistant at the Seremban General Hospital, Negeri Sembilan. During the early 1900s, there were not many medical doctors, and hospital assistants played a very significant role in providing primary medical care and support to the residents of Malaya. Once settled in his job, he embarked on the next step in his rite of passage to start a family of his own. In 1919, he travelled to Sri Lanka to meet his 14-year old wife-to-be, Valliammai Murugesu.

Valliammai was the elder daughter of Murugesu Ramanathan and Chinnapillai, and was born on 29th October 1904 in Chulipuram village, Jaffna Province, Sri Lanka. She had an elder brother Arumugam, a younger sister Saraswathi and a younger brother, Thamotheampillai whom she was very fond of. Her father, a Tamil School teacher, was a well-learned man who instilled in her a deep knowledge and love for Hinduism — a bedrock which molded her strong values and admirable qualities. Her love and belief in God would later help her face her life challenges with dignified grace and indomitable courage.

Before Valliammai was born, a holy man named Annakutti Swamiyar crossed paths with her father Murugesu. He tapped Murugesu on the shoulder, gesturing Murugesu to follow him. Murugesu followed the holy man into the jungle and got entranced in a mystical journey. After some time, he came to his senses and worked his way out of the jungle to return home. As he journeyed back, he met an old lady named Valliammai who asked him for assistance. He carried her for some distance, when she suddenly asked him to put her down as she wanted to ease herself. She walked into the bushes and mysteriously disappeared. When he returned home, his family noticed that he had acquired some spiritual and psychic powers, and was able to predict certain events accurately. His new found gift became an invaluable protective shield to the family. This incident left a deep impression on Murugesu,

and he named his elder daughter Valliammai in remembrance of his mystical encounter.

Saravanamuthu and Valliammai were married on 12th September 1919, and shortly after left the shores of Sri Lanka to begin their new life together. Arriving in Malaya, Valliammai was warmly welcomed by the loving family of her husband. Her gentle nature and strong sense of spousal responsibility helped to ease her transition into the routine of family life. As the sole breadwinner, Saravanamuthu worked with the Seremban Gaol (Prisons) Hospital till 1935, and then briefly took charge of the Government Dispensary in Gemas. Within the same year, he was transferred to the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, and brought his young family to their new home at the Kuala Lumpur Government Quarters, Circular Road (now known as Jalan Pekeliling). Between 1921 and 1945, Saravanamuthu and Valliammai were blessed with thirteen children.

Saravanamuthu was very conscious that Valliammai was young when they got married, and therefore took great pains to invite his in-laws to visit them in Malaya. Sometimes, Murugesu would stay on longer than his wife so he could spend more time with his daughter's family. On one such occasion, Murugesu's visit got extended indefinitely due to the Japanese occupation of Malaya. As food rationing prevailed, his presence was a boon as Murugesu used his farming skills to tend a vegetable plot, ensuring their large family had enough to eat.

Saravanamuthu worked diligently until his retirement from the Government service in 1946. He was re-employed as a hospital assistant at the Selangor Welfare Home in Sentul and Serdang. In June 1962, Saravanamuthu clocked in his last working hours at the age of 72 after serving 51 years in the medical field. In recognition of his meritorious service, he was awarded Her Majesty's Coronation Medal in 1953.

Saravanamuthu was a gifted sportsman. An all-rounder, he had the natural ability to pick up and skillfully play any sport, excelling in some. He represented the Negeri Sembilan Hockey and Football state teams, playing for them in the prestigious His Majesty's Service (HMS) Malaya Cup. He also played tennis and cricket for the Negeri Sembilan Club. In addition to his playing career, he was also an accomplished football referee and hockey umpire. An able administrator, he later became the Honorary Secretary of the Negeri Sembilan Football and Hockey Associations, and also Vice President (and later Patron) of the Tamilians' Physical and Cultural Association (TPCA).

Saravanamuthu also contributed to the community by actively participating in social and religious organisations. He was the founding member and the first Vice President of the Jaffnese Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd. He later became the President of both the Housing Society and the Jaffnese Co-Operative Society. He

was also one of the Directors of the Co-Operative Central Bank of Malaya. He served as a Trustee of the Ahthi Eeswaran Temple and Vice President of the Saiva Siddhanta Sangam, Malaya. In recognition of his services to the Co-Operative movement, he was awarded a Gold Medal by the Midlands Co-Operative Union in 1965.

His children remember Saravanamuthu for his piety, humility, and disciplined nature. Valliammai was the mediator between him and his children, who were occasionally hesitant to approach him because of his steadfast principles and firm beliefs. His closest friends remember Saravanamuthu as a distinguished and noble gentleman - one who treated children and adults alike with equal respect.

Whilst Saravanamuthu was busy contributing to his God, Country and Community, Valliammai became the matriarch to their large extended family. Motherly by nature and ever a dutiful wife, she welcomed her brothers-in-law's children with open arms when Saravanamuthu's elder brother settled back in Sri Lanka, and when his younger brother became a widower at a young age. She was also a pillar of strength to her sister and her four children when her brother-in-law was tragically murdered during the Communist insurgency. Today, although her nephews and nieces have families of their own and are proud grandparents, they have never once forgotten the loving care showered by their beloved Kunchiachi, Assaiamma, or Periamma. In 2002, the Malaysian Hindu Sangam Petaling Jaya Branch awarded Valliammai their Mother's Day Award.

Saravanamuthu and Valliammai's crowning glory is the fruitful and exemplary life lived by their children and their respective families. It is said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Echoing this statement, Saravanamuthu and Valliammai have imparted wisdom and encouragement to their children to succeed in whatever endeavors they chose to embark in. They were a testament on how one should live a wholesome and righteous life.



Mr. and Mrs. Saravanamuthu at their home in Jalan Taiping, in the mid 1960s.



Saravanamuthu with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. V Perampalam. Photo taken in 1909.



Saravanamuthu Perampalam – Picture taken in 1935.



Vythilingam, Krishnar, Mrs. Sinnathamby, Saravanamuthu & Muthukumar. All the Perampalam brothers served in Malaysia. Photo taken in 1930.



Saravanamuthu, Krishnar and Muthuvelu families.

Standing from left - Perampalam, Vetti Vadivale, Ratnavale, Punithavathy, Krishnar, Kamalambihai, Kathiravale, P. S. Maniam, Ambika, Kanagasabai.

Seated from left - Selvathy, Gnanambihai, Paripooranam, Valliammai, Mr. & Mrs. Muthvelu, Saravanamuthu, Gunavathy, Ladchumie, Thilagawathy, Ratnambihai.

Seated on ground from left - Balasingam, Poopathy, Parampathy, Shanta, Ganeshvaran, Shanmuga Vadivale, Sinnathamby, Ragupathy, Thasapalan.



Saravanamuthu relaxing with younger brother Krishnar.



Performing his duties at the old folks home.

G. O. P. N.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES GOVERNMENT.
EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE.

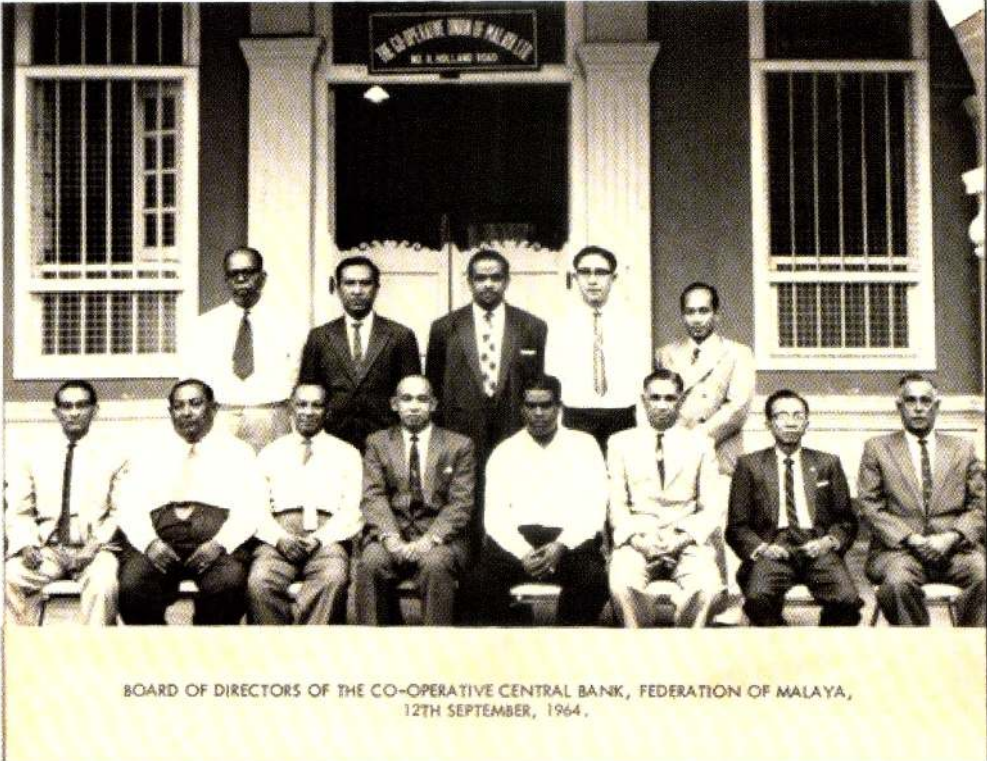
Name. P. Saravanamuthu, L.D.S.
Nationality. Tamil.
Age. 38 years.
Date of joining the service. 1st April, 1911.
Present appointment. Dresser Grade II.

REPORT OF RESULTS OF HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS,
GRADE I EXAMINATION HELD ON
14th., December, 1925.

Subject of Examination.	Full marks.	Marks obtained.
Medicine (paper and Viva Voce)	200	101
Midwifery & Gynecology.	100	48
Surgery do.	200	120.5
Case-Taking.	100	70
Microscope.	100	71
Veneral Disease.	100	90
Phrasing (paper and Viva Voce)	100	85
Total..	900	596.5

Sd. A. K. Congrave.
Senior Medical Officer.
Singapore.

Saravanamuthu's Hospital Assistant examination results, 1925.



*Served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Co-operative Central Bank,
Malaya in 1964.*



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

By Command of
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
the accompanying Medal is forwarded to

.....
MR. SARAVANAMUTHU P.
.....

to be worn in commemoration of
Her Majesty's Coronation
2nd June, 1953

*Awarded the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Medal, for his excellent service to the
Government of Malaya.*



Saravanamuthu serving as a linesman during a Negri Sembilan football match. (Standing far right)



Saravanamuthu as Secretary of the Negri Sembilan Football Association. (Seated middle)



Valliammai at a beach in Thailand. Photo taken in 1967.



Perampalam and his mother at their home at 15B, Jalan Taiping.



A photo of the young Valliammai. Photo taken in 1924.

[Certificate of Birth]

Registration No. 1788
(F2)
[Sept., 1912.]

இலக்கம்.

இலக்கம். 3206

பிறப்புச் சாட்சிப்பத்திரம்.

1. பிறந்த நாடும் இடமும் ..	1904 ஆகஸ்டு மாதம் 15 ஆம் நாள் யாழ்ப்பாணம்
2. குழந்தை ..	வாழ்க்கை
3. குண பெயர் ..	சுபா
4. தந்தையையும் குடும்பத்தையும் ..	சுபா
5. தாயின் பெயரும் கலியாணம் முடிந்தபின் வந்த பெயரும் சாதியும் ..	சுபா
6. தந்தையுடைய சிலுவையும் அல்லது தொழிலும் சாதியும் ..	சுபா
7. பெற்றோர் கலியாணம் முடிந்தவர்களா? ..	சுபா
8. அதிலிப்பவரின் பெயரும் வயதும் உள்ள பிள்ளைகளின் பெயர்களும் அல்லது அறிந்தவர்களின் பெயர்களும் ..	சுபா
9. அதிலிப்பவரின் கையொப்பம் ..	சுபா
10. சாட்சிப்பத்திரம் பதிவுப்பட்ட நாள் ..	1904 செப்டம்பர் 15
11. சாட்சிப்பத்திரம் கையொப்பம் ..	சுபா
12. பிறப்புப் பதிவுப்பட்டதன் பின் குழந்தை கிட்டிய பிள்ளை அல்லது மாற்றப்பட்டால் அது குழந்தை ..	சுபா
13. குழந்தை கிட்டிய பிள்ளை அல்லது மாற்றப்பட்ட நாள் ..	சுபா

(Certificate to be written below.)

I, P. O. Michael, Registrar, do hereby certify the foregoing as a true and correct copy of the original Register of Birth of the said child.

Valliammai's birth certificate.

(Fed. Ct. 40)
(Rev. 10/60)

ENTRY NO 51158

CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA

REGULATIONS ON CITIZENSHIP RULES, 1960

Rule 17—FORM M



Certificate of Registration

Whereas **VALLIAMMAI SAKAVANAMUTHU**

has applied to the Federal Government for registration as a citizen of the Federation of Malaya under Article...17... of the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya all-ging in respect of himself/herself the particulars set-out herein and has satisfied the Federal Government that the conditions laid down in the said Article have been fulfilled:

Now, THEREFORE, I, **RATA JAGAR S. RATA YEOP SHAHRODDIN** a Registrar of Citizens of the Federation of Malaya, on behalf of the Federal Government, grant to the said **VALLIAMMAI SAKAVANAMUTHU** this Certificate of Registration and declare that from the date hereof he/she shall be a citizen of the Federation of Malaya.

In Witness whereof I have hereto subscribed my name this... day of **September**, 1962, at **PETALING JAYA**



Signed on behalf of the Federal Government.

A proud moment when Valliammai was awarded Malayan citizenship in 1962, at age 58.



மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம்

பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயா வட்டார பேரவை

MALAYSIA HINDU SANGAM

PETALING JAYA LOCAL COUNCIL

சிறந்த அன்னை 2002 விருதினை

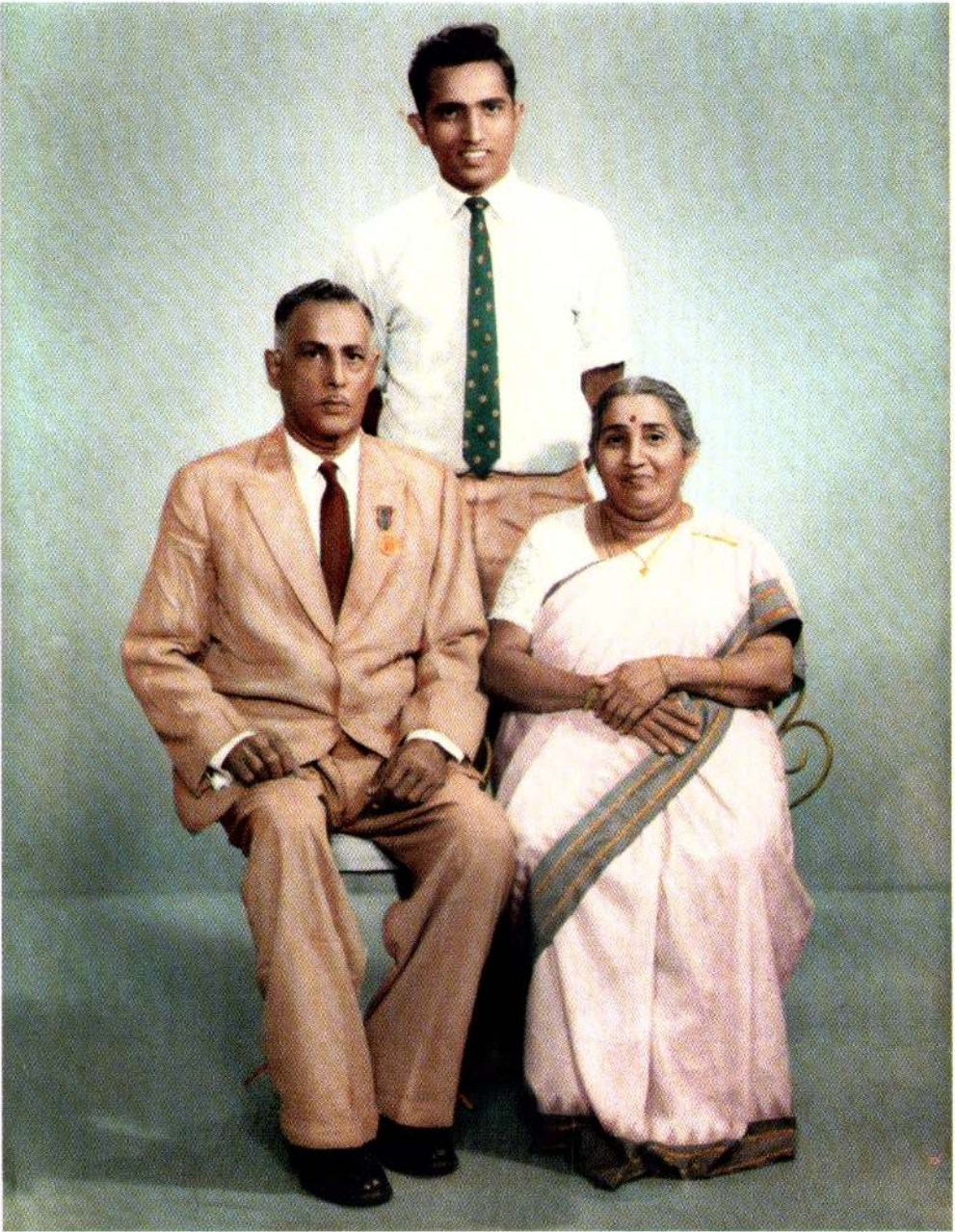
திருமதி வள்ளியம்மை சரவணமுத்து அவர்களுக்கு பெருமையுடன் வழங்குகிறது. அவர் தன் பிள்ளைகளைப் பெற்று, படிக்க வைத்து ஆளாக்கி இன்று சமூகத்தில் மதிக்கும் படியான ஒரு நிலையில் அவர்களை கொண்டு வந்துள்ளார். அவர்கள் பல்லாண்டு சிறப்புடன் வாழ வேண்டும் என்று மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம் வாழ்த்துகின்றது.

அ. வைத்திலிங்கம்
தலைவர்
மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம்

12.05.2002

குடீனஸ்வரி
தனேஸ்வரி கணேசுரத்தி
தலைவி
மலேசிய இந்து சங்கம்
பெட்டாலிங் ஜெயா வட்டார பேரவை

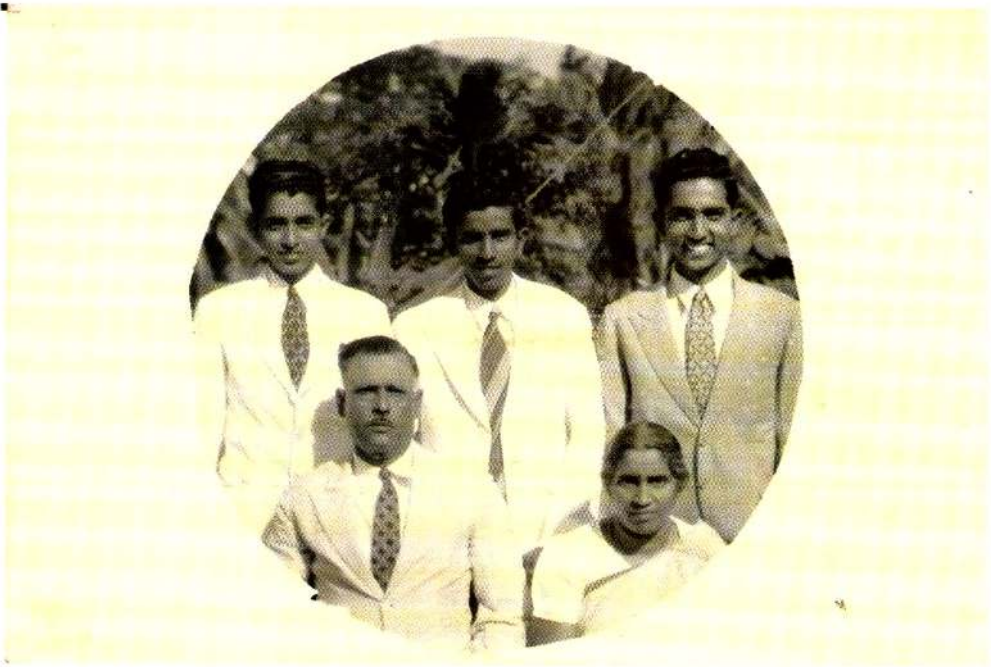
Valliammai awarded the Mother's Day award, by the Hindu Sangam in 2002, at age 98.



Young Perampalam inherited his father's good looks.

Chapter 2

Childhood



“One of the luckiest things that can happen to you in life is, I think, to have a happy childhood.” - Agatha Christie

1st May 1934. A wave of mixed emotions swept away the usual celebratory mood that should have welcomed the latest addition to Saravanamuthu's growing family. The newborn, a son, was named Perampalam – in honour of Saravanamuthu's father who passed away in 1930. However, someone had told Valliammai that her bouncing 10 lbs. baby would bring her misfortune. At a time when superstitions held court, Perampalam's maternal grandfather was not taking any chances, and did what was customary to ward off the supposed bad omen - he bought the newborn for a token 10 cents and named him 'Rajan'. The name stuck and became Perampalam's family nickname to date.

As a toddler, Perampalam was not always in the best of health. His mother told him he used to turn blue every time he cried. His pious maternal grandmother advised his mother to take a vow in Lord Krishna's name to make a 'patherkem' or 'maalai' for the deity in the Punnalai Krishnar Temple in Sri Lanka. Miraculously, the vow cured little 'Rajan' of his 'blue-boy' illness. When Perampalam broke his nose during a hockey match in the 1960s, his mother remembered that she had not fulfilled the vow she made 30 years earlier, and promptly made arrangements for her sister to do it on her behalf.

Being the middle child (eighth out of thirteen children) and afflicted with the 'blue-boy' illness, Perampalam received special attention from his family and grandparents. As he grew older, he was amazed by his mother's *magnum opus* of managing the large household with no domestic help, and sending off her children to school with proper meals. She ensured that all her thirteen children adhered to a disciplined regime - they had to brush their teeth, bathe, pray (most important activity), and have breakfast before heading off to school. After school, lunch was prepared to the children's personal palate - needless to say, the plates were wiped clean!

Some of his siblings loved to 'save the best for last', especially when it came to prawns. Perampalam laughs as he recalls his brother Kathiravale's and cousins' attempt to grab more prawns by saying, "Hey, you don't seem to like the prawns, never mind I'll have them!" Those who got their prawns 'stolen' took it in stride and just laughed it off. Nevertheless, they grew more wary and were prepared the next time around. He remembers his uncle Arunasalam (Valliammai's sister's husband), who had a special fondness for him as he believed Perampalam brought him luck, would often hide Perampalam under the table to feed him additional fish and prawns!

1939 – Britain declares war on Nazi Germany, and the fog of war began to loom over her colonies. Saravanamuthu sensed that it would be a matter of time before it reached the shores of Malaya. When the bombing started, he decided to move his family of ten from Circular Road, Kuala Lumpur to the relative safety of his uncle's house at the Jemima Estate in Negeri Sembilan. Later in 1943, under the Japanese

occupation, those who were working or schooling were allowed to resume their daily activities. Saravanamuthu's cousin drove his family back to KL in his uncle's Austin car. Halfway through their journey, the car they were travelling in struggled to climb a hill. Strained by the load it was carrying (twelve people plus belongings), the car suddenly bucked and started to roll downhill! Just when everyone thought they were about to meet their Maker, a milestone broke the roll and the car stopped dead in its tracks. The incident left a lasting impression on the children. Till today, they avoid travelling collectively in a single vehicle to avert circumstances where they could perish together.

Shocked but relieved, the family eventually reached their destination safely only to find their house already occupied by another family! Although disheartened by their series of unfortunate events, Saravanamuthu did not give up and proceeded to see the administrator of the local infirmary to seek help. The Grace of Lord Muruga prevailed - seeing it was a big family, the administrator managed to find a large empty doctor's bungalow on Circular Road to house them.

The young Saravanamuthu children embraced the peace and tranquility of Circular Road despite the general uneasiness reigning over Malaya. Sourcing staple food items was difficult due to rationing, but the family got through by growing vegetables and rearing cows. Their grandfather, Murugesu had put Ratnavale in charge of the vegetable plots while the younger boys tended the cows. During one cow grazing session, Perampalam vividly remembers that the boys came across a river and decided to go for a swim. In the midst of their playful euphoria, to their aghast, their father happened to stroll by the very same river! Overcome by fear, they all stayed underwater for a few good minutes just to make sure their father did not catch them swimming!

It was around the same time that the family experienced the first marriage among the siblings. The wedding of their eldest sister, Gnanambikai (Periaccia) and Vadivale took place in the Circular Road house in 1944. When she first got pregnant, Perampalam remembers capturing a magpie as a pet. Unfortunately, the magpie died shortly after, which coincided with Periaccia's miscarriage. Everyone took this as a bad omen, and Perampalam was ticked off by the elders. This incident affected Perampalam deeply, as he felt personally responsible for it. This influenced his lifelong resolution to never own pets that could die easily.

The Japanese Occupation came to an end in 1945, and Perampalam was excited about finally going to school. Because he had already registered at Batu Road school prior to the war, he had to start Standard One at 11 years old. His younger brothers Sinnathamby and Palan however were allowed to sit for an assessment for double promotion, jumping to Standard Three. He initially felt 'left behind', but subsequently performed well and was promoted. All three brothers were in the same standard. Perampalam excelled in sports and extra curricular activities. He

became popular in school, and was hero-worshipped by the younger boys who admired his prowess as a star athlete.

1945 also saw the Saravanamuthu clan welcoming two new additions to their family – the family celebrated the birth of their youngest son as well as their first grandchild. Boys being boys, Perampalam recalls how he would typically be jumping and wrestling about with his siblings whenever their father was not at home. Ratnavale stayed out of the fray and preferred to tend to the gardens instead. However, whenever things got out of hand, all their mother had to say was “What’s that noise?” and Ratnavale would dutifully step in with the ‘rotan’. On one occasion, when Perampalam spotted Ratnavale marching in with the rotan, he ran into the store room and hid on one of the upper shelves. Feeling tired from his escapade, he accidentally slept off for an hour or so. When he woke up from his slumber, he gleefully bragged on how he evaded punishment, and mocked his other siblings for getting caught. Ratnavale, upon hearing the commotion, returned with his trusty ‘rotan’, and Perampalam got the worst spanking of them all.

The mischievous brothers were always going on adventures with their neighbours. One afternoon after school, Kathir, Perampalam, and their neighbours Sonny and Boong Kim ran off to swim at the Circular Road mining pool. Perampalam was not a good swimmer, and usually swam close to the banks. There were strong undercurrents, and suddenly he got caught in a whirlpool. He remembers being dragged into the darkest depths of the pool, and was certain he was about to face the Grim Reaper. Realizing his brother was in trouble, Kathir screamed for help. Disregarding his own safety, Sonny jumped in to save Perampalam. Shaken by the drama, the boys trudged home quietly and hid the incident from their families.

The next morning, Sonny came over to Perampalam’s house and frantically knocked on the window of the room where the brothers slept in. Valliammai approached Sonny about the commotion, and Sonny revealed that he dreamt Perampalam had drowned and wanted to make sure he was alright. Sensing something amiss, Valliammai interrogated Kathir and Perampalam, and the boys coughed up the truth. As the elder boy, Kathir was ticked off for being irresponsible and they were warned to never go to the mining pool again. Valliammai never breathed a word of the incident to Saravanamuthu.

When Saravanamuthu retired, he was re-employed at Dr. Doraisamy’s Clinic in Sentul. The family lived above the clinic, and Perampalam continued his secondary schooling in MBS Sentul. The kind-hearted Dr. Doraisamy took pity on the large family and allowed them to move to one of his houses at No 15B, Jalan Taiping — fondly referred to as the ‘Headquarters’. Perampalam recalls his parents as being generous and gracious hosts. At times, he remembered sleeping on a sack on the kitchen floor when they had a large group visiting. Nevertheless, his parents always ensured that their guests’ needs were well taken care of, and that they never felt

any discomfort. He also remembers their house being used as a 'maternity home' by close relatives due to the proximity to KL General Hospital. Perampalam is very proud to note that his parents' kindness, compassion, and hospitality have been inherited by all his siblings.

As Perampalam grew older, Perampalam was put in charge by his mother to do the marketing and buying the general provisions. As they had a large family, he remembers buying so much provision that he had to load them in a trishaw to take home. The younger generation at the 'Headquarters' fondly recalls clamoring to the hall when word got out that 'Rajan Mama' was home. They were then greeted by his handsome smile and his outstretched arm clenching a fistful of coins. Often this was preceded by shaking the coins so that the kids could estimate how much was in his grasp – whoever guessed closest took all! Needless to say it generated immense tension and climaxes that even EPL football these days cannot rival. Such was his love for his family, especially the need to see the smiling faces on his young nephews and nieces as they eagerly waited for their 'Rajan Mama' to reward them with some 'treasure'.

The women in the Saravanamuthu clan were very protective of their "Rajan". Perampalam remembers returning home one evening with a plaster on his nose. He had broken his nose after taking a direct hit from a hockey ball during a match earlier that evening. All hell broke loose at the 15B household! His mother and sisters were hysterically crying upon seeing their injured Rajan. His brothers realised that everything was fine but faced a bigger predicament trying to control the emotional commotion of their mother and sisters! All's well ends well – Perampalam sprung back into action in short time and continued to maintain his suave Rock Hudson looks!

The doctor later sold his houses in Jalan Taiping to Mr. Lim Kim Seng who continued to rent the house to the family for many years. He revered Valliammai as a motherly figure, and had never raised the rent from the initial rate of 35 dollars. Although the surrounding area has developed significantly, the house at 15B still stands strong as a monument to the love and hospitality of Saravanamuthu and Valliammai.



*Perampalam with his parents and brothers.
Standing from left – Kathir, Appuchi, Ganesh, Rajan, Sabai.
Seated from left – Palan, Mr. & Mrs. Saravanamuthu, Sinnathamby.*



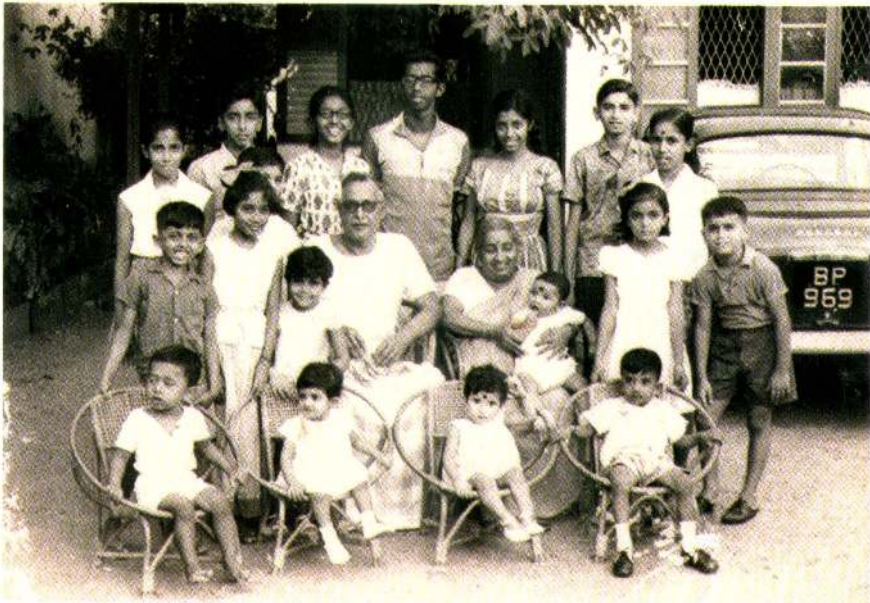
Perampalam as a young boy, 1949.



Perampalam with his young brothers.



The family at 15B Jalan Taiping, 1952. Standing from left – Palan, Kandiah, Hari, Vetti Vadivale, Sabai, Kathir, Rajan, Ratnavale, Sothy, Sinnathamby. Seated from left – Kamalacca, Chinnacca, Periacca, Mr. & Mrs. Saravanamuthu, Anni, Archiacca. Seated on ground from left – Vanitha, Shanta, Appuchi, Ganesh, Chellan.



Mr. and Mrs. Saravanamuthu with their grandchildren at 15B Jalan Taiping, 1966. Standing from back row left – Malar, Hari, Vanitha, Chellan, Shanta, Sothy, Uma. Second row from left – Shankar, Vijji, Kumar, Arul, Mr. & Mrs. Saravanamuthu, Sivakumar, Chelvi, Appu. Third row from left – Ravi, Rohini, Renuha, Ananthan.



LIM KIM SENG,
30, PAHANG ROAD,
KUALA LUMPUR.
10th October, 1964.

To:

re: Premises No. 15B, Pahang Road,
Kuala Lumpur.

I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of \$35/- being payment of the rent in respect of the above premises for the month of October 1964, which I accept without prejudice to my Notice to Quit, dated the 6th day of April, 1964.

Yours faithfully,
(LIM KIM SENG).

15-B Jalan Taiping - house rental.



Perampalam's eldest brother Ratnavale with Valliammai's father, Murugesu Ramanathan.

Siblings

Perampalam's eldest brother, Ratnavale ("Annai"), was born on 13th August 1921 in Seremban. Annai served with the Government Medical Stores till his retirement in 1976. When Saravanamuthu passed away in 1966, he stepped into the shoes as the patriarch of the family. Ratnavale was highly knowledgeable in Hindu religious rituals, and was a familiar sight in many homes during happy and sombre occasions, ensuring that the ceremonies were correctly conducted. For his dedicated voluntary service to the community, the Jaffnese Co-operative Youth awarded him a 'Ponnaddai' (Golden Shawl) in 2001. Annai was married for fifty-three years to Navamani Sinnappu ("Anni"), and they were blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Annai was fortunate to witness the marriage of his grandson, and arrival of his great-grandson. Navamani passed away in 2014, and Ratnavale passed away a year later in 2015 at the age of 94.

Gnanambihai ("Periaccia"), the eldest sister of Perampalam, was born on 18th September 1922 in Seremban. She was married at the age of 21 to the late Vetti Vadivale Sanmugam, who worked with the Ministry of External Affairs and served in Malaysia's foreign missions in Jakarta, Bangkok and Tokyo until his retirement in 1976. Periaccia accompanied her husband abroad, winning the hearts of Malaysians and foreigners alike with her warm hospitality and grace. Periaccia and her husband had four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Periaccia is fortunate to witness the marriage of four grandchildren, and arrival of her great-grandchildren, thus blessed to have seen seven generations of her family.

His second sister, Kanagambihai, an endearing and intelligent girl, unfortunately passed away before Perampalam was born. She had followed her mother, Ratnavale and sisters Gnanambihai and Ladchumie, to Sri Lanka to visit their maternal grandparents and paternal uncles and sister. She was playing with a young helper, swinging on the branch of a tree, when she accidentally fell and hit her chest on the ground. Her death was a shocking tragedy for the family as she was only four years old. It caused great anguish for Saravanamuthu as he was in Malaya at the time of the accident.



Perampalam's third sister, Ladchumie ("Chinnacca" a.k.a Pakiam) was born on 6th March 1926 in Seremban. She had great interest and talent in Tamil classical dance and music, and was noted for her accomplishments as a violinist. Chinnacca was married to the late Kandiah Murugesu. Due to his occupation, the couple and their family lived across Malaysia in towns such as Klang, Kuala Lumpur, Taiping and Kuala Kubu Bharu. Chinnacca and her husband were warm hosts to all who visited. They also went to great lengths to visit family during festivals. After fifty-three

years of marriage, Kandiah passed away on 17th September 2001. The couple was blessed with four children and four grandchildren, and Chinnacca has witnessed the marriage of three of her grandchildren.

Perampalam's second brother, Kathiravale ("Kathir") was born on 1st October 1929 in Seremban. A teacher by profession, Kathir was always the life of any gathering, entertaining all with his large repertoire of jokes. Following in the footsteps of his father, he went on to become one of the most renowned football referees and hockey umpires in Malaysia. Kathir was the only "Double International" to have officiated at the finals of two different sports at the Asian Games — hockey and football. He was married to Sarasvathi Sinnappu (Anni's sister), and the couple was blessed with three sons and two grandchildren. Kathir passed away in 2013 at the age of 84.

His third brother Kanagasabai ("Sabai") was born on 17th May 1931 in Seremban. He worked as a Technical Assistant with the Public Works Department at the Federal Headquarters until his retirement in 1986. In 1975, he was awarded the A.M.N by the King for his services to the Government. Active in sports and societies at school and college levels, Sabai was an active member of the TPCA and served the Association in several capacities — Secretary of the TPCA and the Chairman of the Youth Section. Sabai is married to Gohila Chelliah, and the couple is blessed with two daughters and four grandchildren.

Perampalam's fourth sister, Kamalambihai ("Kamalacca") was born on 10th December 1932 in Seremban. Upon finishing school, Kamalacca joined Telecoms. She was trained in classical tamil music, and actively participated in dramas and plays in her youth. She was married to the late Krishnapillai Sithamparapillai, who served with the Labour Department in various states before retiring as Director General of the Labour Department, Ministry of Labour after 33 years of service. After forty-five years of marriage, Krishnapillai passed away on 23rd June 2003. The couple was blessed with three children and six grandchildren.

His fourth brother Sinnathamby, was born on 13th May 1936 in Kuala Lumpur. He worked as a Technician in the Public Works Department. Sinnathamby had a very generous heart. Totally selfless, no favour was too difficult for family or friend - and everyone was a friend. He was especially fond of his siblings and would sacrifice all for them. Sinathamby was married to Annalakshmi Murugasu, but the couple had no children. Sadly, Sinnathamby was killed in a road accident in 1981, as the family gathered for their father's annual 'thivasam'. It was a loss which the family never fully recovered from.



Perampalam's fifth brother Thasapalan ("Palan") born on 21st December 1937 in Kuala Lumpur. His name was derived from being the tenth child in the family ('Thasa' means ten in Sanskrit). He joined Telecoms Malaysia as a Technician in 1960 and retired as a Super Scale Technician after thirty-two years of service. Palan was actively involved in sports through his involvement as a Grade 1 Official of the Selangor Amateur Athletic Association (Track Events) and the Secretary of Telecoms Athletic and Welfare Association (TAWA). He has contributed to the community through his social and religious involvements with the Jaffnese Co-operative Society, Brickfields Rukun Tetangga, the Malaysian Ceylon Saivites Association, and the Temple of Fine Arts among others. Palan is married to Sivapooranam Kandiah, and the couple is blessed with a son and a daughter.

Perampalam's youngest sister Rathinambihai ("Archiacca") was born on 12th November 1939 in Kuala Lumpur. As the youngest daughter of the Saravanamuthu family, she was a favourite among the nephews and nieces, and the apple of the eye of all her brothers who were yet to marry and leave the home. She married Balasundram Murugasu (Annalakshmi's brother) on 24th May 1968. Balasundram who joined the Rubber Research Institute as an Assistant in the Polymer Chemistry Section, went on to become Manager of the Standard Malaysia Rubber (SMR) Commercial Testing Unit - a post he held for fifteen years until his retirement in July 1987. The couple is blessed with two children and two grandchildren.

Perampalam's sixth brother Balasingam ("Appuchi"), was born on 29th June 1941 in Kuala Lumpur. An active trade unionist, he served as the National Union of Commercial Workers (NUCW) National Vice President and was an Exco Member of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC). During that period, he attended international trade union conferences in various countries and most importantly he attended the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva. Appuchi married Devi Mathavan, and the couple is blessed with two sons.

His youngest brother Ganeshvaran ("Ganesh") the thirteenth was born on 27th March 1945. Lovingly called Kutty-Anna in the family, he had a great interest in the fields of art and theatre, and embarked on a career as a disc-jockey with Radio Television Malaysia (RTM). After thirty-four years of broadcasting with RTM Radio 4 as "Uncle Ganesh", a household name with the Malaysian public, he finally retired from the government service in March 2000. Ganesh married Marina Yvonne Sebastian, and the couple is currently settled in Melbourne, Australia with their three daughters and three grandchildren.



*Standing from left - Appuchi, Palan and Ganesh.
Seated from left - Rajan, Kathir, Annai, Bala and Sabai*



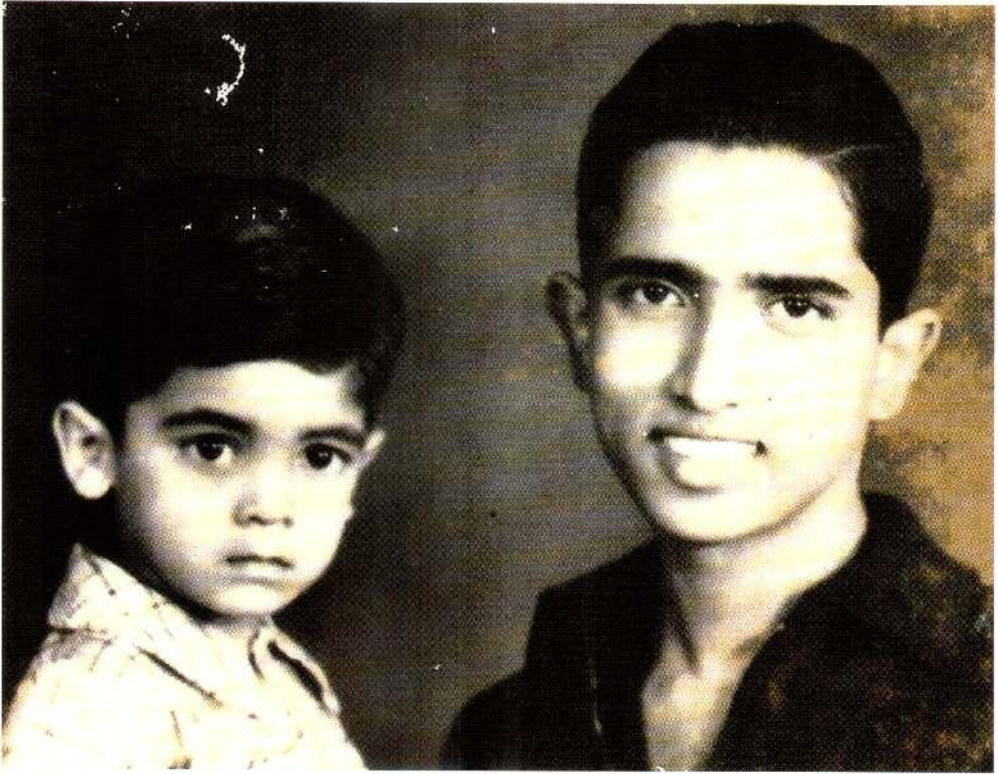
*Standing from left - Yvonne, Sivapooranam, Gohila, Archiacca, Satku.
Seated from left - Chinnacca, Kamalacca, Periacca, Anni and Sarasvathi.*

Cousins

When Muthukumar (Saravanamuthu's elder brother) came to Malaya, he only brought one daughter with him, Manonmani. As the oldest of her generation in Malaya, she was lovingly called "Baby Acca" by all her cousins. When Muthukumar returned to Sri Lanka, he entrusted the wellbeing of his daughter in the hands of Saravanamuthu and Valliammai, who loved and looked after Baby Acca as one of their own. Baby Acca called Valliammai "Kunchiachi", and could always count on her for motherly love, support, and advice. She was married to the late M. Selvadurai, and they were blessed with eight children. She is always at the forefront at all their family functions. Though she passed away in 2012, Perampalam and his siblings still maintain a close-knit relationship with her children.

Krishnar (Saravanamuthu's youngest brother) married Valliammai's cousin sister Ponnamma in Sri Lanka, and the couple returned to Malaya to setup home in Klang. The couple were blessed with ten children – Gunavathy (Kunam Acca), Pasupathy, Selvathy (Chellam Acca), Thilagavathi, Sivapathy, Pushpapathy (passed away in 1937), Punithavathy (later settled in Sri Lanka), Ragupathy, Parampathy, and Poopathy. Unfortunately, Ponnamma passed away in 1947, leaving the devastated Krishnar to bring up his children alone. Saravanamuthu and Valliammai promptly stepped in to give Krishnar's children additional parental love and support. The children looked up to their Asaiyah and Asaiamma, and would look forward to the school holidays to have a whale of a time with their cousins. The cousins remain close till today and would make it a point to visit each other during family functions and festivals.

Valliammai's sister Saraswathy or "Kunchiachi" came to Malaya and married Arunasalam, an estate conductor in Negeri Sembilan. Childless for some time, they were eventually blessed with four children - Mani, Indra, and a pair of twins, Renggan and Brinda. Sadly, Arunasalam was brutally murdered by communist terrorists during the Emergency, and the bereaved family moved in with the Saravanamuthu family at 15B. Saravanamuthu added a single room extension to accommodate them, and Perampalam was assigned to sleep there as security for the family. Kunchiachi thought of Perampalam as her own son. Later, Saravanamuthu sent Kunchiachi and her family back to their family home in Sri Lanka in 1964. Although they are presently settled overseas, the cousins still keep regular contact and maintain a close bond with Perampalam.



Perampalam with his cousin Renggan in 1951.



The Krishnar children in 1979.



June 1966.

Chapter 3

School & Early Sports



*“In every man there is something wherein I may learn of him;
and in that I am his pupil.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Emerson's statement is a true reflection of Perampalam's schooling years, signifying the important, formative role it played in shaping his goals and characteristics as he journeyed to adulthood. At school, Perampalam excelled in various sports and social activities, which presented him with opportunities to travel outstation and meet other students to form long, lasting friendships. Growing up in an era where large families were ubiquitous, Perampalam and his siblings would join the children of their neighbours, the Kanagasabai and Maarkandu families, at an open space in front of Kanagasabai's house to play all sorts of games. His routine participation in this daily affair made him very fit and athletic, which eased his transition into competitive sports when he started schooling.

When Perampalam began his primary education after the war, he naturally excelled in sporting activities like a duck takes to water. Schools often took pride in their sporting achievements, and inter-school competitions were akin to the Roman gladiator arenas where they could showcase their sporting excellence and talents. Teachers frequently utilized PE sessions and inter-house games as their recruitment grounds, singling out the better students to represent the school. As he was big built and physically fit, he excelled easily in tryouts and competitions, and became the obvious choice to represent the school in athletics, football, cricket and hockey.

Moving from Batu Road School to Methodist Boys School (MBS), Sentul for his secondary education, Perampalam continued his sporting success, especially in athletics and hockey. He recalls an incident where his father witnessed him participating in several athletic events (long jump, high jump, running etc). When he went home that day, his father told him to buy himself a pair of shoes with spikes. He also advised him not to take part in too many sports as it could eventually lead to complications with his thigh muscles. Despite this advice, Perampalam continued his foray into a myriad of events, confident that age and fitness was on his side.

He represented his school for athletics and hockey at interschool level and was selected for Selangor Combined Schools athletics and hockey. In athletics, he participated in the 100 yards and the 220 yards and was the first runner for the 100 yard relay – he was eventually crowned the Athletics Overall Champion in his final year during the 1954/1955 school session. He was also the Hockey Captain, Yellow House Captain, Football Vice-Captain, and a member of the Cricket Team. Constantly pushing the limits of his physical endurance, his father's prophecy came true when he injured his leg muscles during a hockey match. Instead of being discouraged, he just switched his playing position from centre-half to goalkeeper!

His athletic prowess and success on the field made him the object of envy and adulation among his schoolmates, especially the younger boys. A cacophony of cheers and applause became the symphony that accompanied him as he proudly walked up to take center stage with his trophies and medals. Even today, his schooling peers would proudly acknowledge "Param" as the star athlete of their

school. Whenever the family goes for meals at the famous Yut Kee Restaurant, the owner and proud Batu Road old boy Jack Lee will always come over and exclaim that Perampalam was his childhood school hero!

Apart from sports, Perampalam was also active in co-curricular activities. He was an active member of the Editorial Board, Science Society, and the Literary and Debating Society. As a school prefect, his leadership and administrative skills were recognized when he was selected as the MBS Vice-Captain, and the Selangor Combined Schools Prefect Board Secretary. Perampalam credits this early experience for laying the groundwork for his future administrative responsibilities.

Perampalam loved to take part in school dramas and cultural events. His impersonation of the Scarlet Pimpernel was a hit that many remembered and commented on years after leaving school. He recalls an incident during school assembly, where the Headmaster invited students to come up to the stage and sing Tamil songs in line with the upcoming Deepavali celebrations. Perampalam walked up confidently to the microphone, and immediately started to sing the chorus from a popular song from a 1951 Tamil movie called "Orr Iravu":

"Oooh Saami.....

Aiyaa Saami, Avogi Saami

Aiyaa Raya Vaaya Yo Come Ayaa

Aiyaa Saami, Avogi Saami

Naari Kombulrruku Vaangalai O

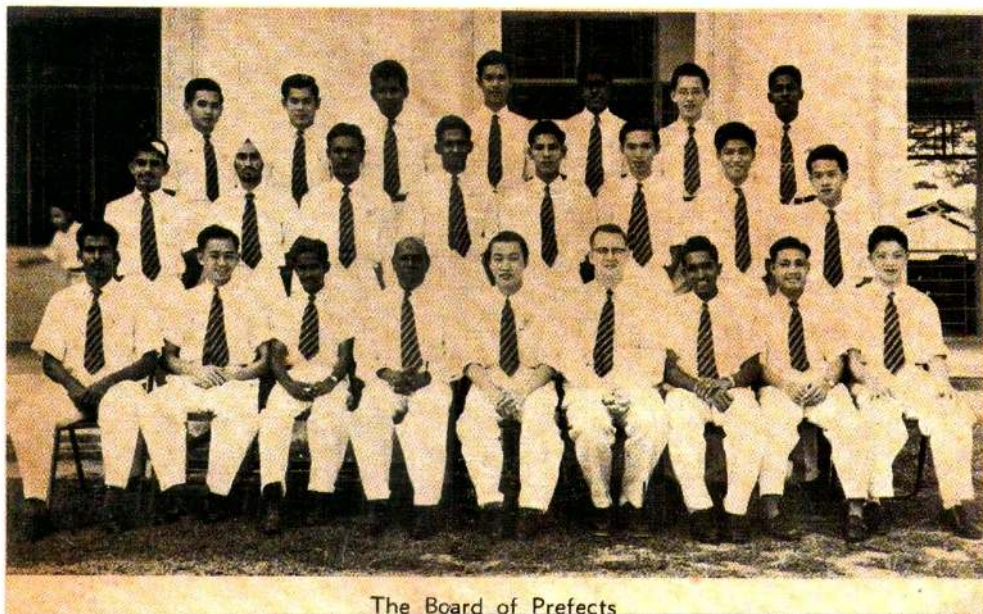
Aiyaa Saami! Ooo Aiyaa Saami!!!!"

His rendition became an instant hit with his schoolmates, prompting the Headmaster to meet him after the assembly to request for a repeat performance! It became the talk of the school for many months, where the boys in the school would only laughingly acknowledge him as "AiyaaSaami"!

Being in a missionary school exposed Perampalam to the activities of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The initial attraction to the fellowship was the choir practice, which gave him the opportunity to showcase his deep baritone voice. During Christmas, Perampalam used to dress up as Santa Claus and partake in caroling, bewildering the school principal, the discipline master, and fellow revelers on whether he was a Hindu or a Christian! His experiences made him ponder on how Christian boys and girls from distinct racial and cultural backgrounds mixed freely and formed unique brotherly-sisterly friendships, while Hindu boys and girls were on the opposite end of the spectrum with their reserved attitude.

Being accustomed to mingling with students from different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds, Perampalam developed a deep understanding on religions, and came to realize that Hinduism and Buddhism shared a lot of similarities. He also

developed a respect and understanding for Christianity. Just before he left school, he enrolled in a correspondence course on Bible Knowledge organized by a church in Singapore, and successfully completed and obtained a Diploma. As he delved deeper into Christianity, he formed the opinion that Christ was Krishna, and Mary was Mariamma, and he believed that there is one God but worshipped by different groups. Perampalam grew to respect this unique diversity he was privileged to, and this set in motion a long, lasting passion with spirituality.



The Board of Prefects

Board of Prefects 1954.

PREFECTS' NOTES.

The Prefects' Board of this year comprised the following members:-

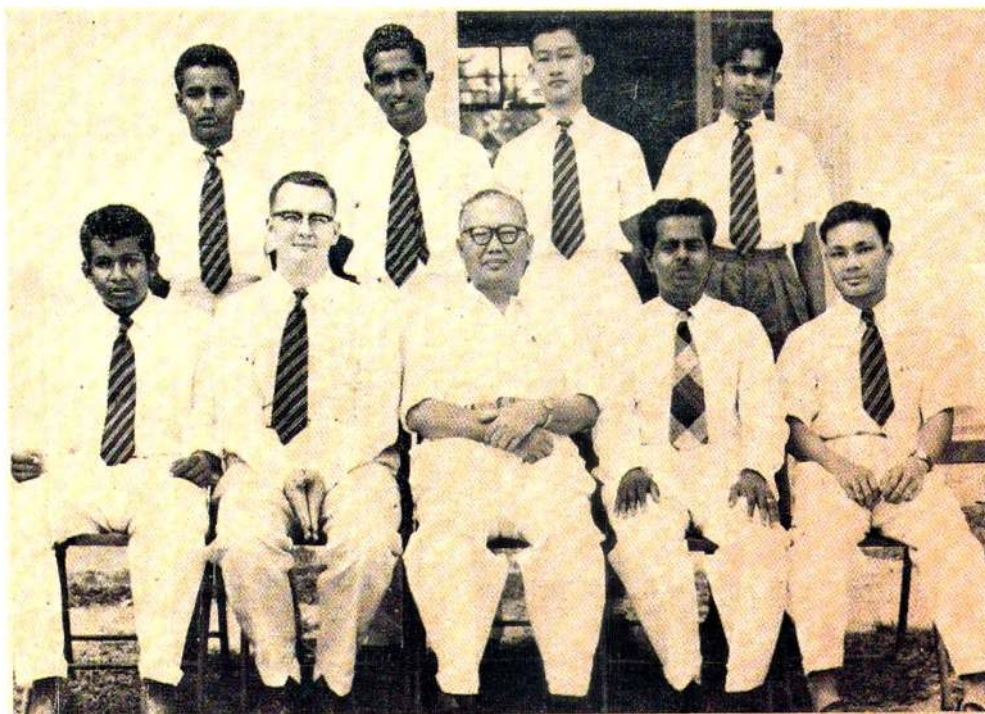
Foo Hon Ngoon	School Captain.
S. Perampalam	Vice-Captain.
James Amoz	Hon. Secretary.
Hashim bin Mohd Nasib	Hon Treasurer.
Ooi Poh Kiat	Committee member.
Lim Kim Bew	Committee member.

The Members:- Abdul Malik; Bhajan Singh; Chin Hock Chye; S. K. Ghosh; Goh Sze Kooi; Hussein b Mohd Salleh; Khoo Teng Yuen; P. Mahadhavan; R. Nadarajah; Ong Hock Boh; P. K. Padmanathan; M. Puvendram; Tai Kon Yan; K. Subramaniam; Thomas George; Yew Kim Shing.

Perampalam was the Vice-Captain at MBS Sentul.

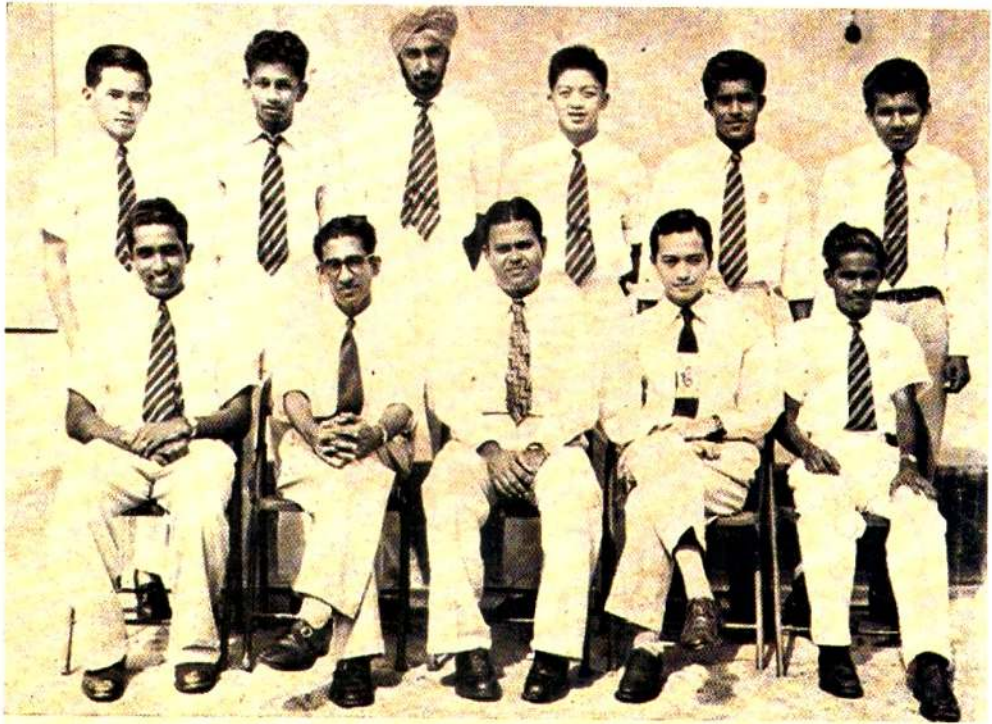


Perampalam at a prefects board function.

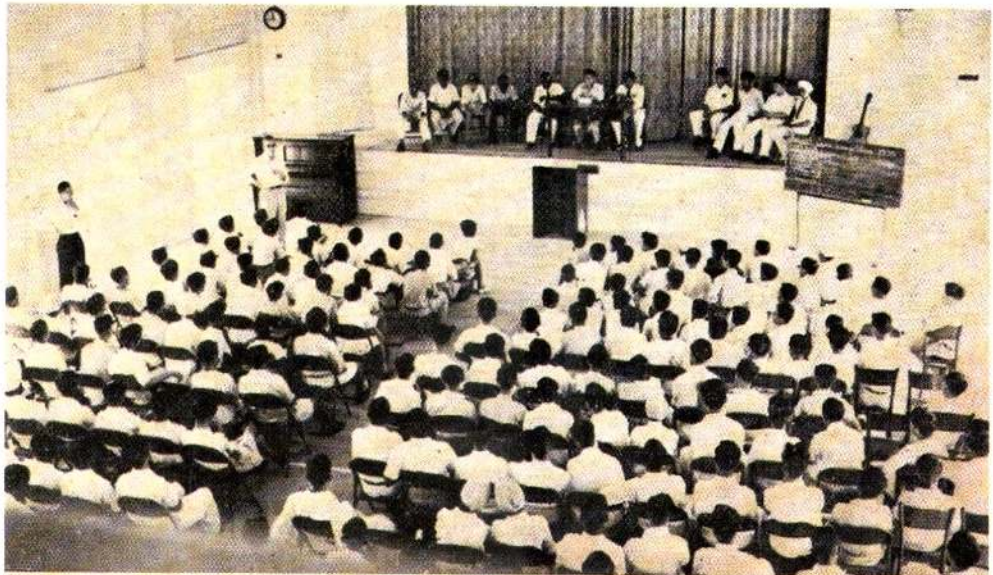


The Editorial Board

The school editorial board.



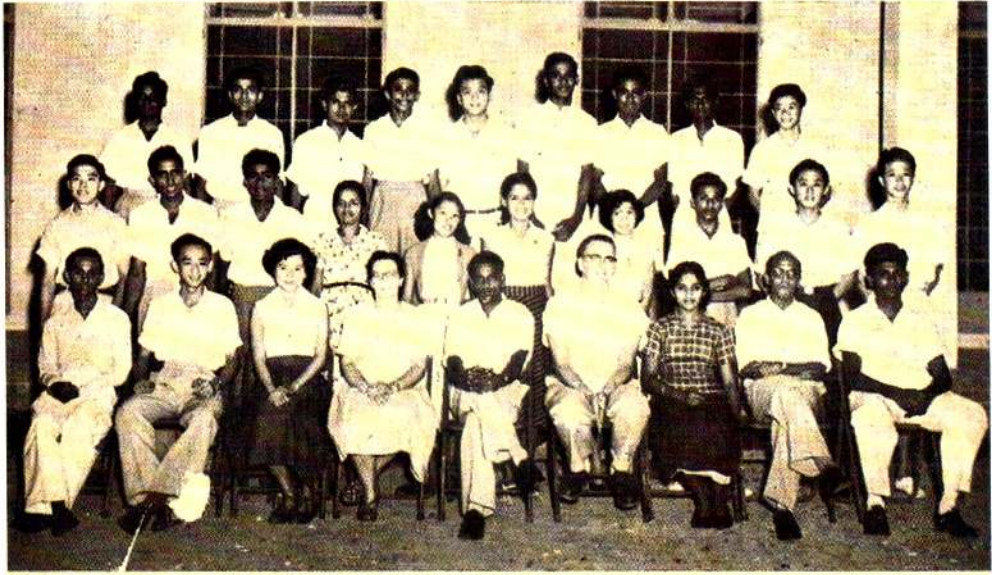
THE SCIENCE SOCIETY.



THE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

Seated at the table L. to R: S. Perampalam, Mr. Chang, Kwai, R. Nadarajah.

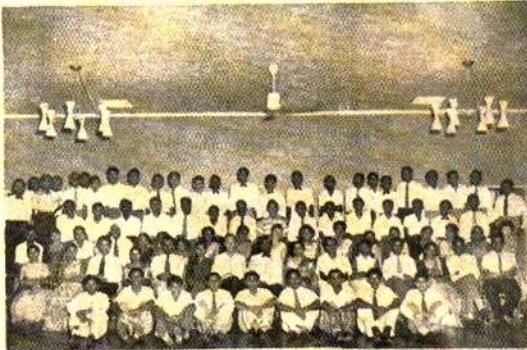
*Academically, Perampalam was active representing MBS in debates,
and Science Society activities*



THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.
 Seated Centre L. to R: Miss. Caroline Plank (adviser), Mr. Moses David (President), Mr. Richard Babcock (adviser).

Member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

HINDU NEW YEAR GET TOGETHER AT THE
 BRITISH COUNCIL HALL (1957)



Victorious



What excitement

Enjoying



A card game in progress



S. Perampalam receiving a prize from Mr. Emsley

At an outing at the British Council Hall in 1957.



Passing the baton – 1954.



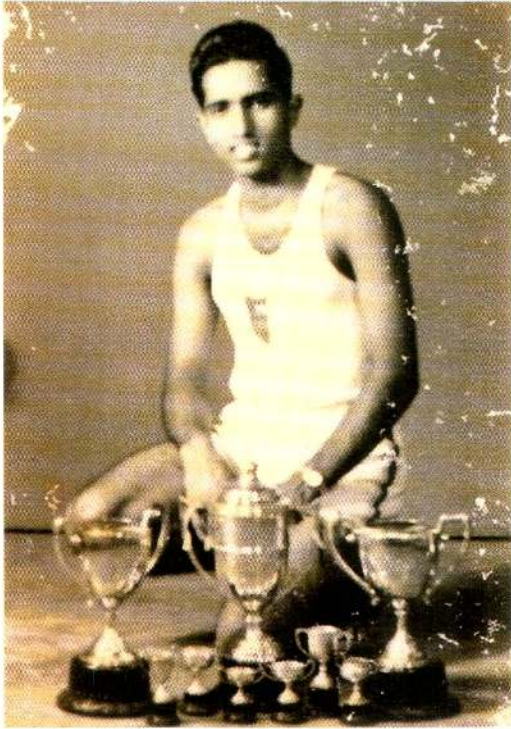
Well deserved.



The school champion for a few years running.



Receiving a trophy from a senior official from the Education Department.



Perampalam's father watched his son participate in the school sports events and sweep clean the trophies in 1953. He recalls his father telling him that it was not nice to participate in too many events, and that he should give others a chance to win.



SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 1953



(Back Row): N. S. S. Loon, Harbans Singh, Hussein, P. Mahadhaven, S. Mahendran.
(Middle Row): K. S. Maniam, Hakikat Singh, S. Perampalam, Leong Yoon Fatt and Mr. J. N. Singam.
(Front Row): Kamaruddin, Tai Kon Yean, K. Maheswaran, M. Thavarajaratnam, Sukhdev Singh Gill.



MBS Sentul football team.



School Runners —1955. Standing Centre: Mr. Inder Singh(coach)

ATHLETICS.

Our school team did very well in the school sports by taking first place in the inter-school relay race. The following ran in that race:- V. Valayutham, Lim Kim Bew, S. K. Gosh and S. Perampalam.

Two of our athletes did well in the Selangor Combined School Sports. They are Hussein bin Salleh and S. Perampalam. Hussein was placed third in the Long Jump and Hop, Step and Jump while S. Perampalam was placed second in 220 yds and third in the 100 yds.

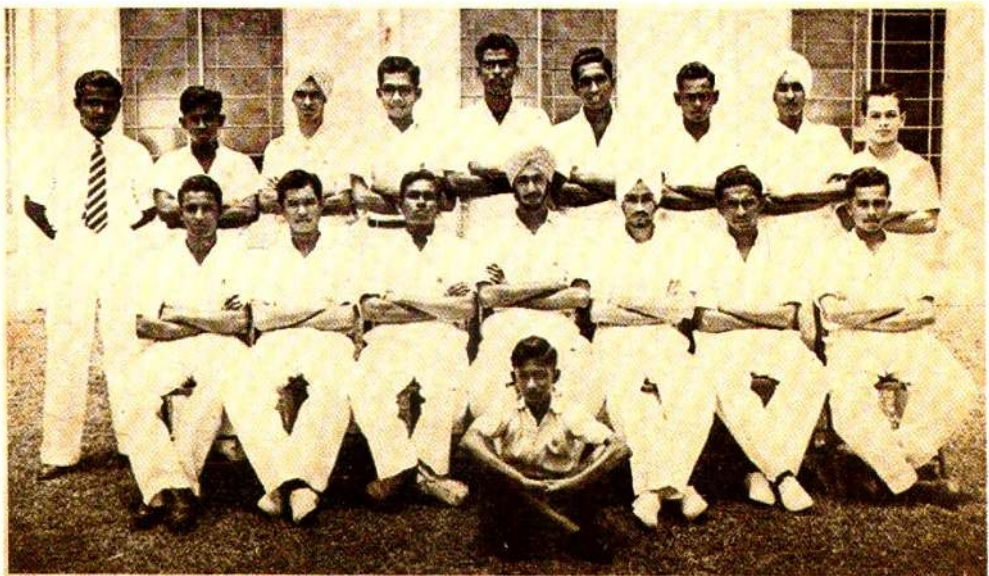
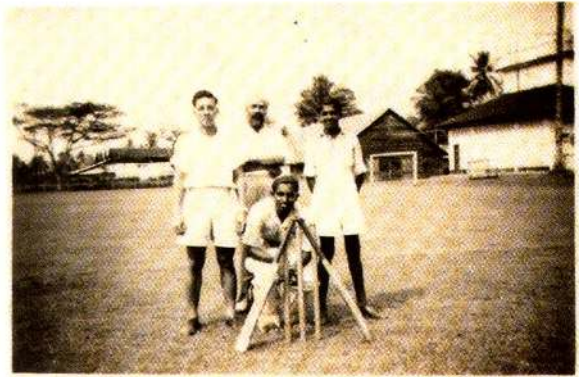
The school athletics team.



(Front)—S. Perampalam, R. Puvirasa and K. Kosh.
(Back)—Puvendram, Lim Chee Liang, Mr. J. N. Singam, K. S. Maniam and Ng Cheo.
Hoh.



*S. Perampalam – Flagbearer for the Malaysian Government Sports Council.
Shaking hands with Tunku Abdul Rahman.*



The School Cricket Team.

The school cricket team – 1953.



MBS Sentul Hockey Team. Standing first row centre is younger brother Sinnathamby.

Chapter 4

Young Adult



"I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life." - Robert Baden-Powell

Every man has his own 'comrades-in-arms' growing up – a unique relationship that is beyond blood relationship, which shines during the best of times, and survives through the worst. While living in Sentul, Perampalam's family home was neighbouring the Malayan Railway quarters, which was populated by a significant number of Ceylonese families. There was open space nearby, and the children from the neighborhood would gather every evening, rain or shine, to play a game of football or cricket. Besides sports, he also became active in the neighborhood social circle. Perampalam remembers that the children of the hospital staff and the young staff at the hospital where his father worked created a social club called The Trumpeteers Club. The clubhouse premise was the hospital quarters where a bachelor dresser named Murugesan lived. Perampalam and his brothers Kathir and Sabai joined this club, and recall meeting friends in the evenings for a friendly chat, reading newspapers, and generally having a good time. Perampalam noted that his childhood in Sentul was where the friendship between him and Vijayanathan first sparked, and grew stronger as they both actively participated in TPCA and the Hindu Youth Organisation.

Joining TPCA as a playing member, Perampalam became close friends with Vijayanathan and Jahendran, as all three of them played for the club's hockey team. Despite having origins as a Tamil-founded sports club, Perampalam remembers that the club showcased the unique Malaysian diversity and unity on and off the field. The club ground often played host to various social and cultural events as well. Perampalam recalls looking forward to Deepavali and Christmas gatherings where members and non-members had good fun regardless of age or religious barriers.

Perampalam also became active in the Kuala Lumpur Hindu Youth Organisation (KLHYO), and later its national chapter, the Malaysia Hindu Youth Organisation (MHYO), serving both organisations as a Treasurer. He became interested in HYO as Vijayanathan and many close friends were active members, and they often organised their talks and fund-raising activities at TPCA premises.

When Perampalam left secondary school, he gained his first employment with the Public Works Department based on his sports merit. However, a few months later, the Selangor State Government called him for an interview. He was successful in the interview and was posted to the Statistics Department. The night before reporting for work, his father called him aside and advised him "Mahne, you better eat early and go to bed. Remember, you grew up with sisters, and since Statistics Department has a lot of young girls, please treat them like your sisters."

When Perampalam started working at the Statistics Department, Vijayanathan was working close by at the Education Department. Both men practically met every day for lunch, and frequently ate from the same lunch box. The 'gang' grew bigger as two others joined their clique – Moorthy and Karthigesu. Reminiscent of the young cowboys of the Wild West, the four friends went everywhere together – matinees,

sporting events, social functions – in Vijayanathan’s trusty Volkswagen. When Vijayanathan got married, he and his wife visited Perampalam’s family often, and the families were close.

Admiring Jahendran for his hard work and dedication to duty, Perampalam requested him to help out in the nascent Malaysian Hockey Federation as an Assistant Treasurer. Jahendran accepted the position, which was a great relief to Perampalam. Jahendran became Perampalam’s *Fidus achates*, standing by him whenever he needed help in MHF or at the Sri Kandaswamy Temple. Their families were also close, and frequently attended each other’s functions.

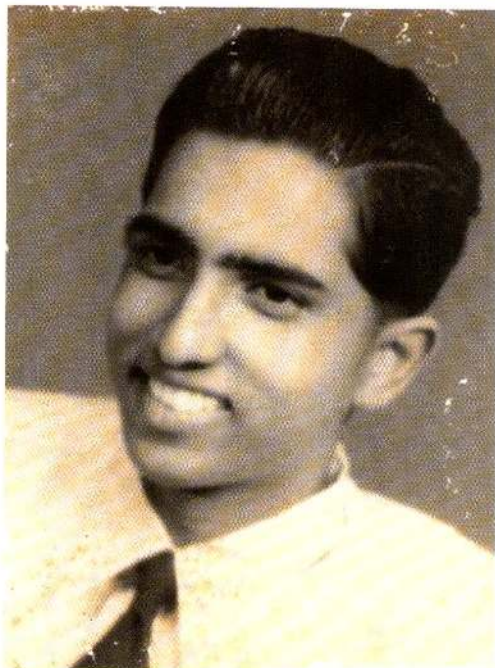
Working life at the Statistics Department was an interesting and pleasant experience. Perampalam was attached to the Trade Section, which jointly co-operated with the Customs Department. With a strength of 250 staff, the Statistics Department was a comparatively small outfit at that time, and the Trade Section’s main responsibility was to compile trade declarations to gauge the country’s import and export figures.

Perampalam was entrusted to decode, tabulate, and review import and export declarations from Customs Department. Two years later, he was assigned to a UN advisor to help compile the latest mining statistics from the Mining Department. Later, he was transferred to the Manufacturing Section where he overlooked the staff performing coding and analysis. They had to collate the data on a monthly basis, which was submitted to the Economic Planning Unit at the Prime Minister’s Department.

When the Census Act was enacted in 1960, the Statistics Department was responsible to carry out the census once in 10 years, and this colossal task was accomplished using many temporary staff. Perampalam remembers when the first census was carried out, the country’s population only numbered at about seven million, where the largest segment of the population was under the age of four (23%). Today, the segment of the population under the age of four is only about 8%, a reflection of the current generation’s trend on having smaller families.

Over the years, the Statistics Department’s role was expanded to take on a multitude of functions, and eventually came under the direct purview of the Prime Minister’s Department. During his time in service, Perampalam used his influence to help many young jobseekers gain employment with the department. Perampalam recounts observing the department’s workforce growing from 250 staff to over 2,000 staff. Recognizing his experience and good track record, Perampalam was one of 10 staff selected to undergo training to become statistical officers. After 2 years of lectures and assessments, he was one of eight who successfully completed the training. Unfortunately, the Public Service Department reversed their decision to promote them, on the account of reserving the statistical officer positions for graduate government scholars.

His valuable experiences from his sports and social activities proved useful as he was appointed as the Secretary of the Statistics Sports Club, and as the Chairman of the Joint Council for Staff. In these two roles he organized various social functions and sporting events, such as the annual departmental dinner and dance, Christmas parties, and the annual Inter-Statistics Malaysia and Singapore Games. Perampalam finally retired as a Chief Statistical Clerk in 1989 after 33 years of loyal service.



As a young boy who grew up into a fine man & a responsible adult.



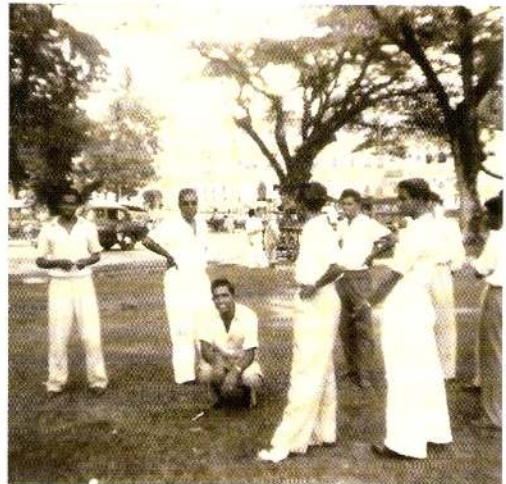
*His trusted Lambretta
(1956-1966).*



Port Dickson in 1956.



Cycling trip to PD.



Hanging out with friends.



With future parliament speaker Tan Sri G. Vadiveloo.



The life of the party.



The ladies man.



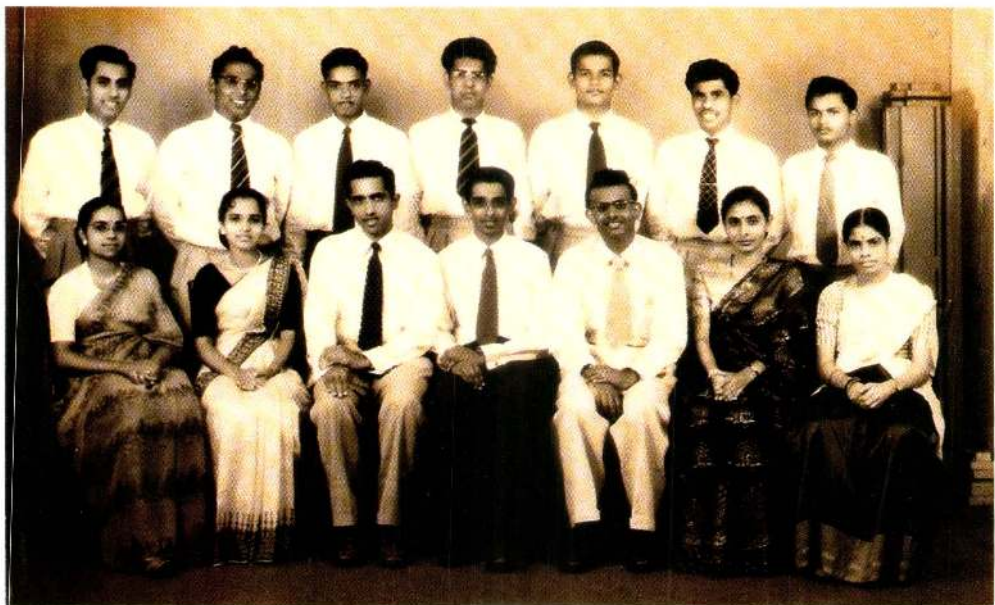
HYO trip to Port Dickson.



From left – Tan Sri G. Vadiveloo, Nagendran, Balasundram, Perampalam, Dato' Dr. R.K. Nathan and his sister Kamala.



HYO Advisor's farewell dinner.



HYO committee members.

Standing from left - Balasundram, Tan Sri G. Vadiveloo, Sathasivam, Vivekanantha, Varatharajah, Senathirajah, Karthigesu. Seated from left - Devam Ponniah, Rajalakshmi, Perampalam, Dato' G. Vijayanathan, Sarveswaran, Annaratnam, Rajeswary.



Statistics Dept. Annual Dinner.



Fun times at the Statistics Dept. – as Santa Claus for the Christmas party.



Statistics Dept. outing to Cameron Highlands.



Government Youth Training Centre.



Singapore Statistics Dept. with the KL Statistics Dept.



Statistics Dept. sporting event.



Office mates in Bangkok.



Statistics Dept. big walk event.



TPCA Christmas party.



Government Youth Training Camp.



Trumpeteers Club. Photo taken in 1954.



Trumpeteers club enjoying a good banana leaf spread with friends.



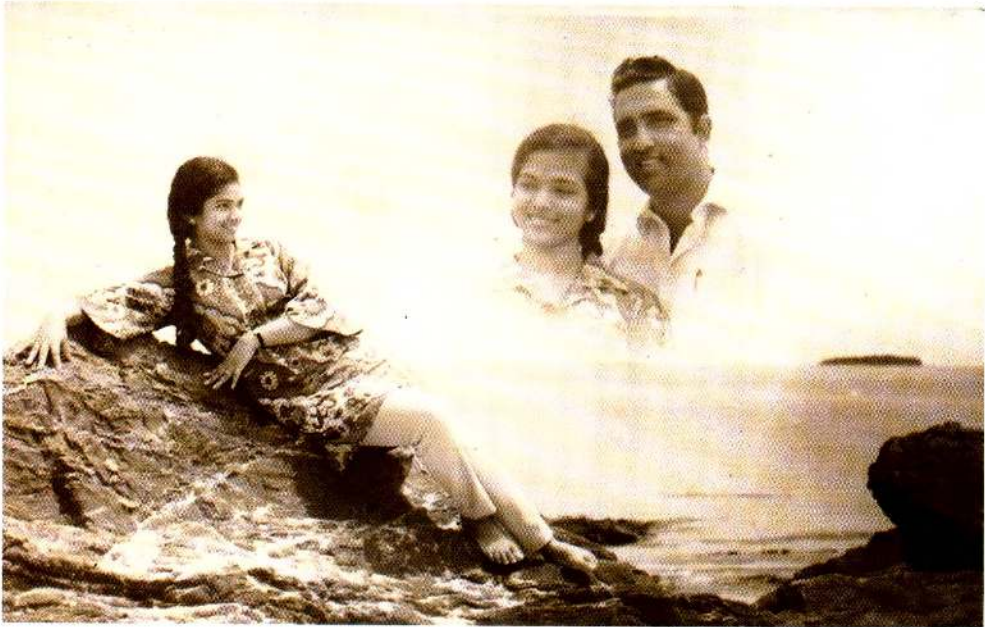
Tea-time with friends.



Perampalam and Dato' G. Vijayanathan – the two dashing Ceylonese boys during their TPCA playing days. On their way back from India and Sri Lanka on the famed vessel S.S. Rajula. They decided not to shave throughout their journey on the ship.

Chapter 5

Finding Love



“Love isn’t something you find. Love is something that finds you.”
– Loretta Young

Though a firm believer that true love is a match made in heaven, love and marriage was far from Perampalam's thoughts. Sometime in 1965, when his father was admitted to hospital for gastric-related complications, an elderly gentleman came to pay him a visit. The 'uncle' enquired with Saravanamuthu whether he had any eligible proposals for his son. Saravanamuthu replied that he would have to check with his son first. When he asked Perampalam about it, Perampalam stated that he was so heavily involved in sporting activities that any marital commitments would be an unfair proposition. Saravanamuthu informed the elderly gentleman of his son's decision which was respectfully accepted. Sadly, Saravanamuthu never got to see his son marry, as he passed away in 1966.

However, Cupid had other plans for Perampalam. Later that year, Nayagam, an influential union leader in NEB (forerunner of LLN/TNB), called Perampalam to meet him at his office. Nayagam casually enquired whether Perampalam knew one Moorthy, an engineer in NEB. Perampalam acknowledged that Moorthy and he were good friends from a young age. Nayagam added that he had initially wanted to introduce a young woman to Moorthy, but was politely declined by Moorthy who was in a committed relationship. Instead, Moorthy recommended Perampalam, whom he described as a non-smoker and teetotaler from a well-reputed family. Nayagam came clean with his intention to introduce the young woman to Perampalam, and hatched a plan for Perampalam to meet her on the pretext of meeting Willie, an acquaintance who worked with the young woman.

The next morning, when Perampalam went to meet Willie, he came across this young, beautiful lady in a green saree, who seemed very preoccupied with her work as she nibbled on her locket. A strong wave of excitement and joy overcame Perampalam. Ever since that chanced meeting, Perampalam's emotions were akin to a wild roller-coaster ride, and it was not too long before it caught the attention of his younger brother, Sinnathamby. During one of his weekend visits back home from Sabak Bernam, he sensed something was bothering Perampalam, and offered to help and support him with the presumption that Perampalam was in a financial predicament. Perampalam told him it was not financial, but a rather complex situation. When prodded on by Sinnathamby, Perampalam finally coughed out the truth and revealed that their mother had informed him that someone had recommended a 'maathukalyanam' for Perampalam and his youngest sister Aachi to marry Balasundram and his sister Annalakshmi. He felt conflicted as he had finally met the woman of his dreams, but wanted to remain filial to the wishes of his parents.

Sinnathamby, being a gem of a gentleman as he always was, assured Perampalam that he will take his place for the 'maathukalyanam' and will discuss his intentions with their mother. Although their father's death anniversary had not completed

its first year's cycle, their mother nevertheless consented, provided that the young woman's family mutually agreed to the marriage proposal.

Man proposes, but God disposes. Perampalam's family enquired about the young woman's family through Thangarajah, a distant relation of the Saravanamuthus and her family, the Sivapragasams. Thangarajah advised Perampalam to get in touch with Mr. Arumugam. Arumugam was a cousin of Mrs. Sivapragasam, and happened to be a mutual acquaintance of Perampalam through TPCA.

One day, Arumugam requested for Perampalam to accompany him to Petaling Jaya, but never breathed a word that he was actually taking him to meet his future in-laws. Unfortunately, the young woman was not at home but Arumugam assured Perampalam that she was a shy, courteous, homely girl. Perampalam's family also got caught up in the buzz to unite him with his dream girl. Valliammai found out that her brother-in-law, Muthukumar had travelled together with Sivapragasam to Malaya, and even housed him till he found his first job. She advised Perampalam to enquire whether the girl Navamani was 'taken', and if she was not, whether she is interested in him. Luckily for him, the coast was clear, and Nayagam was tasked with inviting the Sivapragasams to propose officially. When Perampalam's family first received Navamani's photo, his younger sister exclaimed that she saw Navamani once at the temple, and thought she would be a perfect match for Perampalam! Perampalam even purchased his famous Fiat 850 so he could take Navamani out dating in style. The first meeting concluded smoothly, resulting with the engagement cum marriage registration being fixed on 1st April 1967, and the wedding on 5th July 1967.

Navamani, on the other hand, had only seen Perampalam through photos and had never actually met her future husband in person. Nevertheless, she was equally excited with the prospect of marrying Perampalam. Her siblings fondly remember an incident that illustrated her feelings pre-marriage. Sivapragasam was watching television in the living room, and Navamani and her siblings were getting into the car parked in the porch to go out. Suddenly, she jumped out shouting "That's him!! That's him!!" Confused, everyone got out of the car pondering what the brouhaha was all about. When they realized she was just happy to see her future husband on T.V., they exclaimed in unison "What a handsome guy!!"

Flashback to 1963 or 1964 - Perampalam was passing by Selangor Club on his Lambretta when he witnessed a man being knocked down by a car as he crossed the road towards the Secretariat Building. Perampalam immediately parked his scooter, and hailed a taxi to ferry the injured man to the hospital. He was badly shaken and was bleeding profusely from the head. Perampalam stayed with the gentleman and ensured that all the formalities were taken care off. Once the man's condition stabilised, Perampalam excused himself to collect his scooter. Just before

he left, the gentleman casually asked him who he was, and his father's name. Perampalam furnished him with the details, and also left his office contact number just in case the hospital needed to follow-up on additional information. Few days later, Perampalam received a call from the gentleman. The man wanted to thank him personally for his deeds, and casually mentioned that he was good friends with Perampalam's paternal uncle, Krishnar, whom he attends prayers with at the Arulneri Thirukootam. He introduced himself as Ponnudurai.

1st April 1967. The marriage registration of Perampalam and Navamani was a grand affair as it was the first for the Sivapragasams. It was also the first time Perampalam met the Sivapragasams' immediate and extended family members. This event also bore him a second bliss – the gentleman he had helped 3-4 years ago, Ponnudurai, happened to be his mother-in-law's brother! Perampalam and Ponnudurai later became very good friends – both were active at the Sri Kandaswamy Temple, and met frequently for friendly chats. They shared a special bond that lasted 22 years. When Ponnudurai passed away in 1989, Perampalam rushed back from Ipoh to perform the last rites as per Ponnudurai's request as he had no children of his own.

The wedding ceremony of Perampalam and Navamani was an extravagant one fit for royalty. It was a lavish function – they had 100 home-made cakes made just for the wedding reception with the help of Mrs. Sivapragasam's sisters' families and friends. The couple bought a house in KampungTunku, and visitors complimented them on their trendy and chic furnishings. The following year, the young couple celebrated the arrival of their first child, Sharmini – the first grandchild for the Sivapragasams. It was a joyous occasion for the Saravanamuthu clan as they welcomed the newborn into their growing family. In 1969, the couple was blessed with their second child whom they named Premini. Mrs. Sivapragasam commented that Navamani once told her "Amma, the upbringing of my children is your responsibility". Both girls were adored by their family members, but Navamani felt unfulfilled as she wanted to realize her husband's wishes of having a son to continue the family tradition of naming a male newborn after their paternal grandfather, just as Perampalam was named after his.

After Sharmini was born, Perampalam decided to take his young wife for a holiday – so they went to Bangkok together with his mother. Mother and daughter-in-law bonded very well during this trip, and Valiammai even quipped that she was very happy with her son's choice. Navamani was fond of her mother-in-law, and visited her frequently with Perampalam. However, one particular visit is etched permanently in Perampalam's memory. 13th May 1969. Navamani was expecting their second baby, and the couple was making one of their customary visits to the 15B house. Sometime in the evening, the newscaster on T.V. announced that the government had declared a curfew due to some trouble between two rival political

parties. Noting Navamani's condition, everyone decided it was in the best interest for the couple to stay in 15B until the fiasco in the city was under control. The next day, when the curfew was lifted for a few hours, Perampalam and Navamani decided to drive back to their house in P.J. As they passed by Kampung Kerinchi, they spotted a gang of youths armed with knives, clubs and rocks blocking the road. Predicting trouble, Perampalam immediately swerved his car to the opposite lane. The youths threw rocks at their car, and one actually hit the side where Navamani was seated. When he asked why she did not duck to safety when advised to, Navamani replied that she was more concerned for Perampalam's safety than hers. Perampalam was moved to tears by his wife's loving action and devotion to him.

As young working parents, the couple was assisted by Navamani's parents to babysit Sharmini and Premini during working hours. Despite being a working mom, Navamani spent quality time with her children. She often took them to visit relatives, or just for a cruise around town after work or during weekends. As they drove by famous landmarks, she would name them out loud for the children to remember. It was her way of making learning fun for her children.

One morning, while sending Navamani to her workplace at NEB, Perampalam noticed that she was looking pale and sickly, and advised her to see the doctor on duty at the Kilat dispensary. When he fetched her from work in the evening, he noticed that she was still looking sickly, and that she had not visited the doctor. Sensing something amiss and worried for her and the child she was carrying, he rushed her to another clinic to get a diagnosis. The doctor noted that her fever was very high, and gave her a jab as an antidote. The remedy seemed to work as her fever reduced below 98.6°F. Wanting a second opinion, they returned to Kilat dispensary, and the medical assistant there strongly recommended her to be admitted at Assunta Hospital.

6th March 1971. It was a Saturday, and an auspicious one as well as the Sivapragasams were preparing to celebrate Thavarajah's (Navamani's eldest brother) housewarming function. While the rest of the family were away at the function, Navamani's youngest sister (Satkunavathi) volunteered to stay with her at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU). After the function, the entire family came to visit and they noted that Navamani was in her usual upbeat mood.

However, the next day, things took a turn for the worse as her condition suddenly deteriorated. The doctors urgently requested for blood donations to alleviate her condition. Family and friends came forward wholeheartedly to donate. The general atmosphere outside the ward was very tense, but with prayers and well wishes, everyone was hopeful and still had faith that Navamani will pull through and recover.

9th March 1971. Perampalam went to the hospital as per his usual daily visits. Navamani had spotted him from afar, and gave him a wave of acknowledgement.

As he entered the ward, he found her motionless with her eyes closed. Having a gut-wrenching feeling that something was wrong, he immediately called out for his in-laws. The medical staff tirelessly tried to revive her, but she had breathed her last. It was as if she had waited the whole night for one last chance to see her loving husband before she closed her eyes. Perampalam and his family were devastated by this loss – Navamani was only 29, pregnant with their third child, and was taken away at the prime of her life. It took Perampalam a minute to find Navamani, and a day to fall in love with her, but it will take him an entire lifetime to forget their love and memories together...

*If tears could build a stairway,
And memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven
And bring you home again.*



The customary studio portrait that stole Perampalam's heart.



The newly weds – 5th July 1967 at the Kalamandapam.

AUM

Mrs. V. Saravanamuthu
 (wife of late Mr P Saravanamuthu,
 retired Hospital Assistant, G. H., K. Lumpur)

Mr. M. Sivapragasam
 (Pensioner, N. E. B., K Lumpur)
 and
 Mrs. S. Sivapragasam

request the pleasure of the company of

Mr. & Mrs./Miss.....

on the occasion of the marriage of

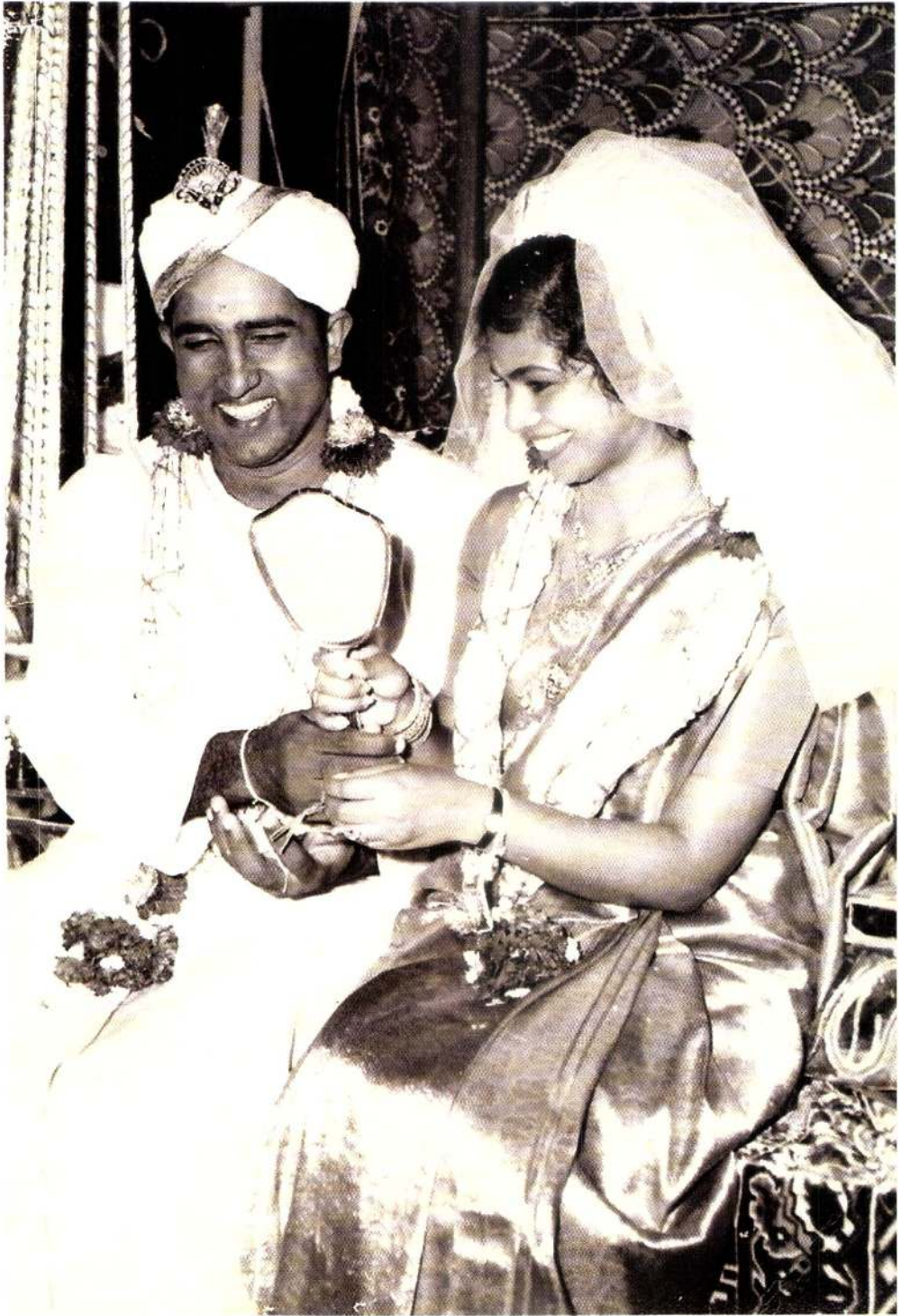
<p>his fourth son Perampalam to Navamani (N. E. B., K. Lumpur)</p>	<p>their eldest daughter Navamani to Perampalam (Statistics Dept., K. Lumpur)</p>
--	---

on Wednesday 5th July, 1967 between 9.30 p.m. and 11.00 p.m.
 at the Kala Mandapam, Scott Lane, Kuala Lumpur.
 and thence to a reception thereat.

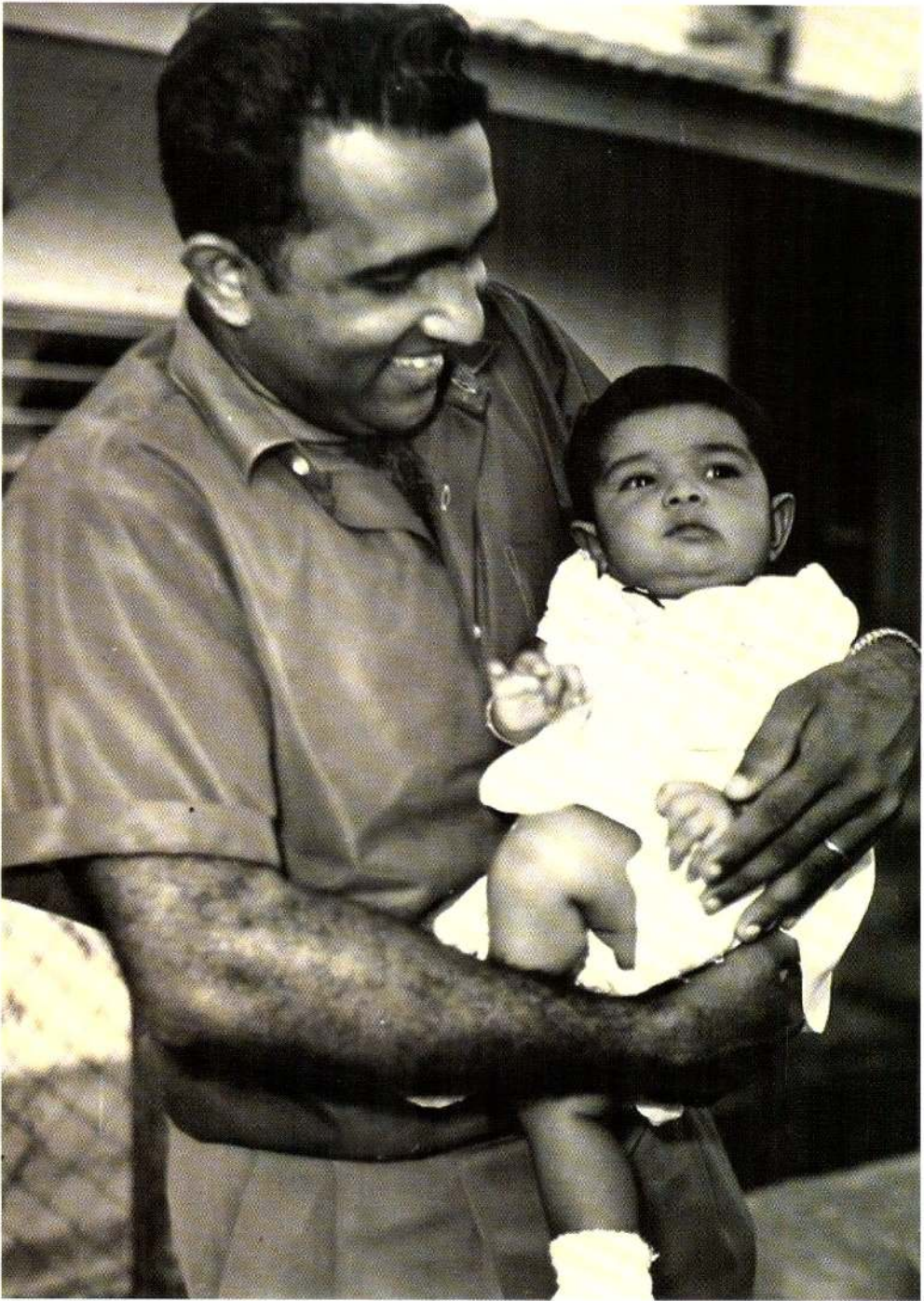
No. 15 B, Jalan Taiping,
 off Jalan Pahang, Kuala Lumpur.

No. 13, Road 5/15,
 Petaling Jaya.

Wedding card.



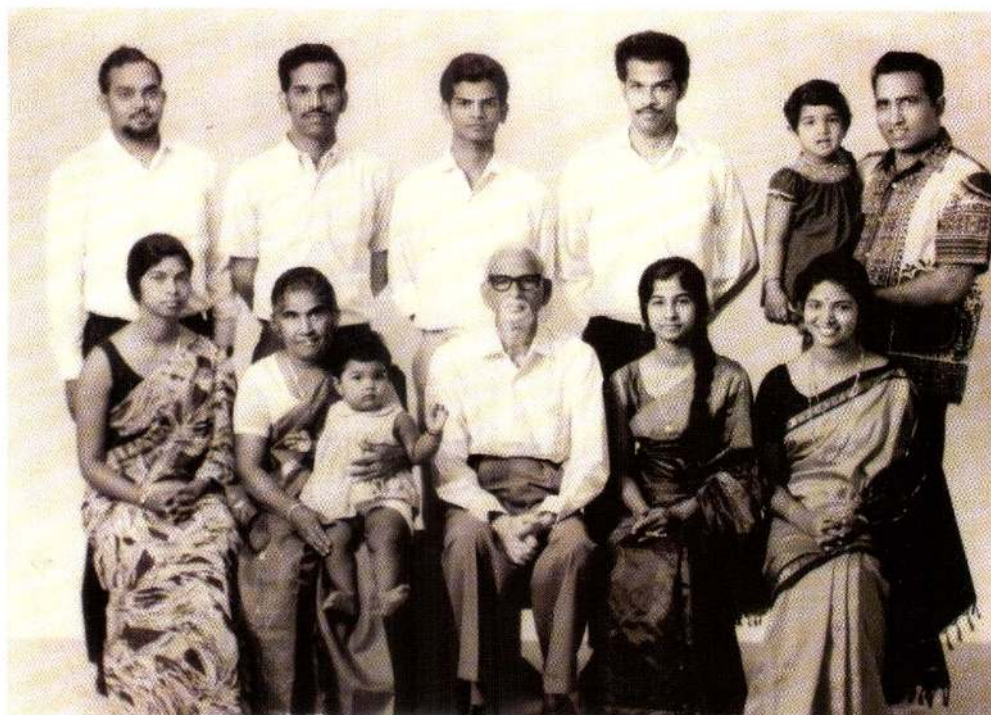
The wedding ceremony – the couple gazing at a reflection of themselves.



Perampalam and his firstborn – Sharmini in 1968.



Navamani with their second child - Premini in 1969.



The Sivapragasam family. Photo taken in 1970. Standing from left – K. Pasupathy, Nadarajah, Pasupathy, Thavarajah, Sharmini, Perampalam. Seated from left – Jeyamany, Mrs. Sivapragasam, Premini, Mr. Sivapragasam, Satkunavathi, Navamani.



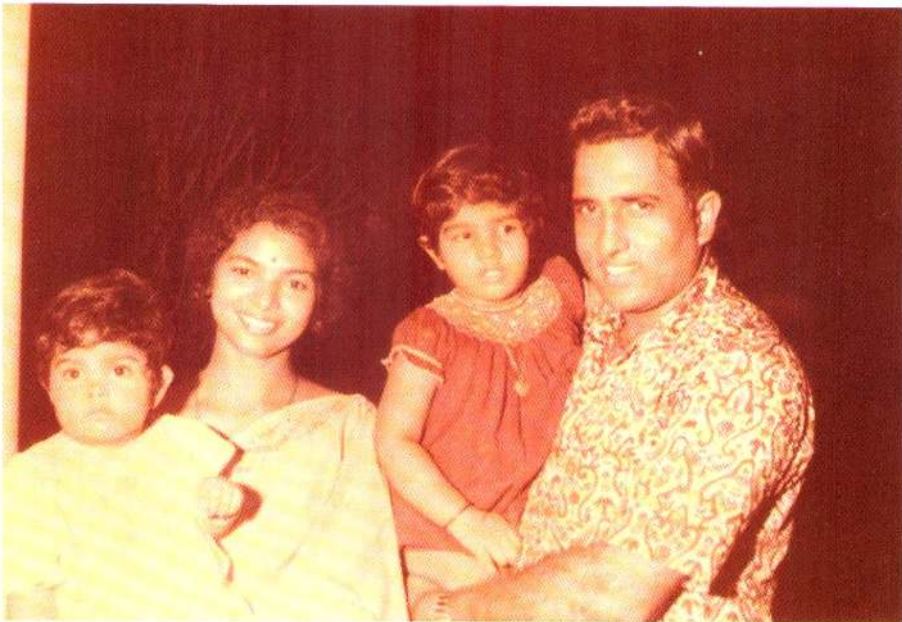
Sharmini's first birthday at their Kg. Tunku home – April 1969.



The happy family in 1970.



Grandparents on holiday with the little one.



Family photo – 1971.

Chapter 6

Loss



“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.”– Unknown

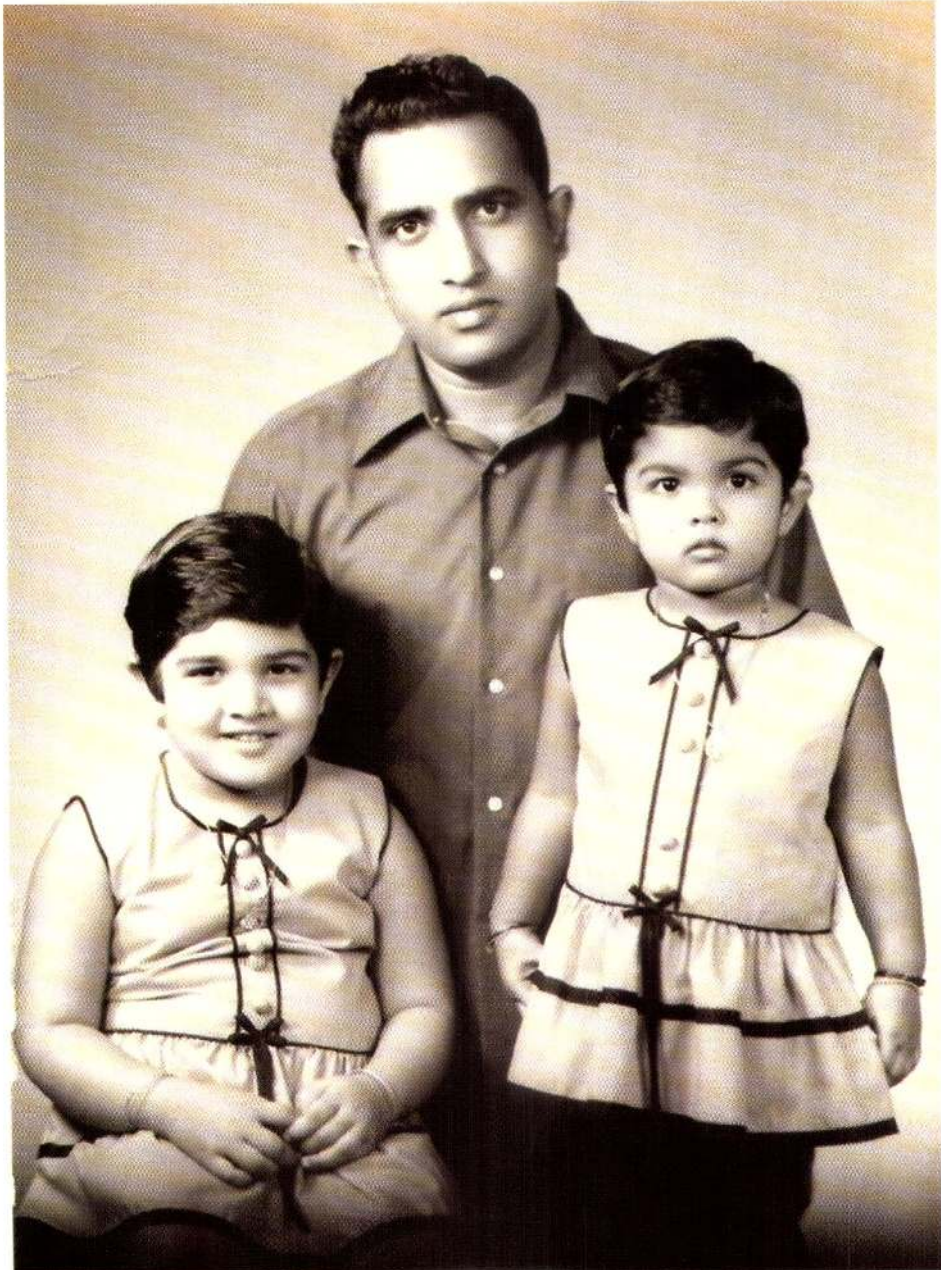
The loss of Navamani left a void in Perampalam's heart. His in-laws remember a period where Perampalam only wore clothes in the mournful colours of black, grey and white. He also shunned a certain favourite food for a year as it reminded him of being one of the last things his wife requested for when she was on her deathbed. Though emotionally wrecked by his loss, Perampalam managed to crawl out of his misery due to the strong affection and moral support from his family and friends. During the mourning period, Perampalam stayed at his in-laws' place where the 31-day prayers were held. He felt that the love showered by his in-laws and everyone around would negate the motherly loss felt by the children, who were aged two and one at that time. Their grandfather spent a lot of time teaching them the Sivapuraanam, while their grandmother became an anchor for moral support and loving comfort.

Two years after Navamani's demise, Perampalam had a strong urge to fulfill an inner calling to visit temples. He also saw this as a great opportunity to bring his mother along as she had never visited India. During this trip, the pilgrimage to Murugan temples became the crux of their tour as Perampalam and his mother were both great devotees of Lord Muruga. Perampalam vividly recalls a visit to one particular Murugan temple which stood out among the rest. He remembers them joining a long queue to see an astrologer who also happened to be an "errdu" reader (ancient astrology predictions hand written on palmyra leaves). They were fortunate that the astrologer had managed to find Perampalam's "errdu", and during the reading they were told that Perampalam was a Brahmin priest who served in a Gomathi Amman temple during his previous birth. His Brahmin wife loved him with great devotion, but was sad as she could not bear him any children. The astrologer added that at the time of her death, her final wish was to be married to the same man at her next re-birth, even if it was for a short period, so that she would have the privilege of bearing his progeny. This chance encounter just re-affirmed Perampalam's belief that he and Navamani were fated to be together as they had been in their previous births. As the astrologer had prophesized, she gave him two lovely daughters, but sadly passed away suddenly just after four years of marriage while expecting their third child.

During the same pilgrimage, Perampalam recollects a visit to another Murugan temple which had a pond where devotees threw coins in to make wishes. Encouraging Perampalam to join the routine, his mother handed him a coin to make a wish. As he did, she politely said "Rajan, I know it's not nice of me to ask, but I would like to know what you wished for", to which he answered that he prayed for his younger brother, Sinnathamby, to be blessed with a baby soon. His mother, though shocked but not surprised by her son's noble desire, laughed and jokingly hinted "I was hoping you'd say that you'll agree to marry again".

Upon returning to Malaysia, Perampalam resumed his participation within his sports and social circle, which he briefly discontinued after Navamani's passing.

Though active involvement in sports and social service helped him cope with the pain, his family and friends were nevertheless concerned for the future wellbeing of Perampalam and his two young daughters. The house next to his in-laws' place was up for sale, and his mother-in-law encouraged him to purchase it so that the family could help with the upbringing of the girls. After a brief ponder, he decided to purchase it and moved in not long after.



Chapter 7

Love Rediscovered



“Though the wound of losing a loved one hardly ever heals, we need to trust God to send someone who will help us recover from the pains.” – Unknown

As a young widower, family and friends began to push the notion for a second marriage. Perampalam toyed around with the idea for a while, carefully contemplating the pros and cons, and concluded that if he did re-marry, it would be to someone whom his children were familiar with. During this time, his mother-in-law and her brother, Ponnudurai, strongly encouraged him to consider Navamani's youngest sister, Satkunavathi (affectionately called Satku). They advised Perampalam that Satku was a perfect choice as she had become a natural motherly figure to the young girls since Navamani's demise, and that she genuinely loved and cared for his daughters.

Perampalam was not the only one feeling the pressure - Satku was also encouraged to accept the marriage proposal to Perampalam. Satku was in a tight spot – it was a difficult decision to consider her brother-in-law as her future husband. Although she highly respected Perampalam as he was the one who got her a job at the Statistics Department, and they used to travel to work together, there were certain circumstances such as their fifteen-year age gap to which she had to carefully think through. Being close to Sharmini and Premini eventually played a part in her final decision. Spending time with the young girls brought out the maternal instincts in Satku – she cherished the hours playing with them, advising them, and dressing them up - much as their own mother would have done. After a few years of deliberation, Satku finally agreed to 'walk down the aisle' with Perampalam – a decision that brought joy and happiness to family and friends, especially the two little girls who were excited with the prospect of their loving "Chinamma" becoming their mother.

Perampalam and Satku tied the knot on 5th September 1976 at the Pillayar temple in Petaling Jaya. The wedding was relatively a low-key affair – although no formal invitation cards were distributed, it was still attended by extended family and close friends. Sharmini and Premini played an important role during the function – the two angels stood by their mother-to-be at the 'manavarai'. Soon after, the stork delivered wonderful news to the new couple as Satku became pregnant with her first child. Back in the day, the baby's gender was only revealed on delivery day, and on 2nd July 1977, Perampalam and Satku were delighted to discover that they were blessed with a healthy baby boy. Perampalam was ecstatic, as he was finally able to carry on the family tradition. He named his son Saravana. The next day, Perampalam surprised his wife with a big basket of roses. Curious, Satku teasingly asked what if it had been another girl, to which Perampalam cheekily responded "I would have just sent the stems!"

Just days before Saravana's delivery, Satku had a dream in which Navamani expressed her difficulties in delivering her third child, a baby boy. Interestingly, in a strange connection to this déjà vu experience, Satku remembers that up to the age of two, when asked "Where's Amma?", Saravana would always point to the photograph of Navamani, even if it was Satku cradling him. Sharmini and Premini adored Saravana and welcomed their baby brother with open arms. Reminiscing an

incident when the girls were about nine and seven respectively, Satku noticed that the sisters were having an intense discussion among themselves. When nudged on, the girls revealed that they would like to start calling Satku “Mom” instead of “Chinamma” as not to confuse Saravana. This was a sign that the family had come together as one, and formed a bond that remains inseparable since.

Perampalam attests that Satku has been his pillar of support and comfort through their forty years of marriage. He compliments her for accepting his hockey and temple commitments as part of their daily life. She also unselfishly handed over her monthly salary to him without ever questioning how the money was being spent. He commented how she respectfully never calls him by his first name (as she used to call him ‘athan’ before marriage). After marriage, she would call out “hello” to get his attention, and vice versa. Eventually the term “hello” stuck and became their pet name for each other. They share a common passion for travelling and visiting new places, and Perampalam reflected how Satku spent hours meticulously planning their travel itinerary. Perampalam and Satku still travel together for holidays, a testament of their love and commitment to each other.



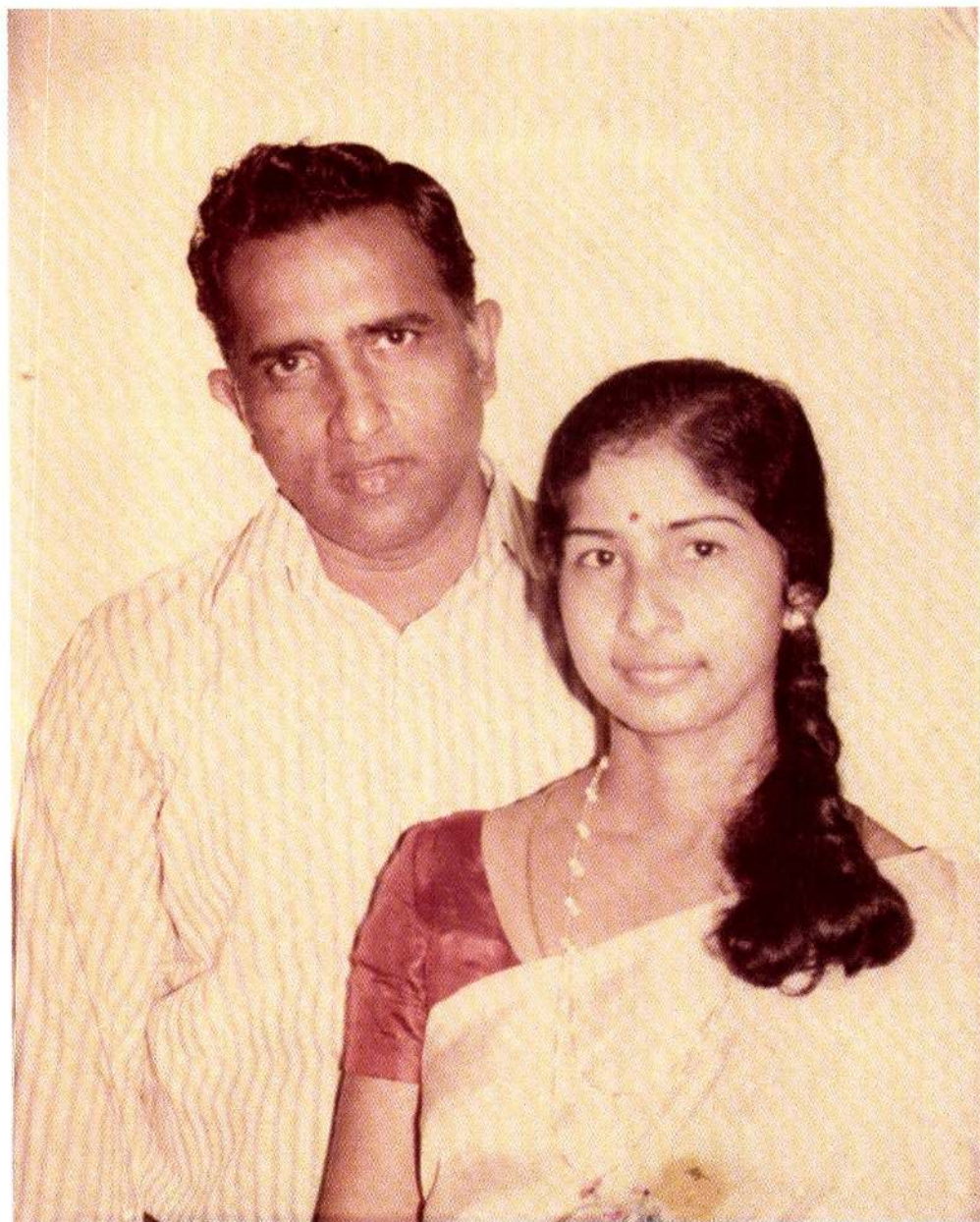
Satku with Sharmini in December 1968.



Premini with Satku on her wedding day.



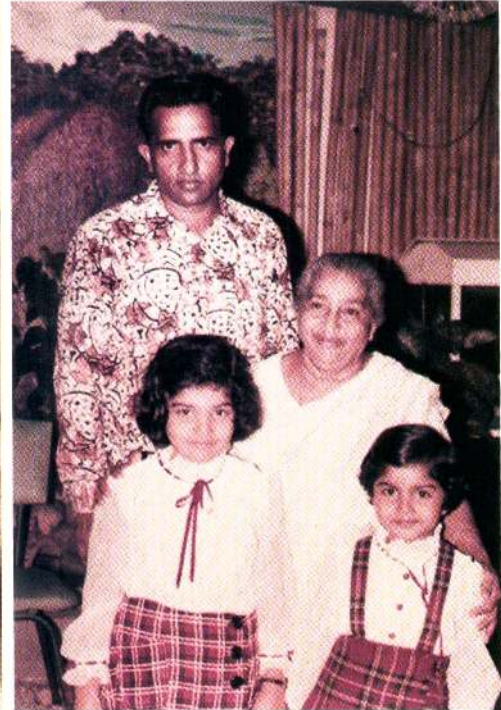
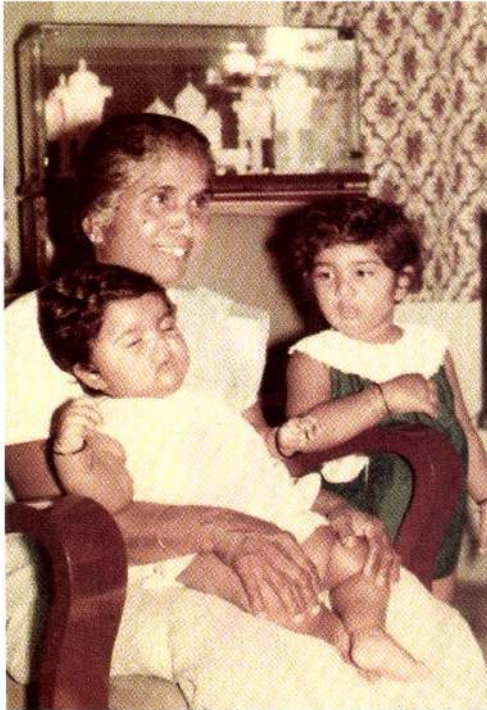
Perampalam and Satku on the day after their wedding, at the famous Starlight Studios where all the family portraits were done – 6th September 1976.



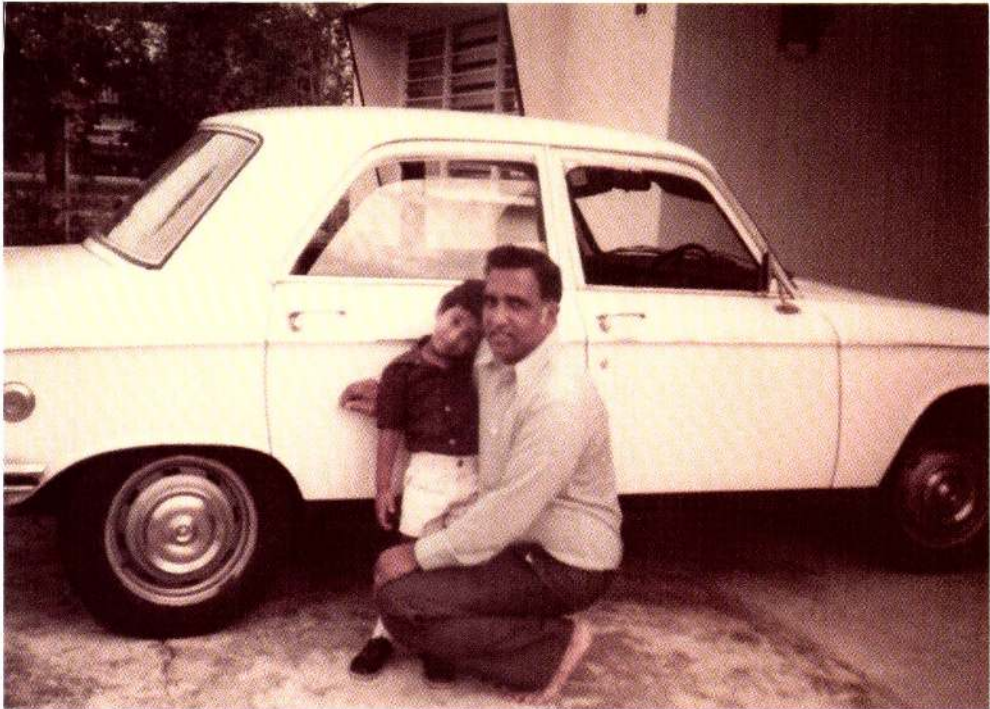
One month married – dressed to attend Perampalam's cousin Singam's gold-melting ceremony.



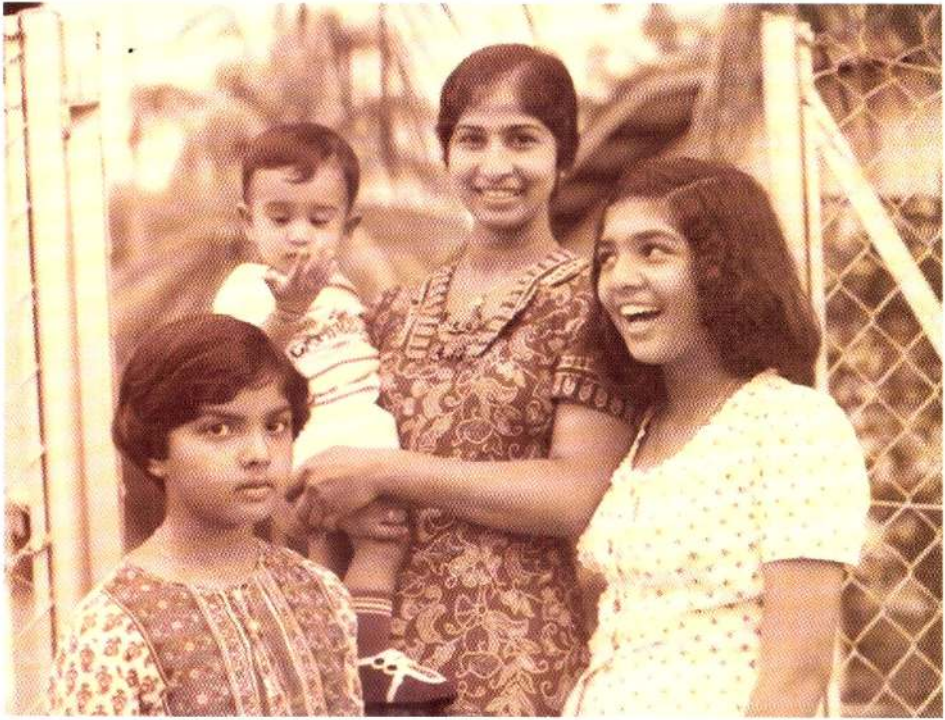
Sisters bonding.



Sharmini and Premini with their grandmothers, Sellam and Valliammai.



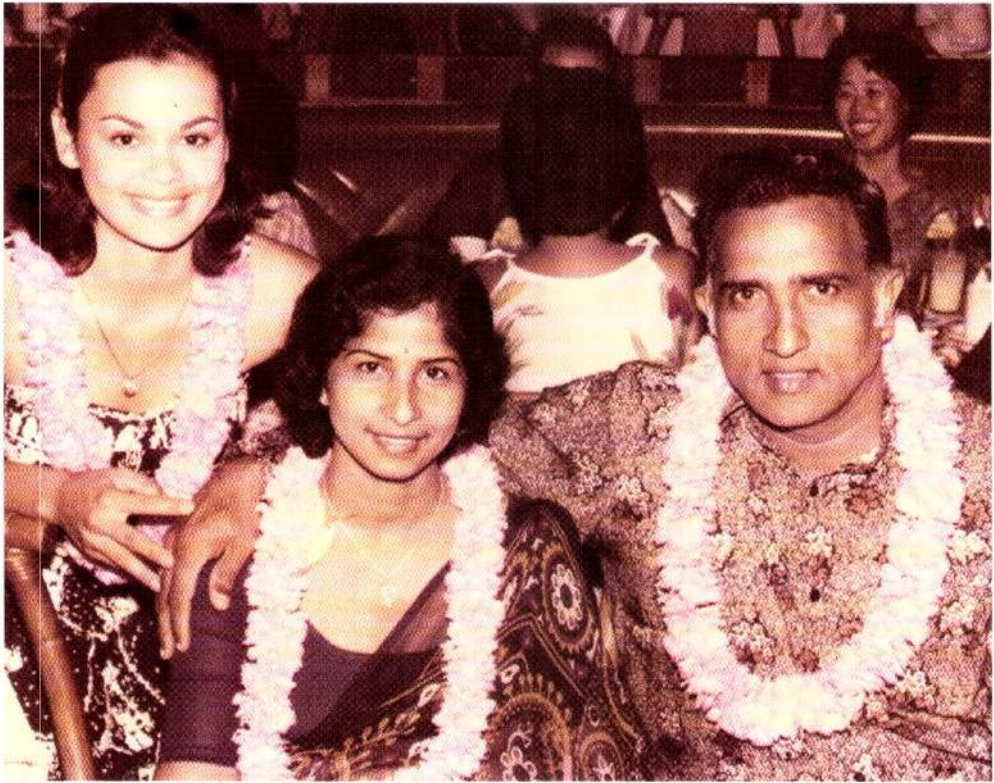
Saravana at ages one to three.



Satku with Sharmini, Premini and Saravana at the fenced gate connecting the Sivapragasam and Perampalam house in Section 5, Petaling Jaya, in 1978.



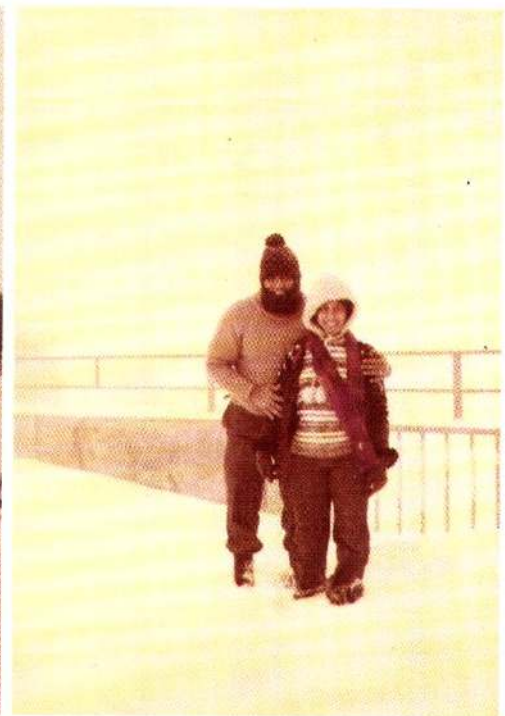
Three generations. Mr & Mrs Sivapragasam with Satku and the grandchildren.



A warm welcome in Hawaii.



Visiting the US - New York and Washington in 1980.



Feeling snow for the 1st time - Paris & Switzerland.



On a champagne cruise in Rome.



A gondola exploring the beautiful canals in Venice.



Visiting one of the wonders of the world in Italy.



Glass blowing in Venice.



On a windy night in Amsterdam, in 1978.



The couple in North America – Canada in 1980.

Chapter 8

Life with the In-Laws



“You don’t choose your family, they are God’s gift to you, as you are to them” – Desmond Tutu

Perampalam's father-in-law, Sivapragasam Muthuvelu was born on 29th August 1906 in Point Pedro, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, the only son of Muthuvelu Kanapathi Pillai and Annamuthu. He came to Malaya with Muthukumar Perampalam in 1922, and found employment with the Central Electricity Board in 1924 (precursor of NEB/TNB).

Sellam Visuvar was born on 28th May 1916 to Visuvar and Annapillai in Thellipillai, Sri Lanka. Sivapragasam and Sellam were married on 10th September 1938. They were happily married for sixty years, and were blessed with 7 children - Thavamani, Thavarajah, Navamani, Jeyamany, Nadarajah, Satkunavathi and Pasupathy. During their early years, the family faced hardship caused by the Japanese occupation of Malaya, Sivapragasam's prolonged fight with pleurisy, and the death of their first born Thavamani at age six. A few years before Sivapragasam's retirement, the couple built their home in Section 5 Petaling Jaya. Thavarajah, Navamani and Nadarajah found employment in NEB, while Jeyamany became a staff nurse. When Pasupathy completed his higher secondary education, the whole family chipped in their savings to send him to the United Kingdom to pursue his passion of studying medicine. Navamani strongly encouraged this decision.

Jeyamany was married to Pasupathy Kandiah in 1970. He sadly passed away in 1983. Jeyamany is blessed with three daughters and six grandchildren. Nadarajah married Tanamani Tanarajah in 1975, and the couple are blessed with two children and two grandchildren. Thavarajah married Inparanee Subramaniam in 1978. They are blessed with two daughters and two grandchildren. Pasupathy married Nallini Padmanathan in 1986, and the couple are blessed with a son.

The Sivapragasams are a very close knit family. The siblings and their families look out for each other, and the children grew up with the love and attention of their elders. Till today, all family functions are carried out as one big family.

Perampalam had a deep respect and appreciation for his parent-in-laws, and he consulted them in all matters regarding his children. Sivapragasam and Sellam lived a long and fulfilling life - Sivapragasam passed away in 1998 at the age of 92, and Sellam in 2003 at the age of 87.



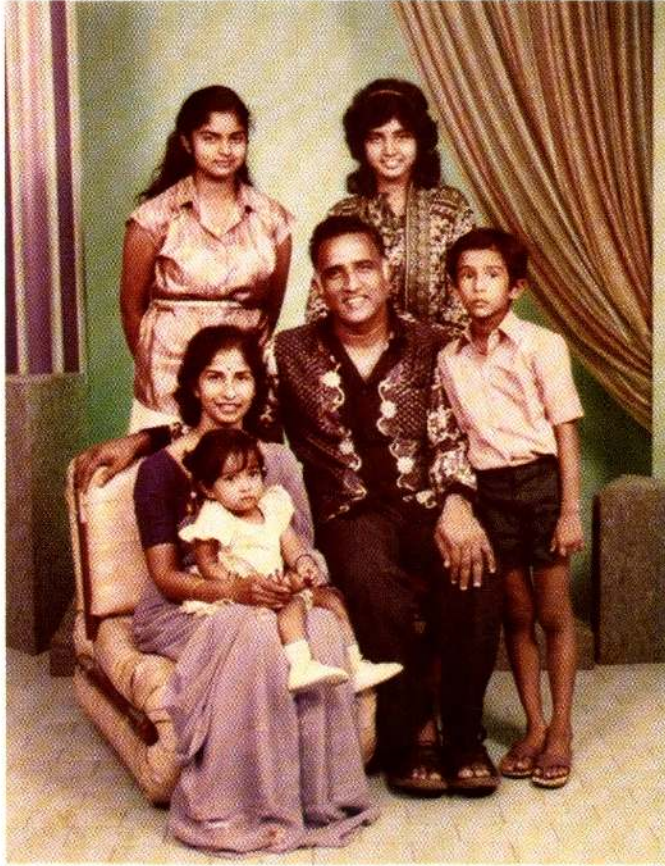
The Sivapragasam gang. Standing from left - R. Viknash, V. Kirupakaran, A. Karthigesu, T. Kathirkamarajah, N. Sanjay, S. Kavitha, S. Perampalam, S. Thavarajah, S. Pasupathy, R. Kasirajah, P. Saravana. Seated from left - T. Sumitra, P. Deepa, P. Premini, R. Vanitha, Mrs. Tanarajah, T. Tanamani, S. Nadarajah, S. Satkunavathi, S. Inparanee, Datuk P. Nallini, P. Sharmini. Kneeling from left - T. Navina, P. Vinothini, K. Ruthrainee, K. Suhanya, N. Anita, K. Visvar, K. Dhaneshwara, K. Senure Lavanya, K. Sivesh, K. Tharshini



Sivapragasam family outing to Bali, Indonesia in 2010. Standing from left – Joy, Vino, Sueriya, Ragulan, Rubini, Kasi, Kalhan, Kiru, Tishan, Inbam, Rajiv. Seated from left – Ashwin, Visvar, Satku, Nikhil, Sharmini, Anita, Deepa, Jeyamany, Aditi, Nadarajah, Mani, Thavarajah, Rajinder.

Chapter 9

Fatherhood



“Real fatherhood means love and commitment and sacrifice and a willingness to share responsibility and not walking away from one’s children.” – William Bennett

4th June 1982 – a day that shrouded the Perampalam family with mystical occurrences. Satku, who was pregnant with her second child, was admitted in the hospital for the last two months and was expected to deliver at any time. At about 4:00 am, the phone at the Sivapragasam’s residence rang, and everyone anticipated it to be a call from the hospital informing the baby’s arrival. Instead, they were surprised it was actually a call from an alert neighbor warning them that a gang of robbers had sneaked into their backyard. They quickly switched on the lights, an act which startled the robbers into making a quick getaway. Half an hour later, the phone rang again. Expecting the police, the family instead received an emergency call from the hospital urging family members to rush over as the newborn baby had a health complication. As they tried to wake Perampalam, they realized he was completely knocked out by the ‘*pukau*’ spell cast by robbers!

The newborn baby was a girl, whom the couple lovingly named Vinothini. She was born two months premature, and had to be warded at the hospital for another three weeks. Two weeks after Vino was brought home, she was diagnosed with whooping cough, a medical complication which had a high fatality rate among infants. It was a trying time for Perampalam and his wife to see their newborn’s tongue turn black from the lack of oxygen every time she coughed. Perampalam remembers chauffeuring Satku and baby Vino to the hospital every single day for almost a month so that Vino could undergo a suction procedure to clear her lungs. Mr. & Mrs. Sivapragasam even took turns to watch over her during the day as they needed to ensure that her breathing was stable. Perampalam and wife were very grateful that their in-laws and employers were understanding and supportive during this critical period.

Perampalam was a loving and doting father to his children; though he was often seen as a strict and tough *major domo*, he actually gave in quite easily to his children’s requests. They looked forward excitedly to Perampalam and Satku’s return from overseas trips as their parents would always buy them gifts. When he flew back from Paris in 1979, he actually returned with a huge luggage filled only with chocolates! His children also loved eating tropical fruits – they remember the car trunk being filled to the brim with durians and they often wondered how he endured the journey home as he hated durians and its pungent odour. They even recalled during a trip to Lumut, Perampalam intentionally used the coastal road on the return journey so the family could savor juicy rambutans! He is also known for having a good fashion sense – his wife and daughters till today count on him to select exquisite designs whenever buying sarees.

As he was neighbours with his father-in-law, Sivapragasam, his four children grew up closely with the other Sivapragasam grandchildren, as they often played together during weekday evenings and weekends. Several years after the birth of the youngest grandchild, the grandchildren formed “Club 13” (a homage to

Sivapragasam's house address - No.13), which consisted of thirteen members (all twelve grandchildren and a domestic help who had lived with them for more than a decade). The children wanted a venue to hold their 'meetings', so Perampalam built them a wooden playhouse to serve this purpose!

Like all good parents, Perampalam valued the importance of education, but also recognised the need for a child to pursue their passion. Noticing Saravana's ostensible inclination towards music, especially in percussions, Perampalam bought him a drum set. Saravana recalls when he was growing up, whilst most of his contemporaries were made to hit the books during the day, Perampalam allowed him to practice his drumming skills in pursuit of his dreams, albeit at the expense of his neighbours losing their peace and tranquility!

As the young Perampalam kids bloomed into responsible adults, he encouraged them to independently seek out their own destiny and life partners. Premini was the first, and she approached her parents to seek their blessings to marry Karthigesu Alagappan. Perampalam was elated in anticipating his family's first wedding, but wanted to ensure that his eldest daughter was fine with her younger sister marrying first. Sharmini assured him that she was equally excited and supportive, and Karthigesu and Premini got married on 8th April 1993 at the Civic Centre, Petaling Jaya. They are now proud parents to three daughters and a son, Ruthrainee, Suhanya, Dhaneshwara and Senure Lavanya.

Not long after Premini's wedding, it was Sharmini's turn to hop onto the marriage bandwagon. Kasirajah Ramasamy, a senior at her university, had already captured her heart. Sharmini was unsure on how to break the news to her parents, and approached her grandparents instead. Unfortunately, Kasirajah met with a bad accident at his workplace, and lay in a comatose state in the hospital. During this critical time, Sharmini turned to her father for comfort and support. Perampalam and Satku often accompanied the distraught Sharmini to visit Kasirajah at the hospital in Ipoh, and prayed for his speedy recovery. After he recovered, Kasirajah and Sharmini tied the knot on 18th June 1995, and were blessed with a son, Visvar, a year later.

The only 'rose among the thorns', Saravana met his other half, Sharon Joseph, at seventeen when she was studying at the neighboring convent school. After seventeen years of courtship, the two lovebirds were unsure on how to broach the marriage topic with their respective parents due to their differing religious backgrounds. Both their families however, believing in the sanctity of love marriages, opened their hearts and gave their blessings. Saravana and Sharon finally walked down the aisle in a Christian ceremony on 17th November 2010, and a Hindu one on 11th December 2010. Saravana and Sharon were blessed with a daughter in 2015 and named her Nila Anne Perampalam, staying true to the family tradition.

Perampalam had a final responsibility to find a 'home' for his youngest "chellakutty", Vino. A proposal came forth sometime in 2007 to meet Rajiv Ganeshanandan. No further background checks were necessary as Perampalam was well acquainted with Rajiv's maternal grandfather, Mr. Seenivasagam, from the Sri Kandaswamy temple, and the Seenivasagams were close family friends of the Sivapragasams. Perampalam also knew Rajiv as he was active with the temple's Youth Section. Rajiv and Vino tied the knot on 19th June 2011, and are blessed with a son, Tharun, and a daughter, Kishanea.

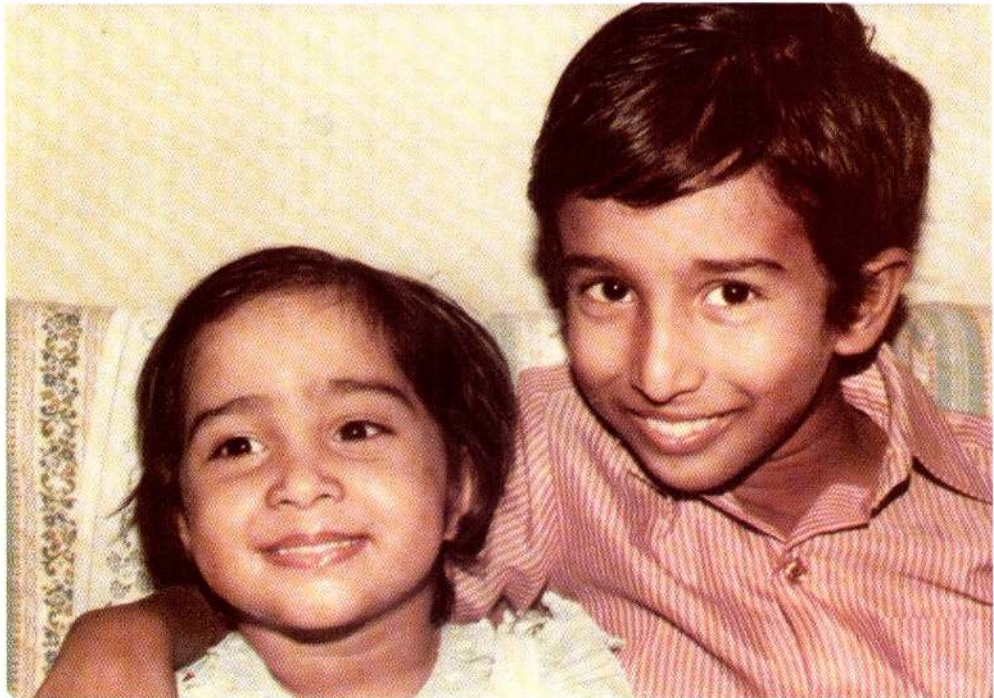
Mr and Mrs Perampalam are thankful that their children are married into good families. They treat their sons and daughter in-law as one of their own.

Having regretted missing out on the formative years of his children's childhood, Perampalam cherishes the second chance at life that fate has presented with his family, especially his grandchildren. Understanding the struggles that his children go through raising their young families, Perampalam and Satku are the reliable mainstay who often lend support to take care of their grandchildren. A hands-on grandfather, he enjoys spending quality time recounting his 'battle-weary' sports stories to his eight grandchildren. He faithfully does the weekly marketing at the P.J. Old Town market, buying mutton and prawns to be enjoyed by his family to their hearts content! Upon the passing of his in-laws, he was respected as the elder of the Sivapragasam family, and often hosted their family functions at his house.

Perampalam is proud that his children share his spirit and zeal when achieving success in their respective lives. Even though they are all busy with their own families, he is still concerned with their wellbeing. Till today, even in his twilight years, he still accompanies his children and grandchildren up to the gate outside whenever they leave his house. They can count on him to wait patiently, waving spiritedly as their cars made a U-turn and pass by his house. Perampalam is an epitome that a father's work is never done, and the love for his children knows no boundaries.



Arrival of Vino in 1982. From left – Anita, Sanjay, Saravana. Vino was a tiny baby.



Saravana at age 8 and Vino at age 3 in 1985.



The pet of the house in Section 5, Petaling Jaya.



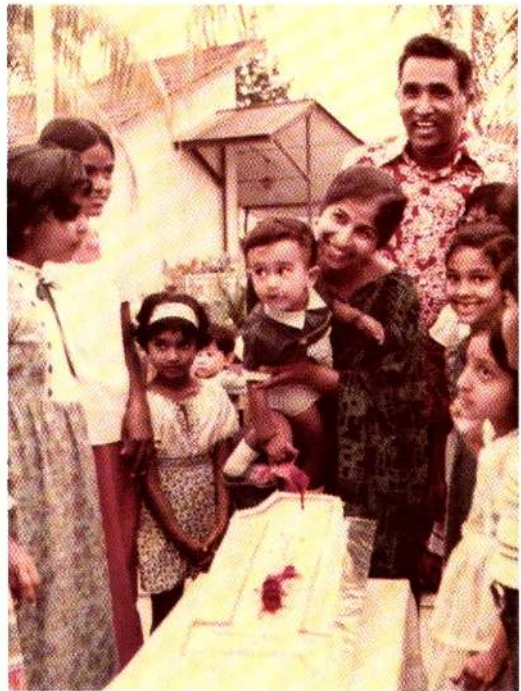
The kids with their cousins. From left – Premini, Deepa, Saravana, Rubini, Sueriya, Sharmini.



The infamous dining table at the Sivapragasam residence, where numerous birthday cakes were cut every year.



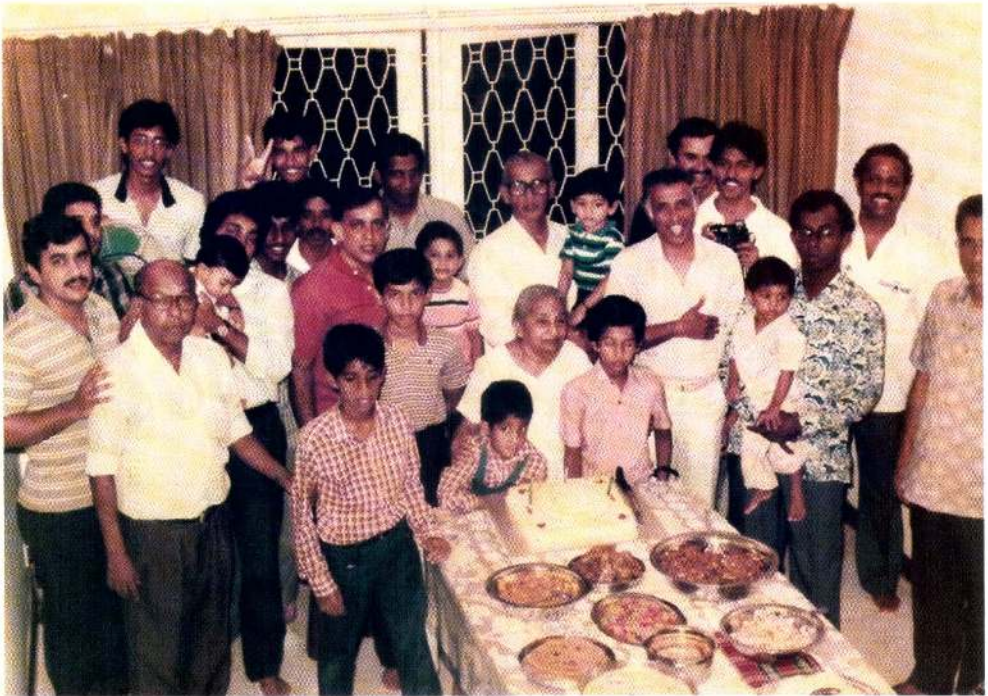
Never short of entertainment.



Saravana's 1st birthday.



Kids used to climb the swing & run around the badminton court behind the house every evening.



The Saravanamuthu family made it a point to celebrate the matriarch's every birthday.



The huge gang of kids gathering for another family shot.



Sharmini and Premini – 1983. Blossoming into fine young women.



Premini in 1979.



The kids in the Club 13 clubhouse, with patrons Mr. and Mrs. Sivapragasam.



Sharmini's 21st Birthday party at Section 5, Petaling Jaya.



Celebrating Perampalam's 60th birthday.



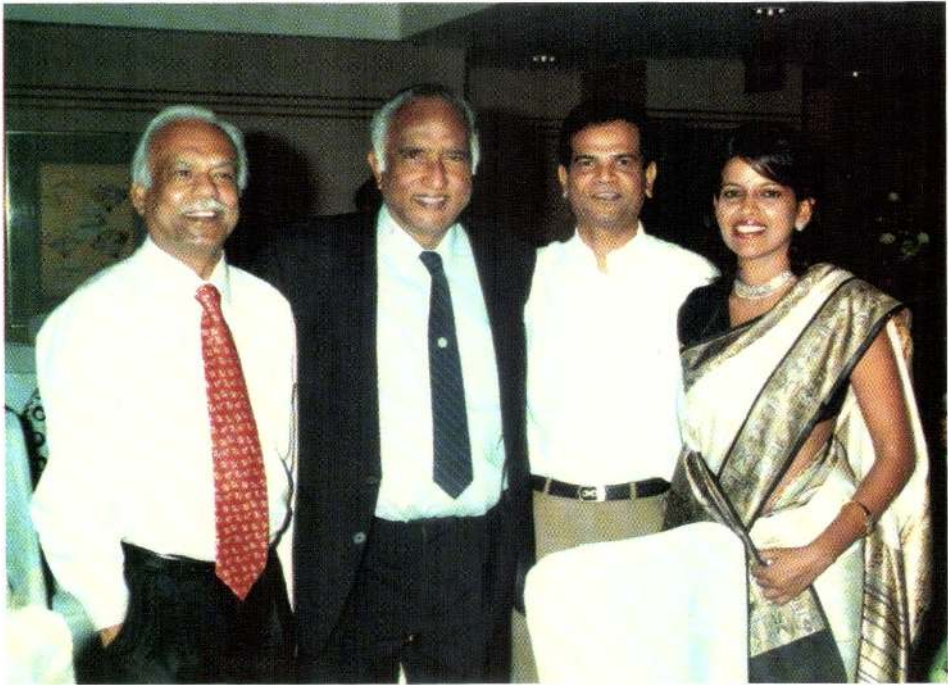
Celebrating eldest granddaughter, Ruthrainee's first birthday (three weeks prior to Premini delivering her second daughter, Suhanya)



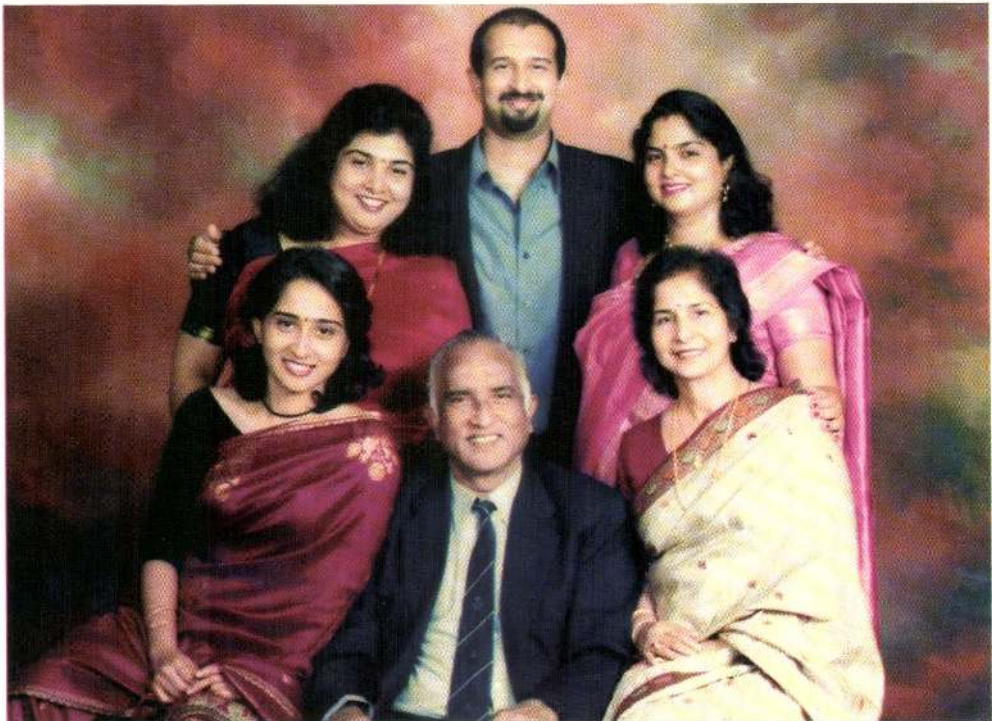
71st surprise birthday celebration at the Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur in 2005. Perampalam was overwhelmed to see his family and friends come together to celebrate his special day.



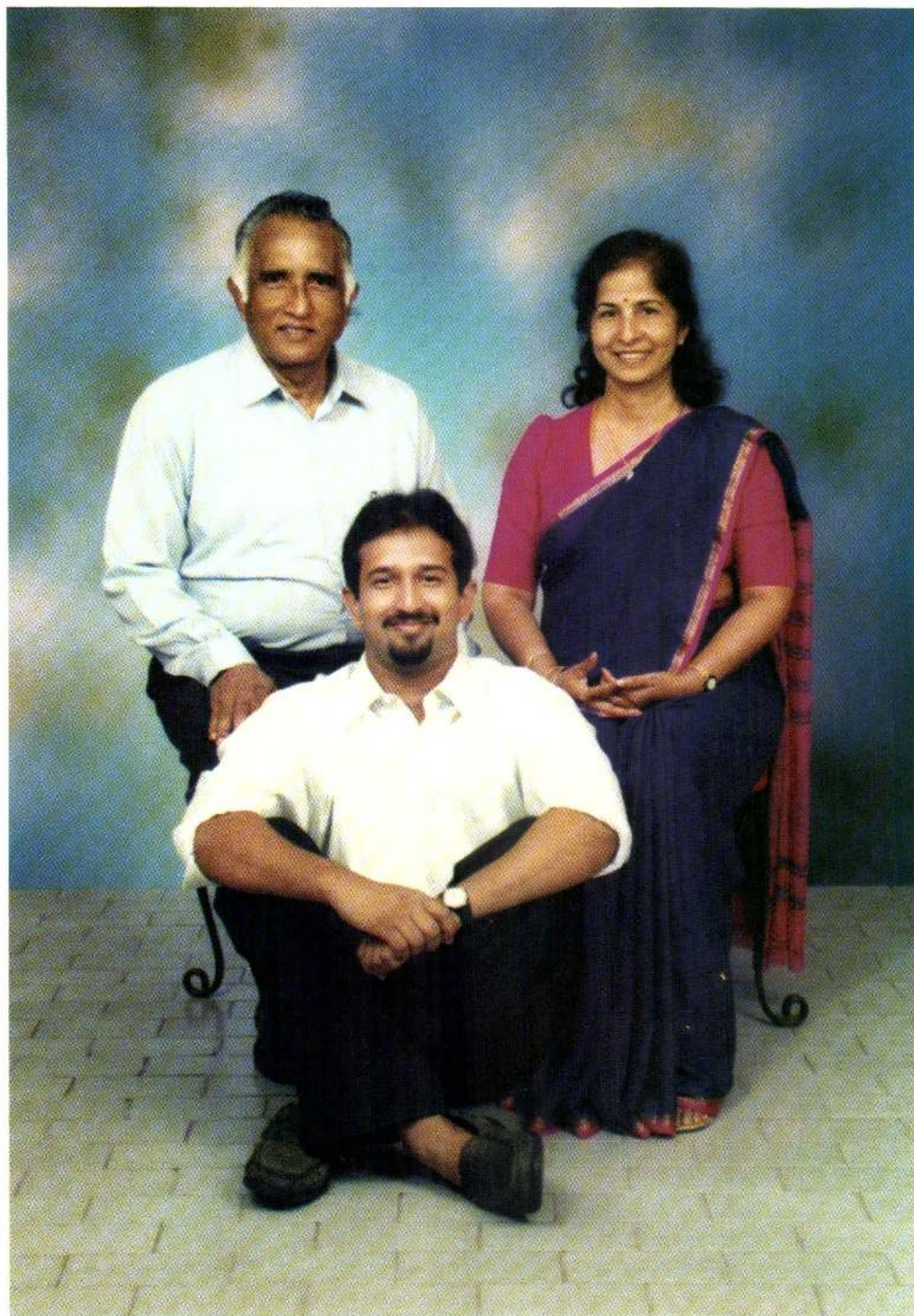
Standing proudly with Satku and his four loving sisters.



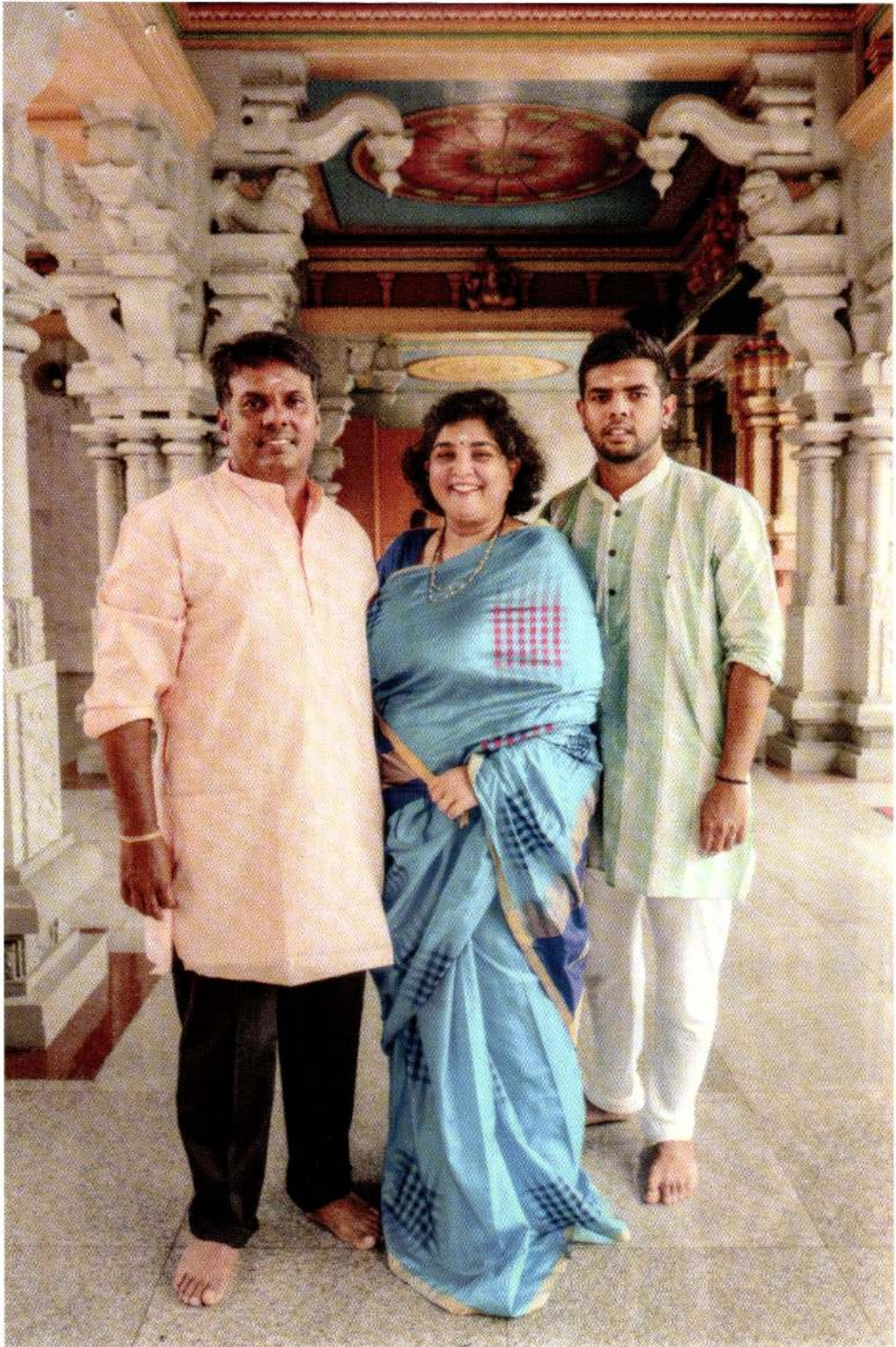
From left – With old friend Dato' Roy Rajasingham, Perampalam, brother-in-law Dr. Pasupathy and wife Datuk P. Nallini.



The family in 2003.

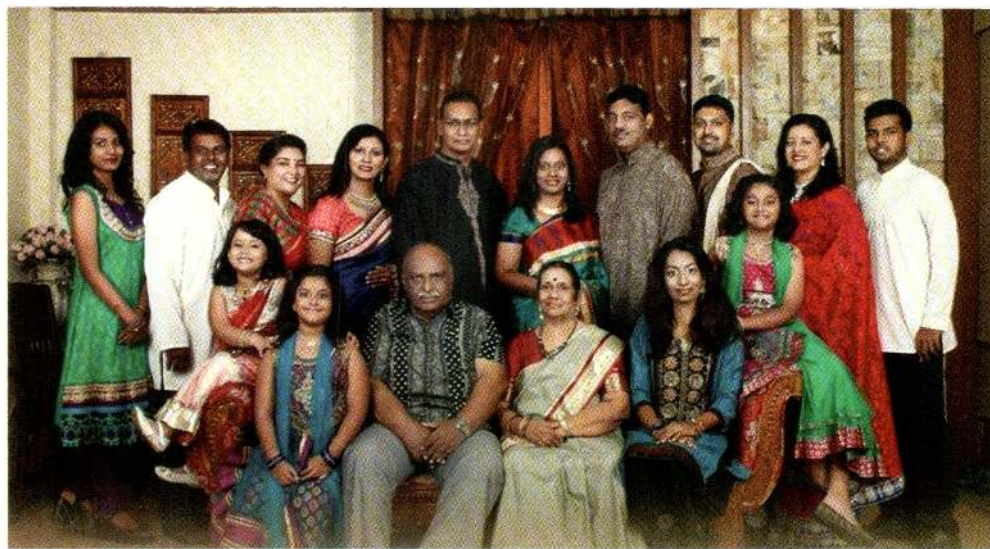


Mr. & Mrs. Perampalam & son Saravana.

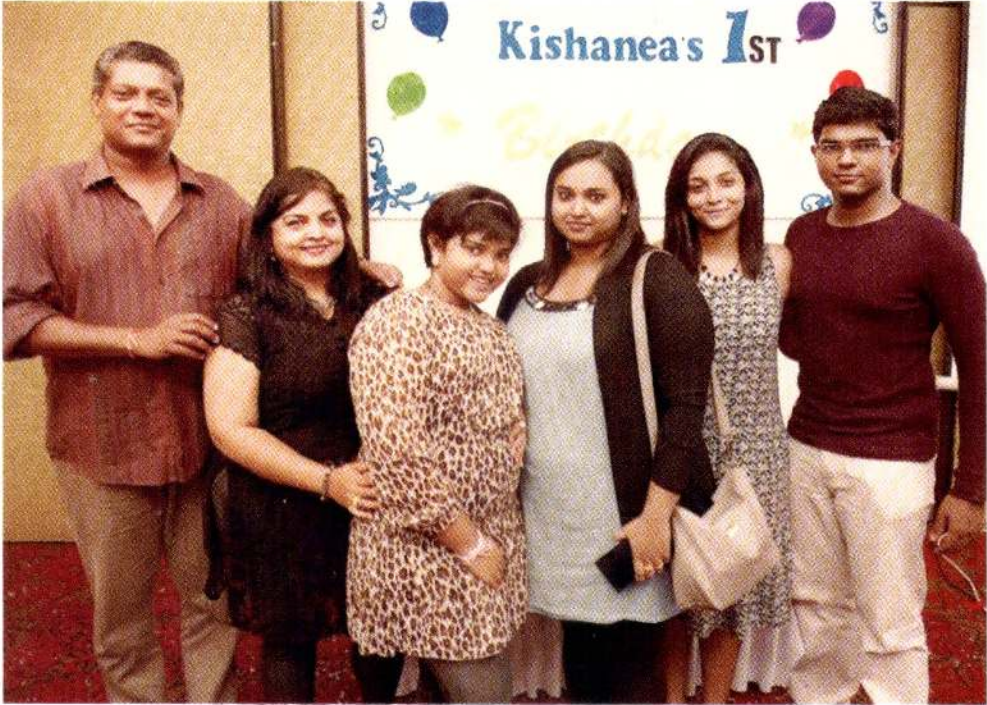


Eldest daughter Sharmini, with her husband Kasirajah and son Visvar.

Kasirajah is the second child and only son of Mr. K. Ramasamy Kasivisvanathean PMP, AMN, AMP, PJK, JBP and Mrs. Puvaneswari Rajagopal. The family originally from Taiping spent 24 years in Batu Gajah before Mr. K. Ramasamy retired and they returned to their family home in Taiping. The Ramasamys are blessed with four children and six grandchildren.



Standing left to right - Danisshah Darshini Karthigesu, Kasirajah K. Ramasamy, Sharmini Perampalam, Dr. Rajeswari K. Ramasamy, Karthigesu Ramasamy, Dr. Agileswari K. Ramasamy, Thiyagy Selladurai, Subramaniam Appala Naidu, Vimalleswari K. Ramasamy, Visvar Kasirajah. Seated Dhareni Subramaniam, Rasvini Subramaniam, Mr and Mrs K. Ramasamy, Pravena Dhashini Karthigesu, Yaaswini Thiagy.

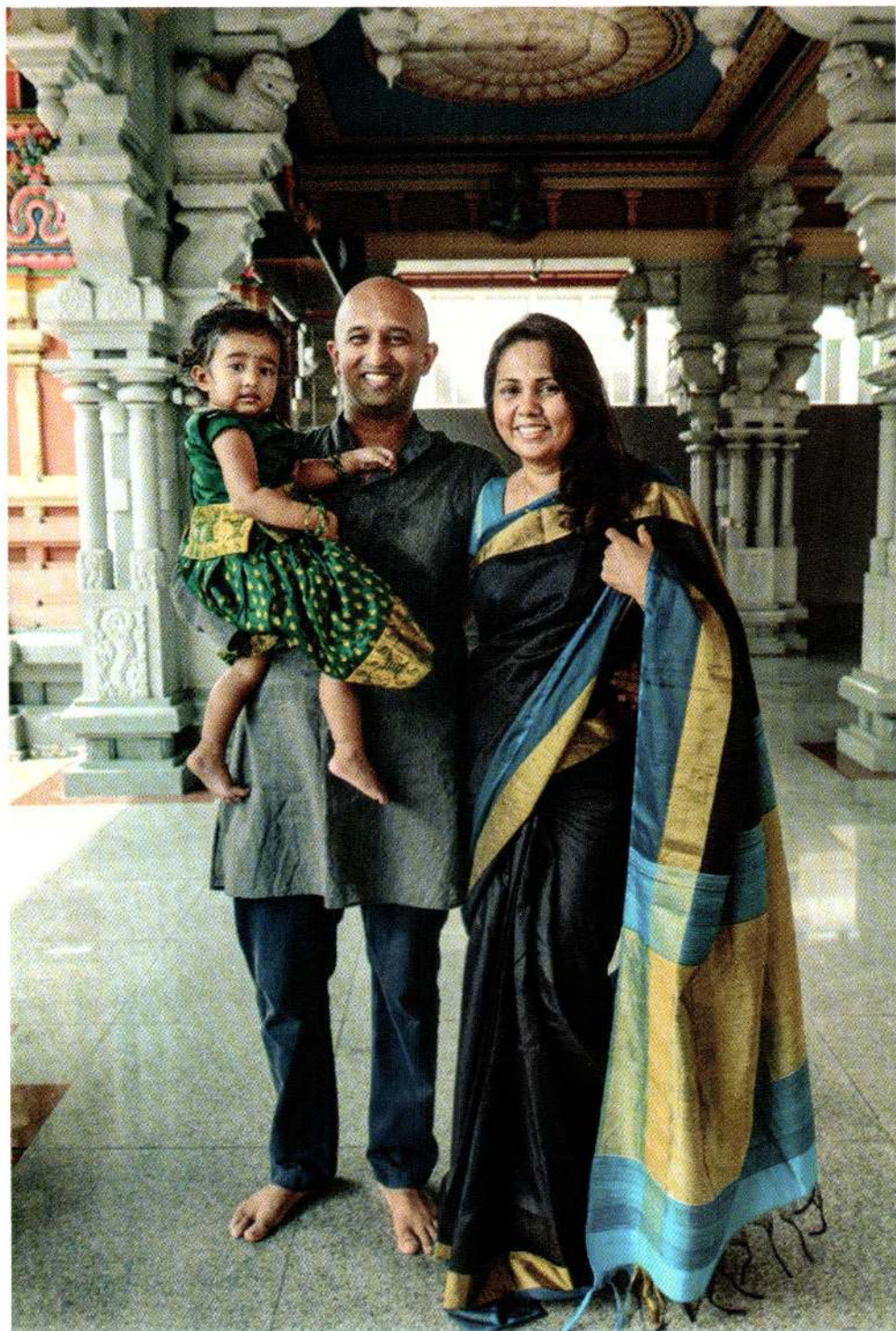


Second daughter Premini, with husband Karthigesu, and their four children Ruthrainee, Suhanya, Dhaneshwara and Senure Lavanya.

Karthigesu is the eldest son to Mr. Alagappan Nagalingam and Mrs. Kamala Devi Sinnappu (who is the sister of Perampalam's sisters-in-law's Navamani and Sarasvathy). The family moved to Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur in 1970 where they have been residing since. Mr. & Mrs. Alagappan have four children and ten grandchildren.



From left – Rohini Alagappan, Sivaneshwari Subramaniam, Premini Perampalam, Karthigesu Alagappan, Mr. N. Alagappan, Pavananthan Kanapathipillai, Mrs. N. Alagappan, Ponmalar Alagappan, Selvi Kanagasabai, Mohan Alagappan

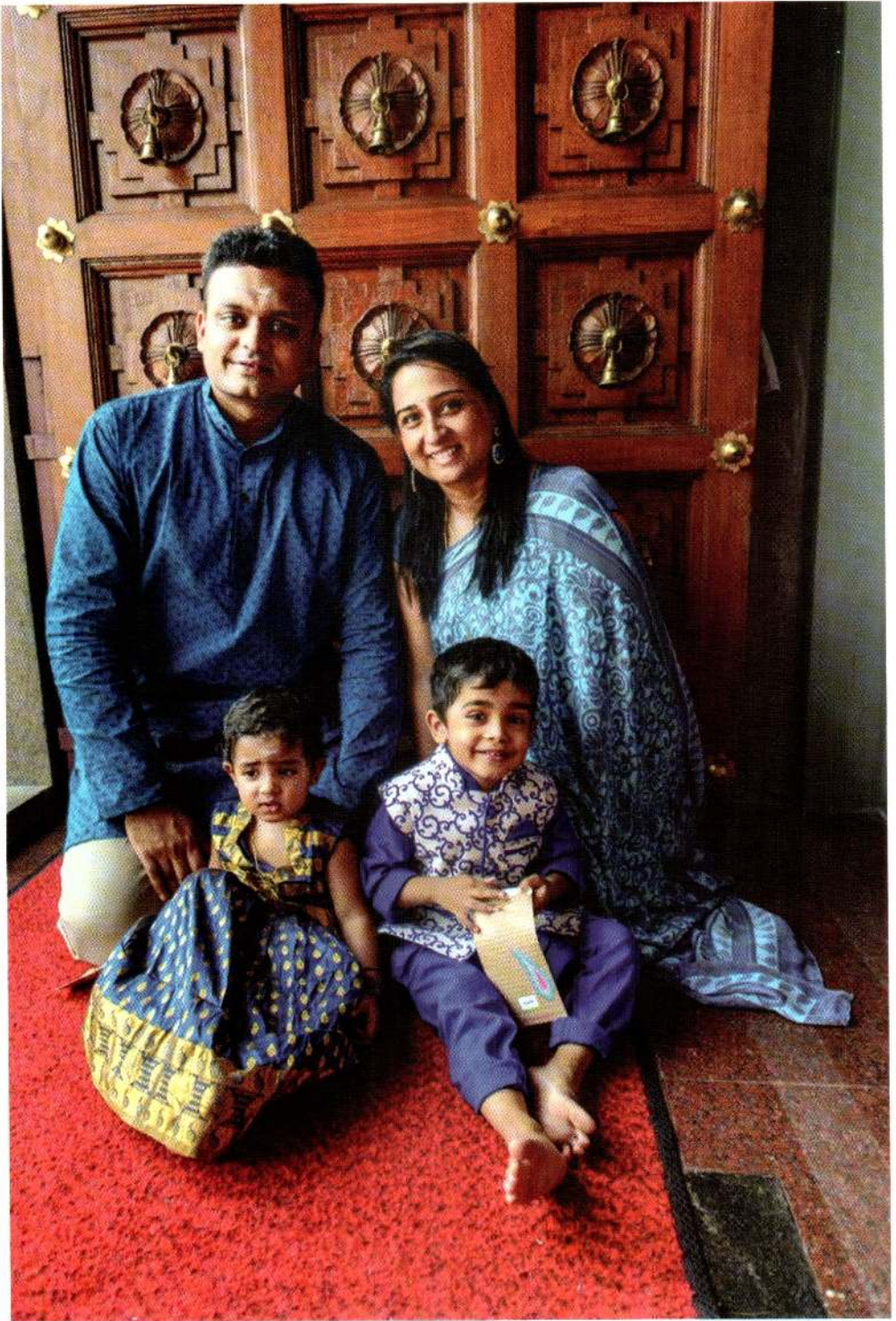


Saravana with his wife Sharon and daughter Nila.

Sharon Joseph is the youngest daughter of Mr. Joseph Mathai and Mrs. Thilagawathy Somasundram. Originally from Puchong, the family moved to Petaling Jaya in 1983. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph have four daughters and are blessed with three grandchildren.



From left – Sharon Joseph, Nila Anne Perampalam, Daniel Philip Thomas, Joann Joseph, Lara Ann Thomas, Mr and Mrs Joseph, Selvabalan Sinnan, Susan Joseph, Alison Joseph, Thomas Koshy, Saravana Perampalam



Vino with her husband Rajiv and two children Tharun and Kishanea.

Rajiv Ganeshanandan is the first born to the late Dr. Ganeshanandan Ariarajah and Mrs. Thilagawathi Seenivasagam. Dr. Ganeshanandan passed away in 1992 but the family continued to reside in Malacca with Thilagawathi singlehandedly raising her three boys. They moved to TTDI, Kuala Lumpur in 2003. Thilagawathi has two grandchildren.



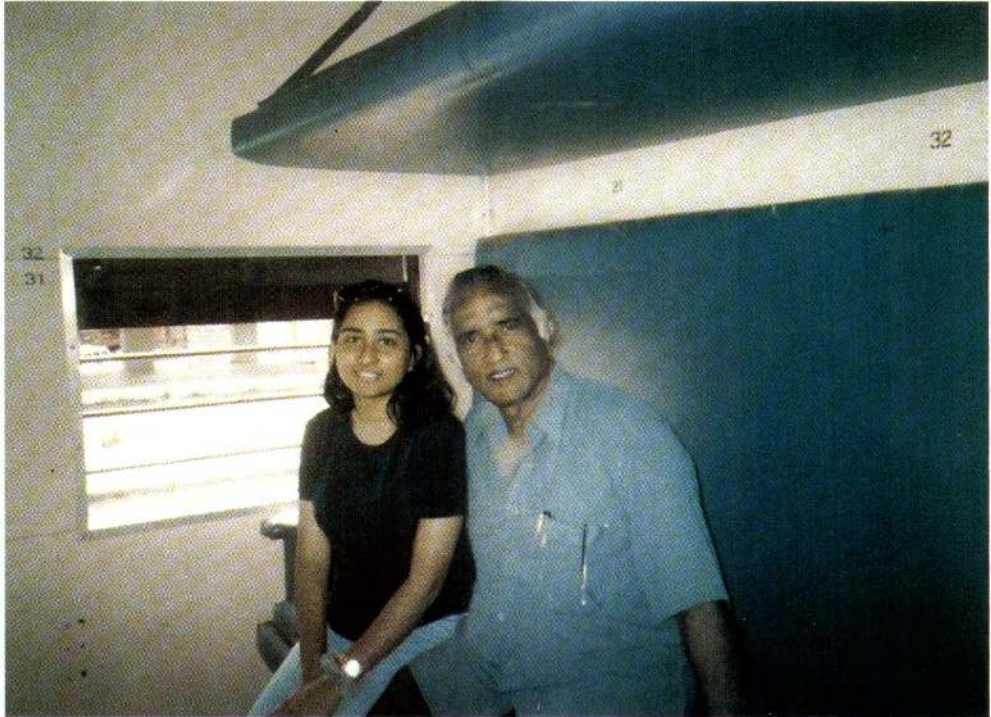
From left - Suren Ganeshanandan, Thilagawathi Seenivasagam, Dr. Navin Ganeshanandan, Dr. Geeta Sivarajah, Vinothini Perampalam, Kishanea Rajah, Tharun Rajah, Rajiv Ganeshanandan



The grandchildren on Deepavali day at the Sri Kandaswamy temple in 2016



Penang – 1984. First close encounter with monkeys.



Celebrating the birth of the Millennium in Mumbai and Goa.

Aboard the

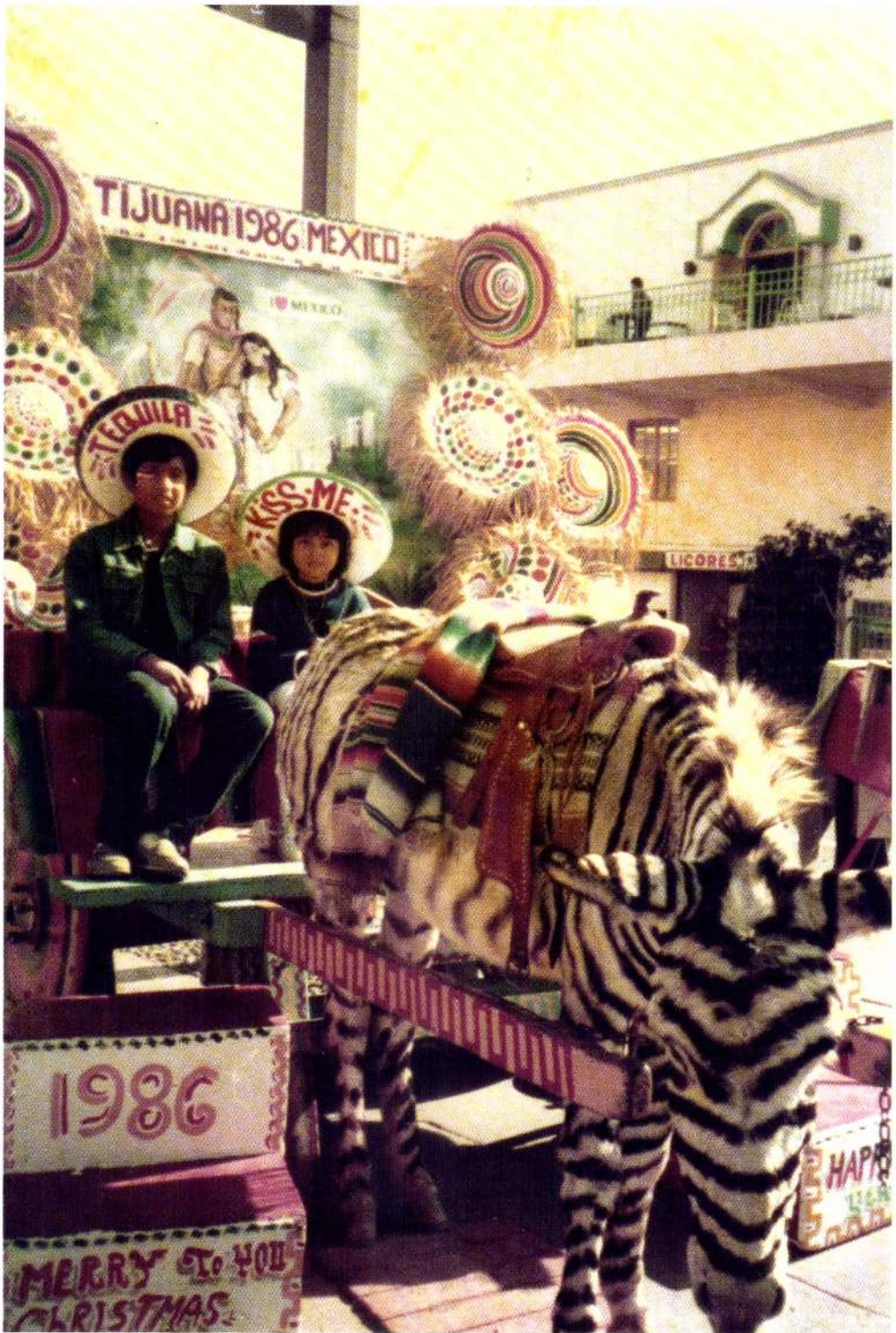
Ali'i Kai



On board the Ali'i Kai in Hawaii, 1986.



Jeyamany (Satku's sister) and kids joined the Perampalams on a tour of Los Angeles, Hawaii & Mexico in 1986.



Saravana and Vino in Tijuana, Mexico - 1986.



Vino with a chipmunk.



Alaska.



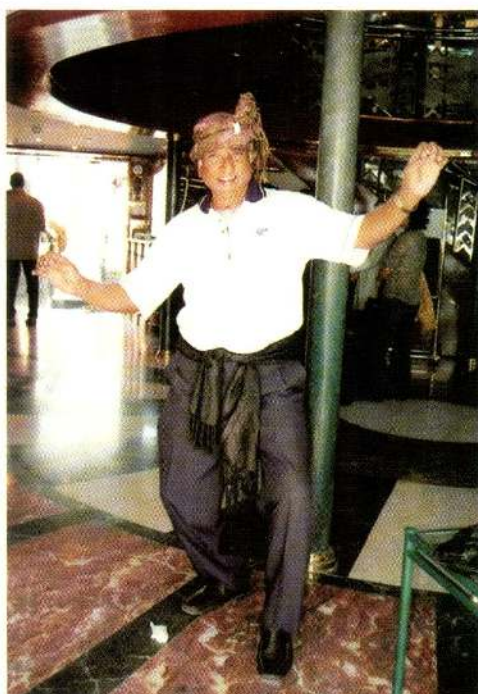
In Disneyland, 1986.



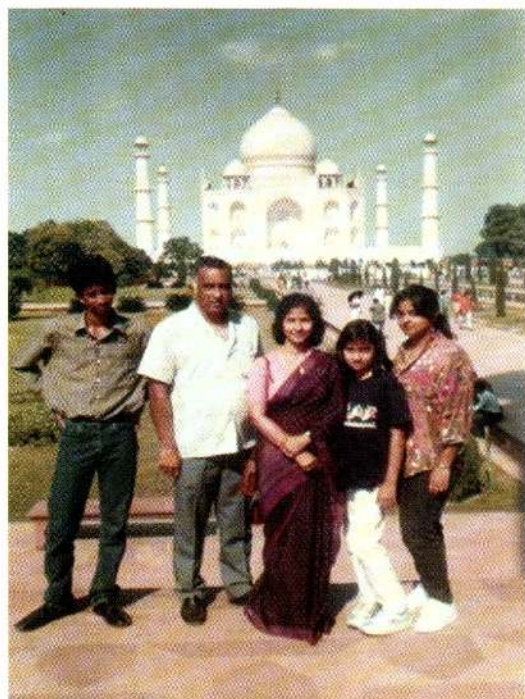
Costume party while on a cruise.



The family visiting the pyramids in Egypt with the Nadarajahs and Jeyamany (Satku's siblings).



Egypt in 2006. Perampalam attempting a belly dance move.



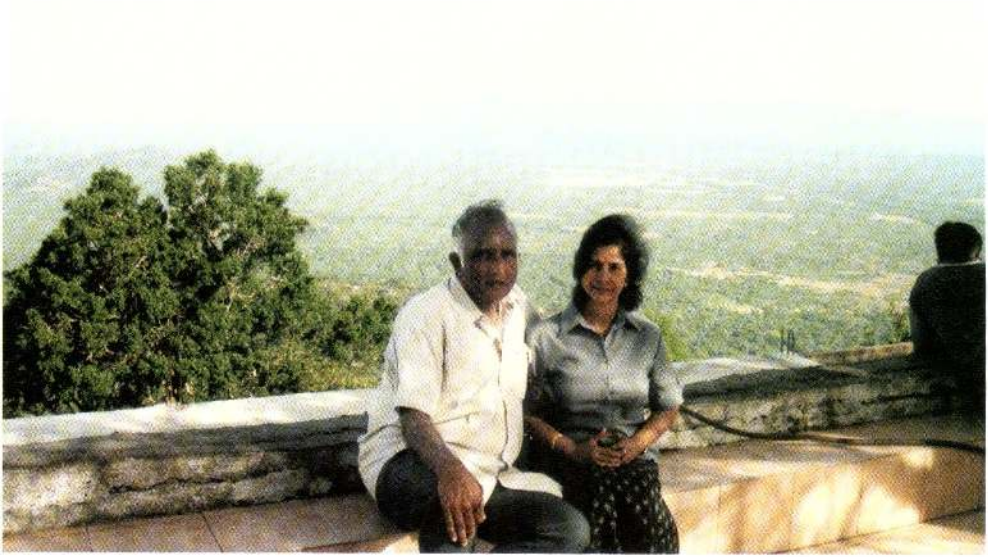
A North Indian trip with the family to attend Rubini's (niece) wedding.



The sisters in London. En route to visit Rubini in 1996.



The Saravanamuthus in Camerons.



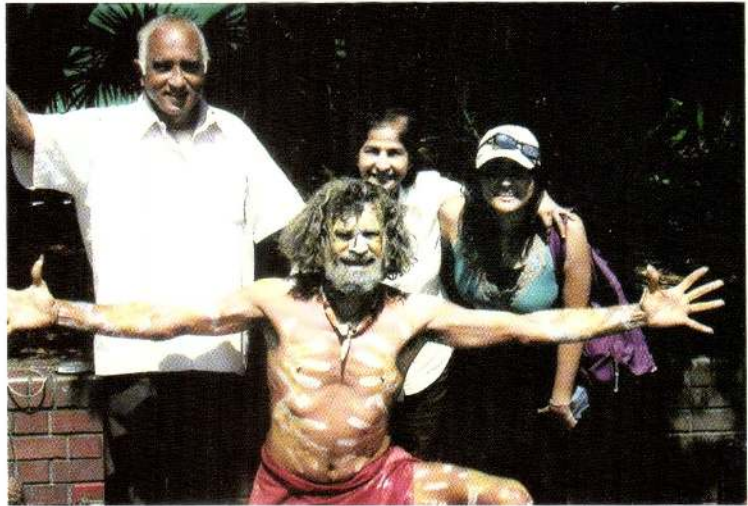
A scenic view from the Kathirkamam temple in Sri Lanka, 2003.



Who's behind the mask?



*At the Angkor
Wat in Cambodia,
2011.*



*Visiting Sydney,
Australia in 2004.*



*After all that
walking, time for a
massage. The couple
often joked and
posed for pictures for
their kids.*

Chapter 10

Service to God, Country and Society *Temple*



“Faithful servants never retire. You can retire from your career, but you will never retire from serving God.” – Rick Warren

Perampalam's call to spiritual service was a coincidental fate. When the Kalamandapam first opened its doors, the Selangor Ceylon Tamil Association (SCTA) was given a room for their activities. As the Secretary of the SCTA, Perampalam's frequent visits to Kalamandapam for meetings invoked a spiritual passion to serve Lord Muruga with the Malaysian Ceylon Saivites Association (MCSA).

Perampalam served with MCSA as a Committee Member (1973-1980), Vice-President (1980-1982), and as President (1982-2014). As the President, Perampalam promoted the temple as a spiritual and social sanctum, while maintaining cordial relations with his fellow committee members and devotees. Having a steadfast principle that the temple serves everyone, Perampalam always ensured that the opinions of devotees, regardless of their personal beliefs, were taken into consideration without arguments. During his tenure, he was blessed to preside over three Maha Kumba Abishegams (1984, 1997 and 2011). He played a key role in the reconstruction of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple and the installation of the various shrines and the beautification of the precincts of the temple including the Nanthavanam, the Thetpakulam, the new Chariot and shed, and the upgrading of the Loke Yew Crematorium.

Perampalam believed the temple functions as a community social haven as well. He ensured that a classroom and library were built during the construction of the priest and staff quarters to be used by the community. He also represented MCSA in various religious conferences such as being the Chairman to the 1st Malaysian Saiva Siddhanta Conference (1982); Treasurer of the 2nd International Saiva Siddhanta Seminar (1986); Vice-President of the 1st Thirumanthiram Conference (2000); Advisor of the 9th World Saiva Conference KL (2003); Advisor of the Reconstruction of the Sri Marathandavar Temple, Maran (2004-2008); Advisor Thiruketheeswaram Temple Restoration Society (Ceylon) Malaysia Branch (2004 - 2014) and Vice-President Tamil Devotional Literature Conference (2010).

During his term as the President of the Association he had the acquaintances of great religious leaders such as His Holiness Thirumuruga Kirupanantha Variyaar, Thiruvaasahakondal Thanggamah Appakuddy, His Holiness Subramuniya Swami, His Holiness Velan Swami, disciples of the various Adheenams and many others. Simple, humble, always smiling and accommodating, Perampalam is respected and liked by many.

Throughout his years of service to the temple, Perampalam considers himself blessed to have many dedicated members & volunteers who selflessly committed their time and effort to uphold the proud heritage of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple. These unique individuals ensured that the traditional customs and rituals were carried out in full accordance of the agamas. He treasured the advice and counsel of the temple's Chief Priest Sivasri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal, who carried out all rituals with utmost love and devotion to Lord Muruga. His attention to detail

when performing rituals inspired devotees to respect and relish our time-honoured traditions. He is also grateful to his supportive committee Mr. R Sivanathan for his advice and assistance on cultural aspects, Prof. Dr. K. Thilagawati and the late Saiva Siddhanta Kalanithi Palasunthram for their advice on agamas, and to Ir. R. Thangaratnam for his consultation on matters pertaining to the maintenance and upkeep of the temple, Kalamandapam, and other buildings belonging to the association. Finally, he is indebted to the individuals who helped him with the day-to-day operations and administration, namely the late Somaskanda Moorthy, G. Ganesan, T. Nirmala and N. Sivagnanasegaram, who stood faithfully by him as he undertook the mammoth task of managing the temple. When he first became the President, Somaskanda Moorthy guided the Anglophone Perampalam to prepare speeches in Tamil, and till today he strongly credits Moorthy for nurturing his ability to deliver off-the-cuff speeches in Tamil.

After serving as President for 32 years, Perampalam relinquished his post in 2014, passing the baton to K. Aruljothi. He firmly believes that Aruljothi and his young and able committee are the best choice to helm the association to serve the current needs of the community. In recognition of Perampalam's 41 years of dedicated devotion as a humble servant of Lord Muruga, he was awarded the Saiva Siddhanta Kalanithi by the Maha Sanithaanam of Dharmapuram Aadheenam, India, 1986; Siva Thondar by the Saiva Siddhanta Mandram, 2000; Arulneri Nesar by the Malaysia Arulneri Thirukootam, 2005; Sanga Pooshan by the Malaysia Hindu Sangam, 2006; Excellence Award 2007 by the Sri Lankan Social Welfare Peace Foundation; and Kantha Sevaa Thondar by the Malaysian Ceylon Saivites Association, 2015.

Even today, Perampalam strongly believes that all the blessings & miracles experienced throughout the easy and tough periods of his life were a boon for his genuine love & devotion in the service of Lord Muruga.



Maha Kumba Abhishegam 1984 – starting of the ceremony.



Receiving blessings after Maha Kumba Abhishegam 1997.



His Holiness Thirumuruga Kirupanantha Variar visiting in the late 90's.



Perampalam welcoming Thiruvaasahakondal Thiruchelvi Thangammah Appakutty J.P.I.



Learned kurukkals who were invited to participate in the 1984 Maha Kumba Abhishegam.



A visit by the Nalloor Kandasamy Temple Adheenam.



2011 Maha Kumba Abhishegam Management Committee.



1997 Maha Kumba Abhishegam Organising Committee.



Honoring the President – Perampalam Saravanamuthu with a shawl.



Blessings from the Chief Priest of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple with golden rice.



2011 Maha Kumba Abhishegam – Perampalam was blessed to have been part of three Maha Kumba Abhishegams.



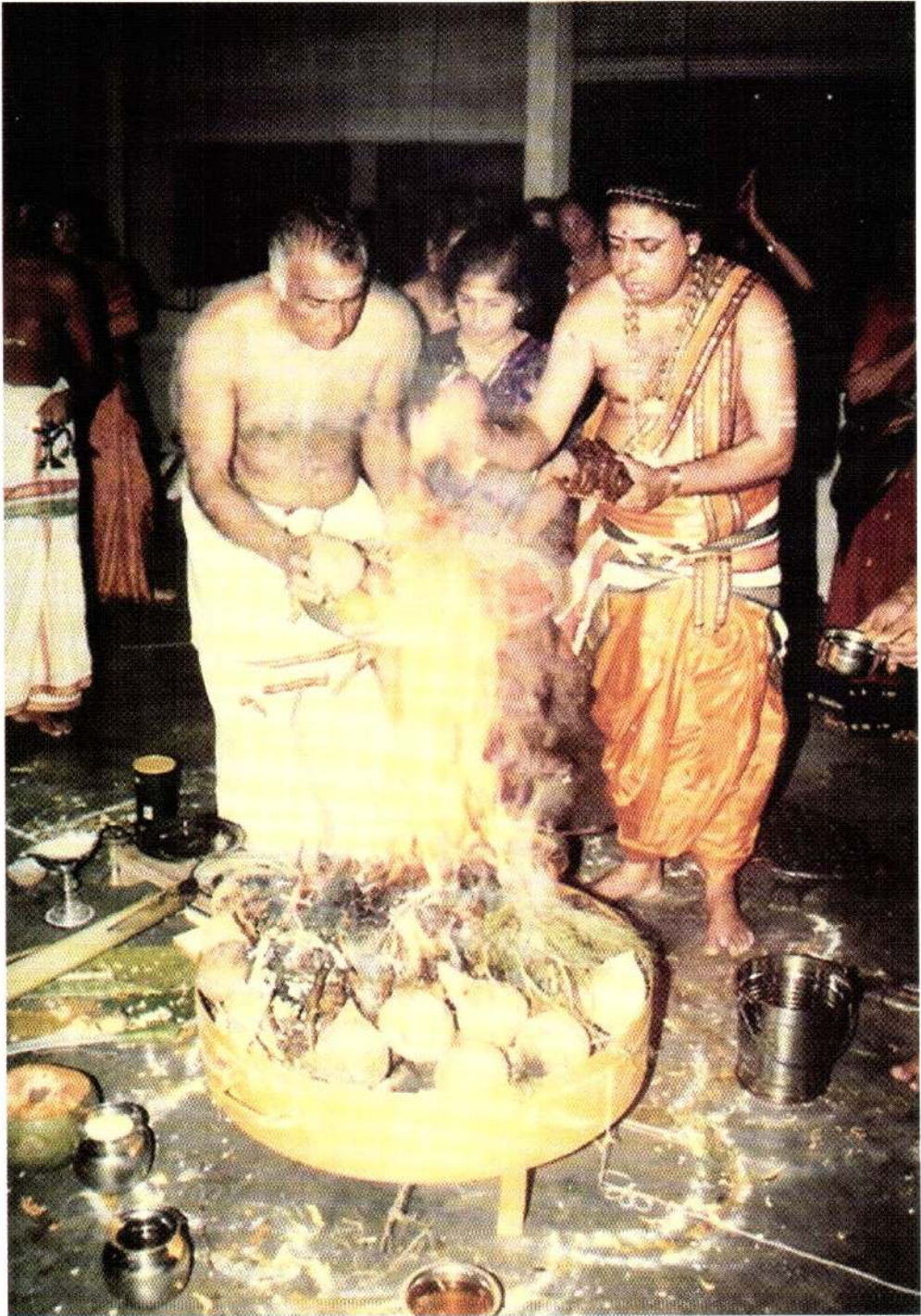
Given maalais and new clothes after the blessing.



Tying of Kaapu before the 1997 Maha Kumba Abhishegam.



Group photo with the Sri Lanka Adheenam.



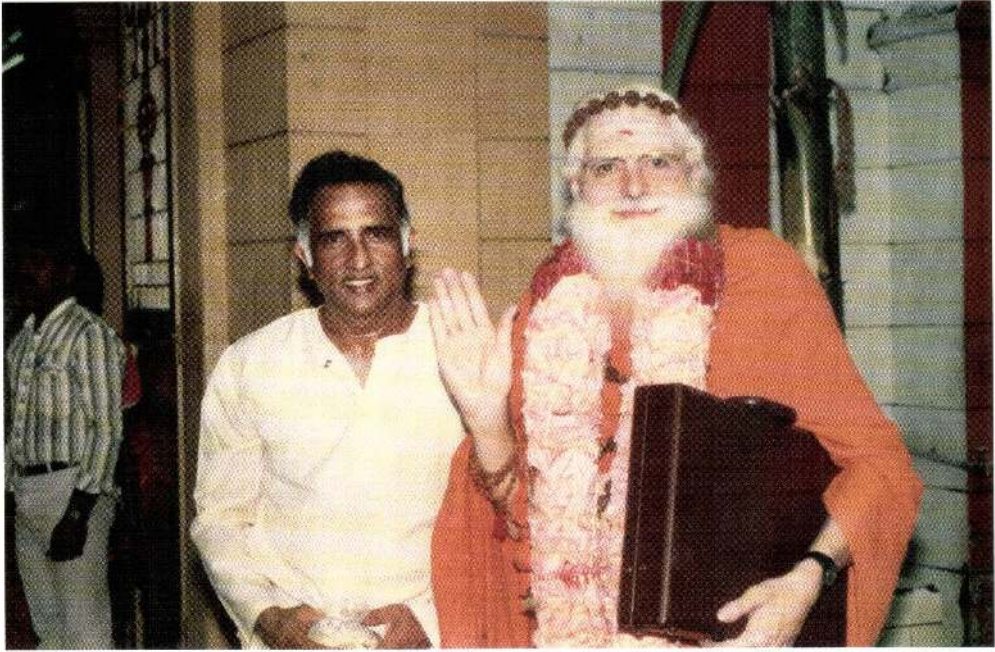
Putting of the Poornahuthi for the Maha Ganapahy Omum.



The priest of Senpaga Vinayagar Temple Singapore honoring Perampalam.



A joint prayer by FOMSO, the Singapore Ceylon Temple Association and the Sri Kandaswamy Temple.



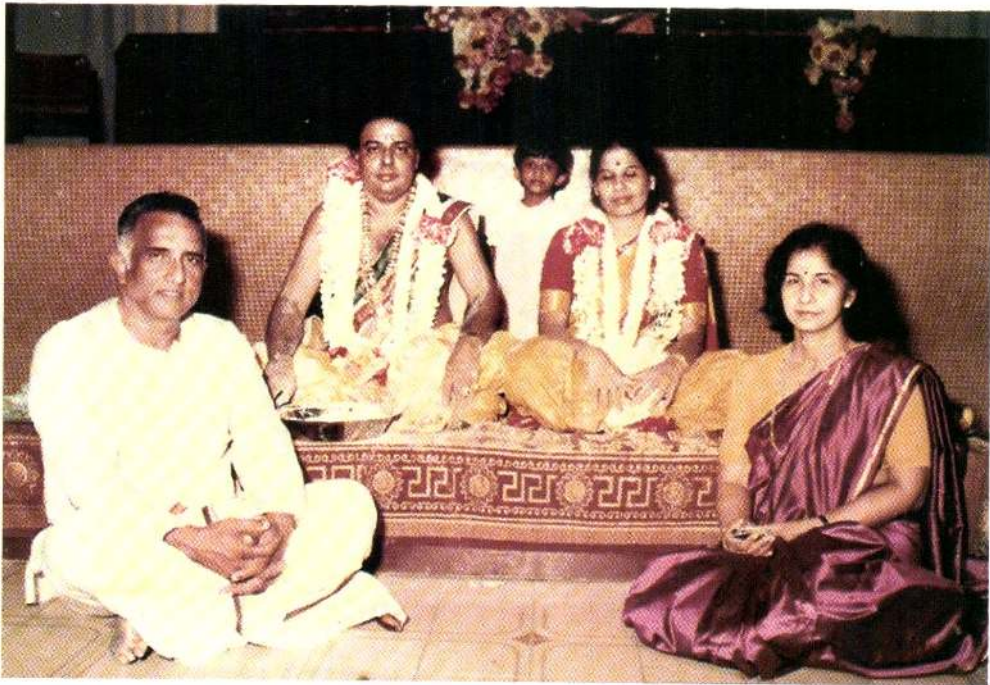
His Holiness Satguru Sivaya Subramaniya Swami, Kawai Adheenam, Kapaa, Hawaii.



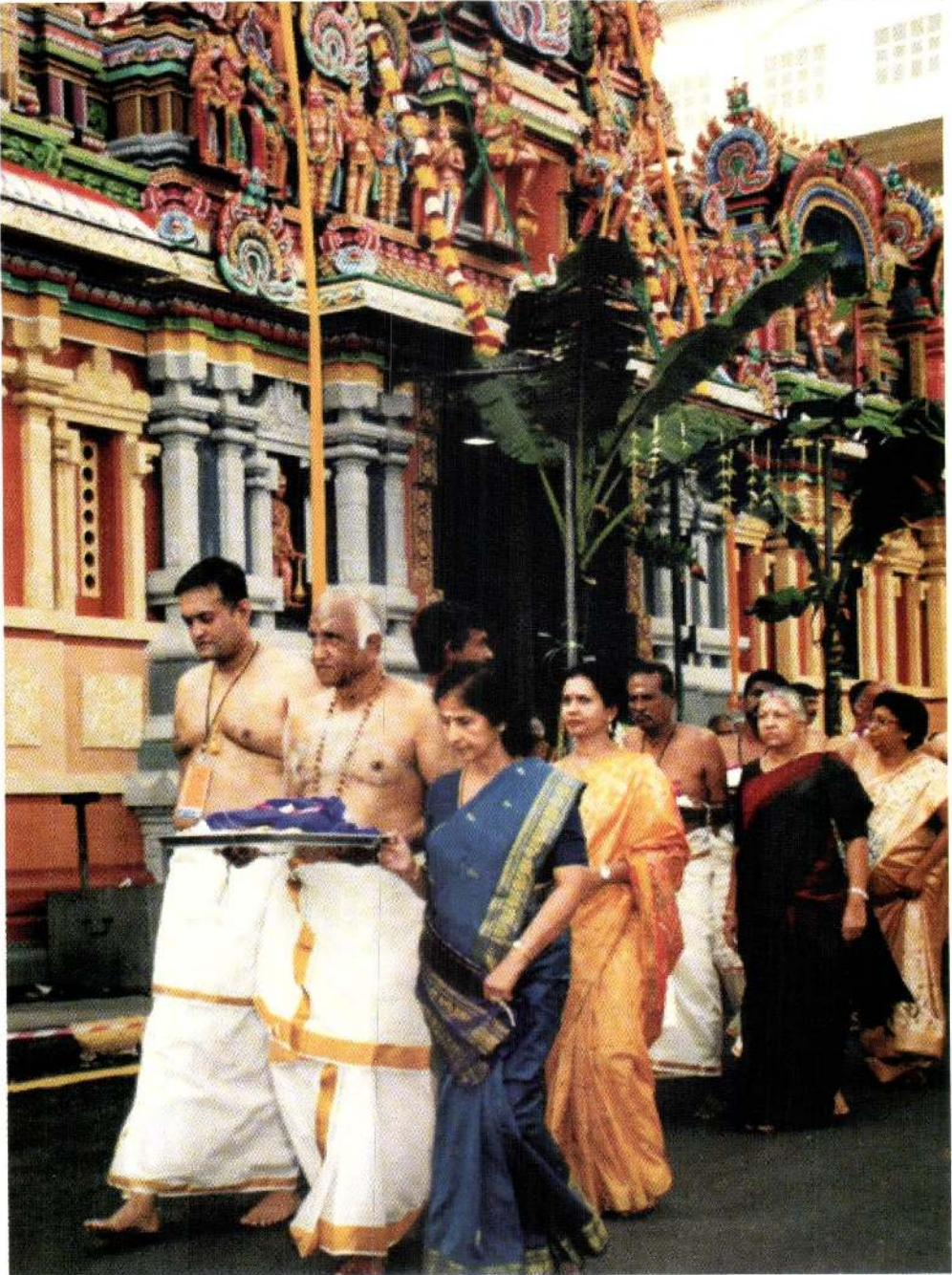
His Holiness Pamban Swamy of India.



Perampalam congratulates Visaagan (Chief Priest's son) on wearing the Poo Nool.



A group photo with the Chief Priest and wife.



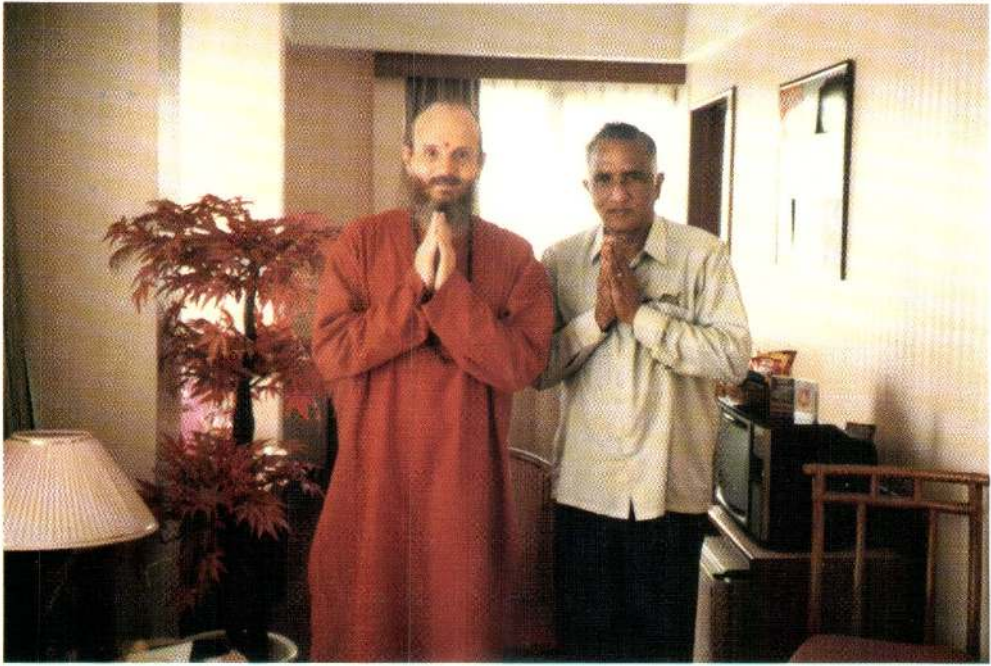
Carrying of the Pooranaahuthi Thiraviyam by the President, his wife, and the "Ubaya Karar" Mr Shanmuga Indran followed by committee members and their wives.



Watched on by his mother, at the Maha Kumbha Abhishegam in 1997.



Awarded the title of "Saiva Siddhanta Kalanithi" by His Holiness the Maha Sanithaanam of Dharmapuram Aadheenam, India.



His Holiness Satguru Bodhinatha Veylan Swami Kailasa Parampara, Kauai Adheenam.



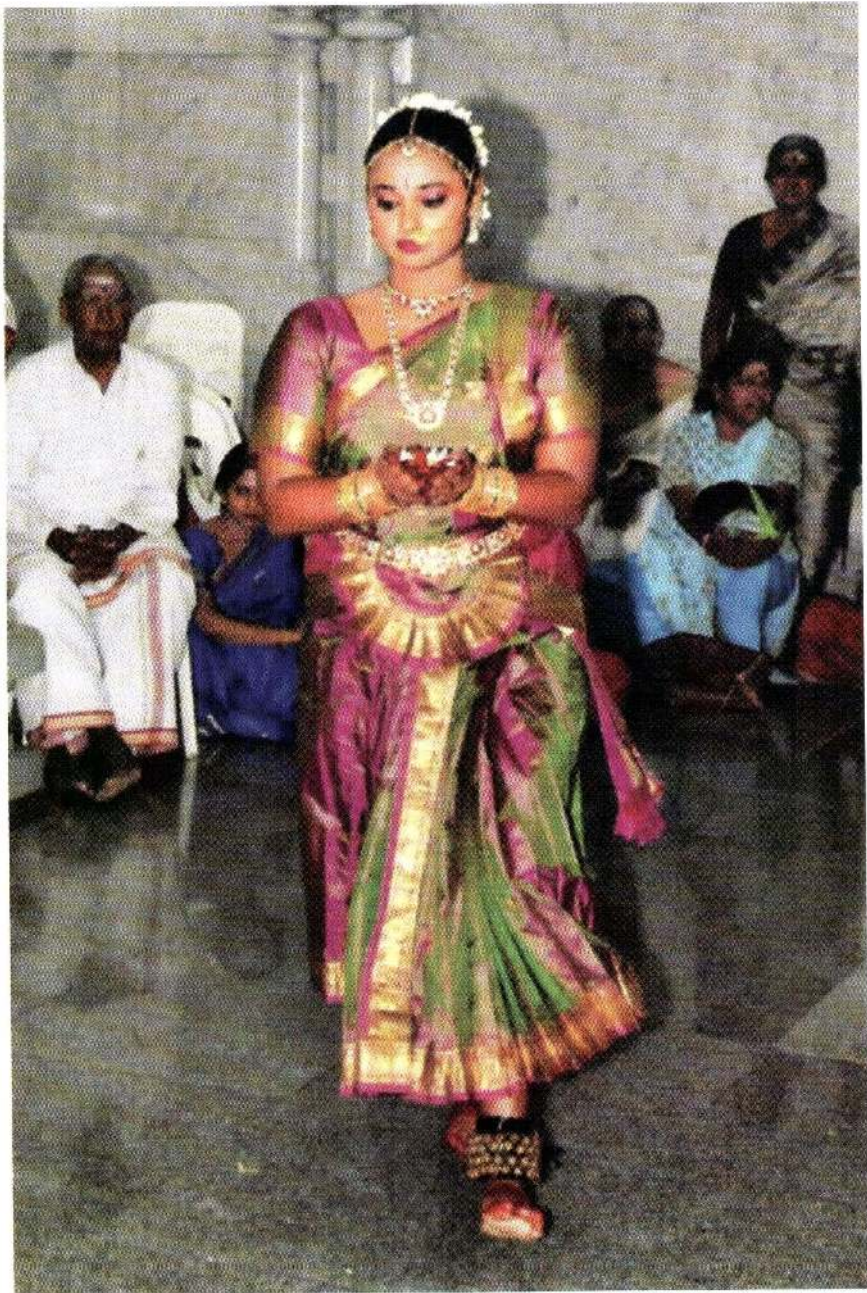
Awarded the title of "Siva Thondar" in 2006.



Members of the 1984 Maha Kumba Abhishegam with the Kurukkals.



Farewell dinner for Siva Sri Sabaratna Parameswara Kurukkal and wife. However, by God's grace, he got his permanent residence status and continues to serve as the Chief Priest at the Sri Kandaswamy Temple till today.



Granddaughter Ruthrainee performing at the 2011 Maha Kumba Abhishegam.



Welcoming his Holiness Satguru Sivaya Subramaniaswami.



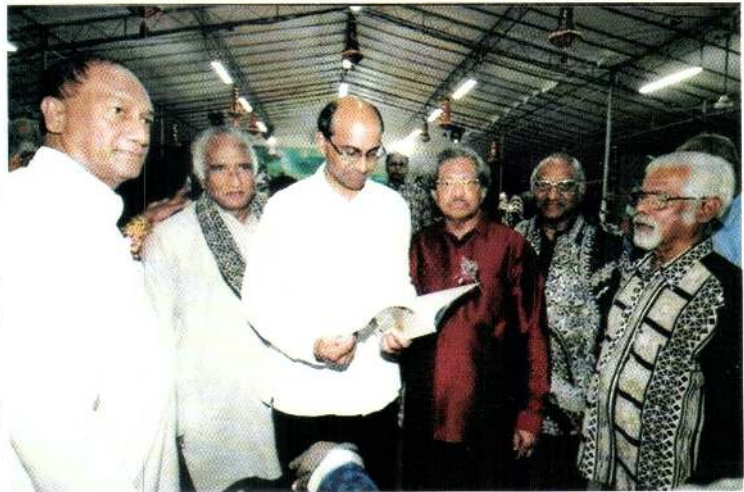
Perampalam being awarded the title of "Sanga Pooshan" in 2006 by the Malaysian Hindu Sangam.



Awarded the title of "Arulneri Nesar" by the Malaysian Arulneri Thirukootam in 2005.

Gathering of Ceylonese Associations in Singapore.

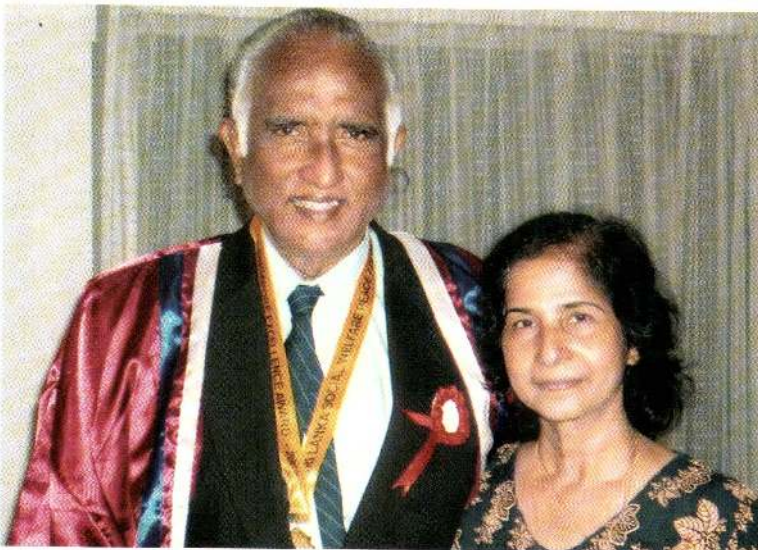
From left – Dr R Theyvendran, S. Perampalam, Minister for Education Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Dato Kulasegaran, Dato Gnanarajah and Kumarakulasingam.



Perampalam deep in conversation with good friend Sthabathi G. Vanmeeganathan who provided guidance for all three Kumba Abhishegams.



Chief Priest of the Sri Kandaswamy Temple putting a "ponnadai" for Valliammai Saravanamuthu on her 85th birthday.

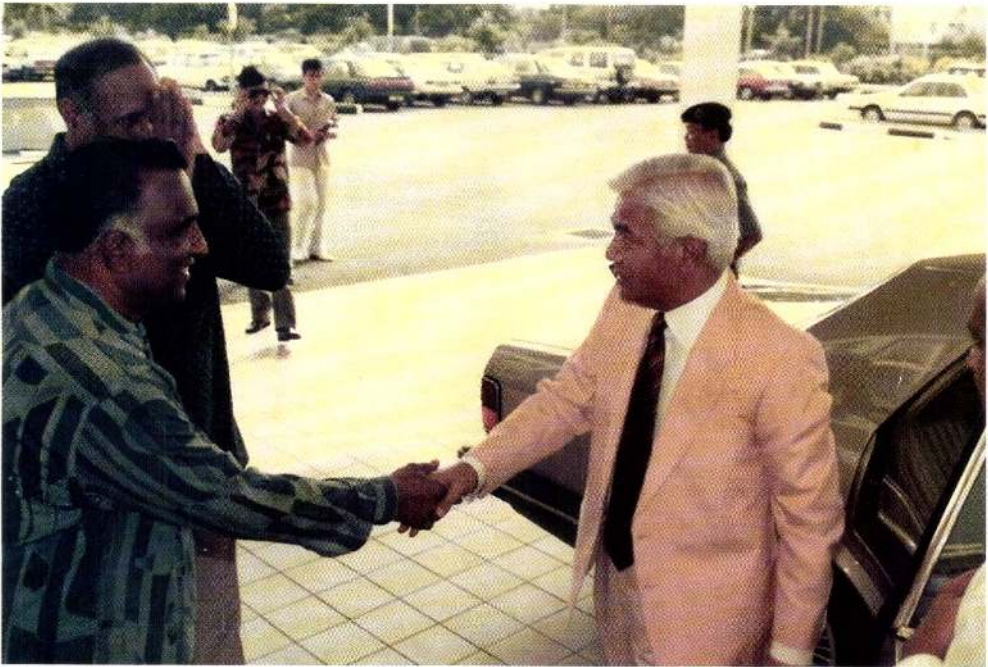


Awarded the "Singapore Excellence Award" by the Sri Lankan Social Welfare Peace Foundation in Singapore, 2007.

Chapter 11

Service to God, Country & Society

Hockey



“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” – John F. Kennedy

Perampalam's successful career in hockey was inculcated from his strong ardor for sports at a very young age. As mentioned in previous chapters, we know that Perampalam was a 'Jack of all Trades' in sports. He was the school's Vice-Captain and was an all-rounder in games such as football, cricket and athletics. His involvement in a multitude of sporting events eventually took a toll on him when he injured his thigh muscles. Listening to his inner voice, he finally decided to seek his destiny to be the master of one sport - 'HOCKEY'.

Hockey became Perampalam's golden ticket to fame and recognition. His first international foray was with the Malaysian 'B' team at the pre-Asian Games in Jakarta in 1962. He was also prominent in the local Malaysian league/tournament scene, playing for the likes of the Selangor State Hockey Team (1960-1968); Selangor Government Services Sports Council (1964-1968); Selangor Indian Sports Council (1964-1968); Malaysian Ceylonese Sports Association (1962-1964); Selangor Customs Service (1958); and Kelab Sukan TPCA (1958-1970).

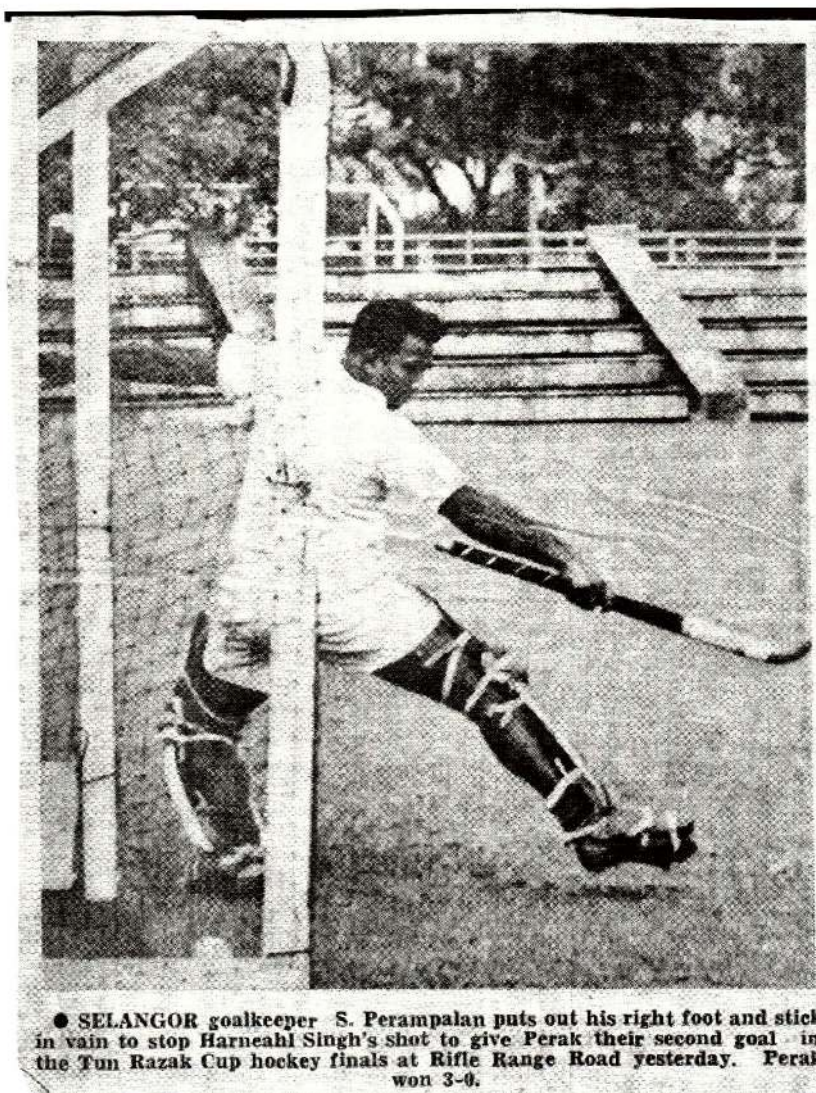
As age caught on, he swapped his hockey boots for a blazer, stepping into an illustrious career as a sports administrator with the Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF). With MHF, Perampalam served with distinction as Honorary Secretary for two years and Honorary Treasurer for about 28 years. He also served as Vice-President of the Selangor Hockey Association for more than 10 years and Assistant Secretary for the Asian Hockey Federation for 2 years.

It is interesting to note that Perampalam and his fellow MHF compatriots were all volunteers – they were not paid a fixed salary for contribution and services rendered. Nevertheless, this did not dissuade them from doing their part for hockey and country. Perampalam played a key role as part of the organizing committees of major hockey tournaments hosted in Malaysia, namely the Hockey World Cup in 1975, Junior World Cup in 1982, Inaugural 5 Continent Hockey Tournament in 1990, Champions Trophy in 1993, Commonwealth Games in 1998, and 4th Junior Men's Asia Cup in 2000. Organising such events required a lot of money – as Treasurer, this colossal task was instinctively left in Perampalam's trusting hands. He confidently knocked on the doors of corporate giants such as Nestle, Genting Group, and Malaysian Tobacco Company, and was successful in his goal of raising sufficient funds through sponsorship. He built a reputation for honesty and sincerity, and went to great lengths to ensure the MHF books were in spick and span condition. At present, he holds the distinction of being the longest serving Treasurer in MHF history.

Perampalam's role as sports administrator was not confined to the desk. He was appointed as Chef-De-Mission to the Asian All Star Hockey Team that toured Asia and Africa in 1987. He also served in various international tournaments in the capacity of Assistant Technical Delegate, Judge, and Jury of Appeal. He was also the

Honorary Treasurer of the organizing committee for the 10th Men's World Cup which was held in Kuala Lumpur in 2002.

When asked why he chose hockey, Perampalam remarked that hockey brought together players from all walks of life. Despite their differences in race, religion and social standing, the moment the players stepped onto the pitch, they all played and performed together as a single, cohesive unit - a 'Band of Brothers' of sort. It was this strong sense of camaraderie and unique blend of diversity that propelled Perampalam's passion to develop Malaysian hockey to great heights. His undying love for hockey did not go unnoticed - the Malaysian government awarded him with AMN, AMP and PJK. However, Perampalam's greatest sports achievement was to earn the crowning glory of Malaysian sports - an induction into the Olympic Council of Malaysia Hall of Fame in 2012.





Tension – will I be able to stop the ball.



Saved in the nick of time.



Playing for TPCA - Goalie days without a mask. His mother was not amused when he ended up with a broken nose.



Selangor Sikhs and TPCA.



Selangor and Negeri Sembilan Ceylonese team.



Perampalam receiving the football C-division league cup in 1955 for TPCA.

LEAGUE WINNERS "C" DIVISION 1955



STANDING — (Left to right) — *Krishnan, Rahman, V. Durairatnam, K. Peethamparam, C. Rajaratnam, V. Velautham, M. Samy.*

SITTING — *G. Paul (Member), Ratnam, Dr. M. Vaitialingam, S. Perampalam (Capt.), M. N. Cumarasami (Sports Chairman), C. Eliathamby, K. Mathiaparamam (Asst. Member).*

FRONT ROW — *Muniandy, Sangaran, Veeriah, Sabapathy, Suppiah.*

GOALIE'S GLORY



TENSE moment in yesterday's senior knock-out hockey final sees Perampalam, the TPCA goalkeeper, making a clearance with Vijayanathan (hidden) going to his assistance as Christie Shepherdson (striped shirt) rushes in for the loose ball. Looking on anxiously on extreme left is Shanmuganathan with Ismail Bakri and Rajalingam in the rear. —Timesport picture by Wan Seng Yip.



ARMED Forces forward Hung Meng neatly beats the on-rushing TPCA goalkeeper Perambalam, but Vijayanathan (left) is at the goal-line to bring off an easy save.

SELANGOR PLAYERS



M. Shanmuganathan
(Captain)



Gui Poh Chui



S. Parampalam



M. Arulraj



M. Doraisamy



Chua Eng wah



Sekaran Nair



A. Sabapathy

Representing Selangor for a friendly match against India at Stadium Merdeka in 1962.

SELANGOR

vs

INDIA

STADIUM MERDEKA

THURSDAY - 9th AUGUST 1962

AT 5.00 p.m.



TPCA goalkeeper Perampalan grimaces in pain after he had stopped a hard drive from Selangor centre-forward George Cummings in the drawn SHA senior knockout match on the KL Padang yesterday. Others in the picture are G. Vijianathan and T. Nagendra.



Representing Malaysia-B Pre-Asian Games.



Meeting the Regent of Selangor in 1964.



Perampalam in action for TPCA. Bamboo goalie pads are now a thing of the past.



An MHF International Tournament Organising Committee in the late 70s.



Selangor Sikhs vs TPCA in the 1960s.



Playing for the Customs under the Statistics Department in 1956.



MHF fourth biennial meeting - 1970.



Departing to Paris for the Junior World Cup 1979. The family recalls Perampalam coming home with a suitcase full of chocolates.



Meeting of the Asian Hockey Federation in Ipoh, early 90s.



Welcoming the MHF president, HRH Sultan Azlan Shah.



As Chef-De-Mission of the Asian All Star Hockey team that toured Asia and Africa in 1987.



Organising Committee of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.



An international tournament held in Hong Kong – Tan Sri Dato' Noordin Hassan was Manager, and Perampalam was Assistant Manager of that national team.



Sending off the National Juniors for an international tournament.



With the All Star team playing in Japan, 1987.



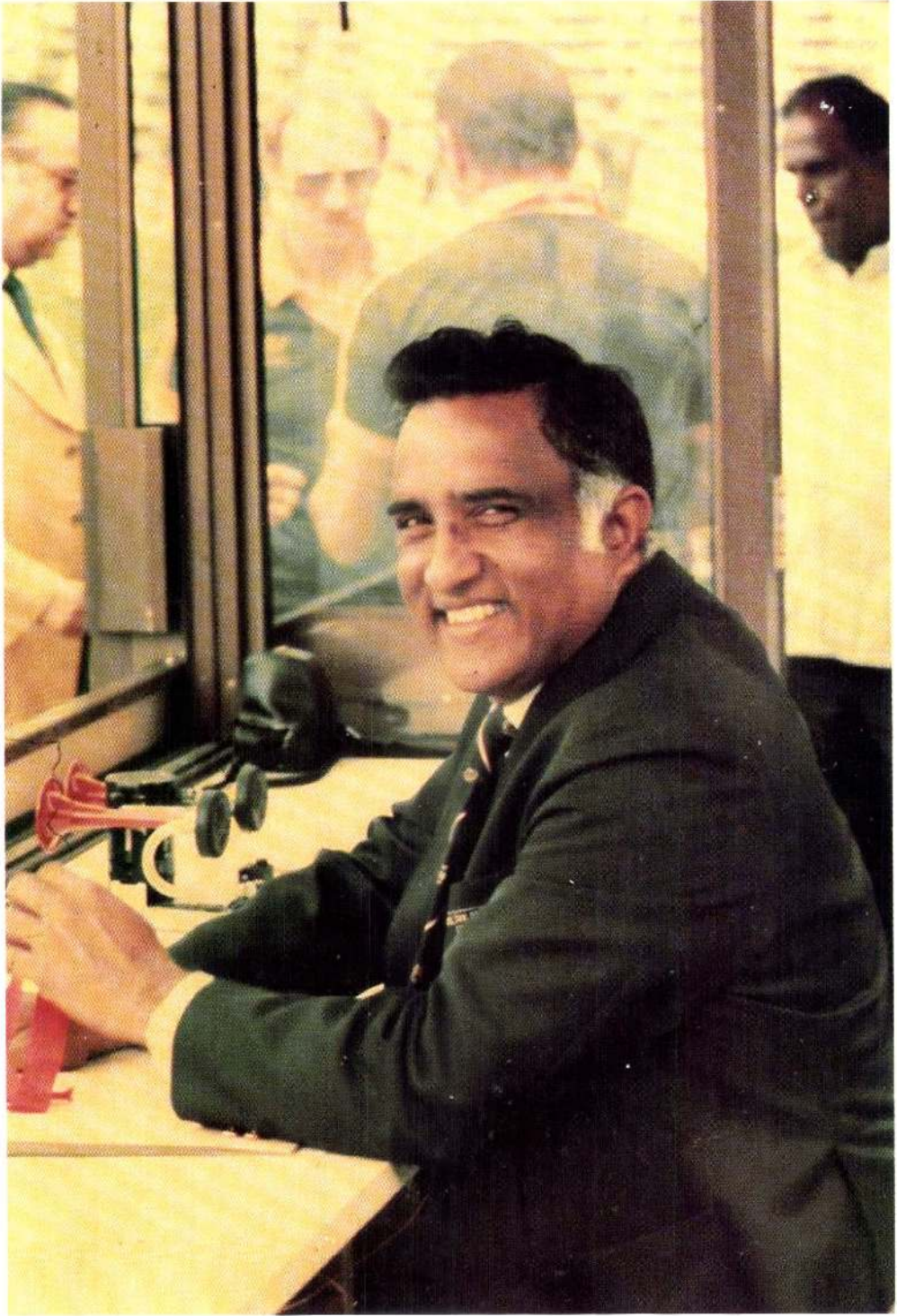
Meeting the Organising Committee members in Lucknow, India for the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tournament.



Perampalam receiving a souvenir from a Kenyan Official.



Group photo – As Chef De Mission of the Asian All Star Hockey Team, with the Asian Hockey Federation President, HRH Sultan Azlan Shah.





Receiving the President before the council meeting.



Sharmini Perampalam presenting a bouquet to Tuanku Bainun Binti Mohd Ali, the future Raja Permaisuri Agong.



*The family admiring the Inter-Continental trophy.
From left – Rubini, Saravana,
Sharmini and Perampalam.*



*As a delegate
to the Olympic
games in Seoul,
South Korea in
1988.*

Star 16/7/86

MHF PLANS LEAGUE FOR CLUBS

By **MUSTAPHA KAMARUDDIN**

THE Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) competitions committee is preparing a paper on the formation of a national Open league.

The league will be open to clubs from all over the country with prize money at stake.

This league, if it becomes a reality, will no doubt help to raise the standard of the game and provide the national squad a wider pool of players to pick from.

"Apart from preparing a paper on introducing a national league for the Razak Cup, the committee is studying the idea of starting an Open league," said MHF secretary S. Perampalam yesterday.

"The committee is keen to get the views of various sub-committees and will submit a paper at the next council meeting," he said.

Perampalam said once the council has given its approval, the committee will draw up plans on how the Open league is going to be run, the entrance fees to be charged and



S. PERAMPALAM

the format.

Apart from this, the committee, under its chairman Noordin Hassan, is also studying ways of starting a national league for the Razak Cup competition.

The national league for the Razak Cup, if it takes off, will be similar to the Malaysia Cup football competition with the teams playing home and away.

TOE THE LINE OR OUT YOU GO

12/10/26



PERAMPALAM

MHF to come down hard on errant players

IF Persuasion won't work, the MHF are set to deliver the knock-out punch to players who refuse to play for the Malaysia B squad at the Tun Hussein Onn hockey tournament starting on Thursday at Klang.

FT players Joseph Ganandra and Jailani Talib have been named in the Malaysia B squad but have stated they want to play for their State rather than the national side.

FT have allowed them to join their team as they feel that it was up to the players to decide who they wanted to play for.

MHF secretary S. Perampalam said he had appealed to FT officials to persuade them to play for the country. But if they still remained adamant, it was likely MHF standing committee might meet and bar them from the tournament.

"If they wanted out from the national

By GERALD MARTINEZ

B, then they should have had the courtesy to say so when the squad were named after the Rasek Cup," said Mr Perampalam. "To withdraw now causes great inconvenience. For one thing we have to recruit new players to take their place.

"And if they are in other teams taking part in the Hussein Onn tournament, the States will be in a fix as they have to find substitute players at short notice.

"We cannot have this kind of situation. In the interests of discipline we must curb such behaviour. Players should not dictate terms."

He said it was likely they will call a meeting of the MHF standing committee to discuss what steps to take as there was a great deal at stake here. "We don't wish to set a precedent whereby players can play for whoever they

want without regard for the wishes of the national body."

The national B team who were supposed to have started training this week, have only eight players at the moment. "Many of the players have leave problems, which we are trying to sort out," said Mr Perampalam. "A few like Suresh Lingam, have declined call-up as they have to sit for exams."

He said more players are being invited to the national B squad such as David Paul and Henry Joseph of Negri Sembilan. Mr Perampalam said he expected a full squad by Monday. "They are trickling in."

"The national B squad are slated to take part in the Dyalchand Memorial tournament in India in December. "Taking part in the Tun Hussein Onn tournament is one way for them to develop their skills and teamwork."

However their participation in the tournament was not confirmed yet as the MHF are still awaiting further details from the organisers.



PERAMPALAM

Why Stephen was excluded

11/1/27

THE Malaysian Hockey Federation secretary S. Perampalam said Stephen van Huizen was excluded because his name was not brought up at the council meeting last Sunday. "Besides, he had mentioned that he was quitting after the Asian Games.

"However, all is not lost because we are conducting trials and all those who are interested are welcome," said Perampalam.

"And if Stephen's name comes up among the coaches before the trials, he will definitely be called up."

SHOW YOUR WORTH OR FACE THE AXE

July 14
1972?



Perampalam ... stern
warning

By MUSTAPHA KAMARUDDIN

THE national hockey players have to prove their worth in the Razak Cup tournament from July 27-Aug. 2 in Kuala Lumpur or face the possibility of being axed.

The squad, which is preparing for the Seoul Asian Games in September, is now having a break after a strenuous training phase that included nine Test matches against India and the Perak International Invitational tournament.

"We will be keeping a close watch on the national players during the Razak Cup and they must prove that they deserve a place in the Asiad squad," said Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) secretary S. Perampalam yesterday.

The next phase of training will begin on Aug. 6.

"We have no choice but to drop any player who is found to be slacking in performance or fitness during the tour-

nament," he said.

Perampalam reminded the national players that they must be able to show improvement in fitness — one of the main weaknesses — in the tournament.

"We will also keep our eyes on the national B squad in the tournament and see if they can outshine their A squad counterparts," said Perampalam.

"We will not hesitate to replace with players from the B squad if we find that the national players fail to play up to expectations. After all the reason to form the B squad is to act as a back-up to the national squad."

Perampalam said this was why the national players could not take things easy in the Razak Cup tournament and they must always be on their toes to prevent their places being grabbed by the B squad players.

The B squad has been training under coach M. Mahendran and participating in the recent Perak International Invitational tournament.

HOKI

23/10/87

PHM terus merayu

Malaysia layak ke Seoul: Perampalam



S PERAMPALAM... akan minta pendapat presiden.

PERSEKUTUAN Hoki Malaysia (PHM) tidak akan berganjak daripada keputusannya merayu Persekutuan Hoki Antarabangsa (FIH) bagi membolehkannya bertanding dalam Sukan Olimpik di Seoul tahun depan, **ABU BAKAR ATAN**, melaporkan.

Setiausaha PHM, S. Perampalam, berkata pihaknya tidak akan dipengaruhi oleh pendapat sesetengah pihak bahawa pasukan negara tidak layak ke Seoul kerana kemerosotan mutu persembahannya kebelakangan ini.

"Kami tidak kira apa juga angapan mereka. Malaysia layak bertanding dalam Sukan Olimpik dan kami akan meneruskan cadangan untuk merayu kepada FIH," kata Perampalam semalam.

Menurut pemimpin hoki kebangsaan itu, PHM menunggu kepulangan presidennya, Sultan Azlan Shah dari luar negeri selepas baginda menghadiri mesyuarat FIH bagi memutuskan pasukan-pasu-

kan ke Olimpik di Brussels, Belgium 18-20 Oktober lalu.

Dalam mesyuarat itu, FIH memuktamadkan Malaysia sebagai tidak layak bertanding dalam Sukan Olimpik tahun depan sambil memberikan tempat kepada Sepanyol dan Poland.

"Malaysia sering menumpaskan Sepanyol dan Poland tetapi mereka dipilih ke Seoul. Hakikat itu adalah antara sebab mengapa kami mesti merayu kepada FIH," kata Perampalam.

Bagaimanapun, langkah PHM seterusnya bergantung kepada perjumpaan ahli-ahli majlisnya dengan Sultan Azlan Shah yang dijadualkan pulang sehari dua ini.

"Kami mesti meminta pendapat Sultan Azlan Shah sebelum meneruskan rayuan kerana baginda adalah salah seorang daripada jawatankuasa FIH yang menelapkan pasukan-pasukan ke Seoul di Brussels," katanya.

56 The Malay Mail 21/2/2005

SPORT

HOCKEY

PARAM TURNS OVER THE PAGES AT FORUM

By **MUSTAPHA KAMARUDDIN**

THERE is a need to set up a National Hockey Institute (NHI) run by professionals if Malaysia want to be among the best in the world within the next 10 years.

This proposal was put forward by former Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) secretary and treasurer S. Perampalam during a blue-print forum at Bukit Jalil yesterday, though it is nothing new.

MHF, in 1991, requested former national coach Terry Walsh to submit a paper to set the NHI in line with the Australian Institute of Sports (AIS).

Perampalam said the National Sports Council (NSC) and MHF were impressed with Walsh's proposals and decided the institute be

set up at Tun Razak Stadium in Jalan Duta.

The MHF council, on the other hand, decided they should also form the Yayasan Hoki to look after the players' welfare.

Everything was put in place with the support of the Sports Ministry and NSC.

Perampalam (right) said a marketing company W & R Communications were appointed on Dec 3, 1991.

W & R Communications representative G. Wilmott then briefed the MHF Standing Committee the NHI should be registered as a company under the Companies Act 1965.

Wilmott also provided the draft rules for the company.

The company would provide RM3.7 million to cover all expenses



of MHF which include all tournaments, NHI and Yayasan Hoki. However, they were not prepared to give a guarantee on the col-

lection of funds.

Six months later, MHF were informed the company were unable to collect funds.

"Hence, we had to differ the setting of this institute," said Perampalam.

However, MHF collected sufficient funds to launch the Yayasan Hoki on May 7, 1992 which benefited the players.

Perampalam said a number of foreign coaches were employed to train players.

"If we want to be within the top four in the world within the next 10 years we should have professionals managing the NHI.

"The groundwork for the formation of the NHI has been done and all that is required are the funds to set it in motion," said Perampalam.

BATTLE FOR MHF

Only the Sultan of Perak returned unopposed as chief

THE Malaysian Hockey Federation's biennial general meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Sept 11 will be a hotly contested affair — the main battle being for the post of deputy president.

When nominations closed on Monday, only the Sultan of Perak was returned unopposed as president while the rest of the key posts will be contested.

The Sultan of Perak, who has been at the helm since 1981, was unanimously voted by all the 15 affiliates.

There will be a three-cornered fight for the secretary's post. Incumbent S. Perampalam will face opposition from his assistant secretary S. Satgunam of Negri Sembilan and K. Indran, the Perak HA secretary.

But the fight is expected to be between Satgunam and Perampalam. Indran, who was the secretary in 1986, is not considered a serious contender.

The treasurer's post



Datuk P. Alagendra (left) and G. Vijayanathan... straight fight for the deputy president's post held by the former since 1981.

would be a straight fight between incumbent S. Jahendran and T. Paramalingam of the KLHA.

Another interesting contest is the deputy president's post. Incumbent Datuk P. Alagendra, who has held the post since 1981, and G. Vijayanathan, the former secretary, will be involved in a straight fight.

Vijayanathan was nominated by the Sarawak HA.

Vijayanathan, who was MHF secretary from 1959 to 1985, has also been nominated to stand for one of the four vice-presidents post.

But Vijayanathan said he was still undecided whether to stand for the two posts.

"There are lot of things which I have to consider. I can't say right now whether I'll be contesting.

Anyway, there is still a lot of time to think about it," said Vijayanathan yesterday.

"I have done my best for hockey for the last 26 years. There were a lot of people who came and asked me to stand contest in the BGM. Do I have to go back? Or are the people sincere in wanting me back?"

"There is a lot of politicking in hockey now. If I go back, it's with the interest of the sport in mind. Nothing else," he added.

Should he decide to stand, Vijayanathan will, however, have to relinquish his post as honorary member of the MHF as the MHF's constitution stipulates that an honorary member shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Federation.

Datuk P.S. Gill, the Perak HA president, will also vie for one of the four slots in the contest for vice-presidency.

Incumbents Datuk Mohammad Nor Ismail, Mohamad Nordin Hassan, Datuk Alex Lee and Brig. Gen. Datuk Dr. Samsudin Hussain were renominated.

The fifth vice-president's post now held by Datuk Ahmad Baharon will be reserved for a candidate to be appointed by MHF's East Malaysian affiliates — Sabah and Sarawak.

All nominations, however, will be scrutinised at the MHF council meeting on Sept 3.



S. Satgunam... looking to oust secretary S. Perampalam.



S. Perampalam... also has to contend with a challenge from Perak's K. Indran.

Dutch get even with Germans

ZINDHOVEN (Holland), Mon. — Holland beat West Germany yesterday 2-1 in a lackluster men's hockey match after losing to its guest 3-1 in a friendly on Saturday.

West Germany began well when Michael Hilgers made a virtually unopposed dash for the goal and scored in the ninth minute.

Holland's Jan Hidde Kruijs equalised in the 24th minute when he tapped in a goal backhanded. It was 1-1 at half-time.

Hendrick Jan Kooijman gave the Dutch their second goal in the 66th minute from a long corner shot.

On Saturday, the West Germans won by the midfield superiority, but both teams appeared intent on saving their best for the Olympic Games.

Yesterday, West Germany kept many of its top players, including team captain Rainer Dopp and Ulrich Havel, on the bench and replaced Stephan Bloechen in the second half. — Reuter.

Selangor nominates Perampalam for MHF secretary's post

THE Selangor Hockey Association (SHA) has nominated its vice-president S. Perampalam (right) to stand for the secretary's post in the Malaysian Hockey Federation's elections.

Perampalam, who is the incumbent secretary, is expected to be challenged by at least two people.

SHA secretary Leslie Daniels said yesterday that the council decided that it would nominate all the existing office bearers for the various posts.

"We do not see a need for changes. Although Malaysian hockey at its lowest ebb, it is important that nothing is done to stifle efforts to raise the standard of the game," said Leslie.

Perak secretary K. Indran has indicated that he was willing to challenge Perampalam. MHF's assistant secretary S. Satgunam has been nominated to contest the post. Nominations close on Sunday.

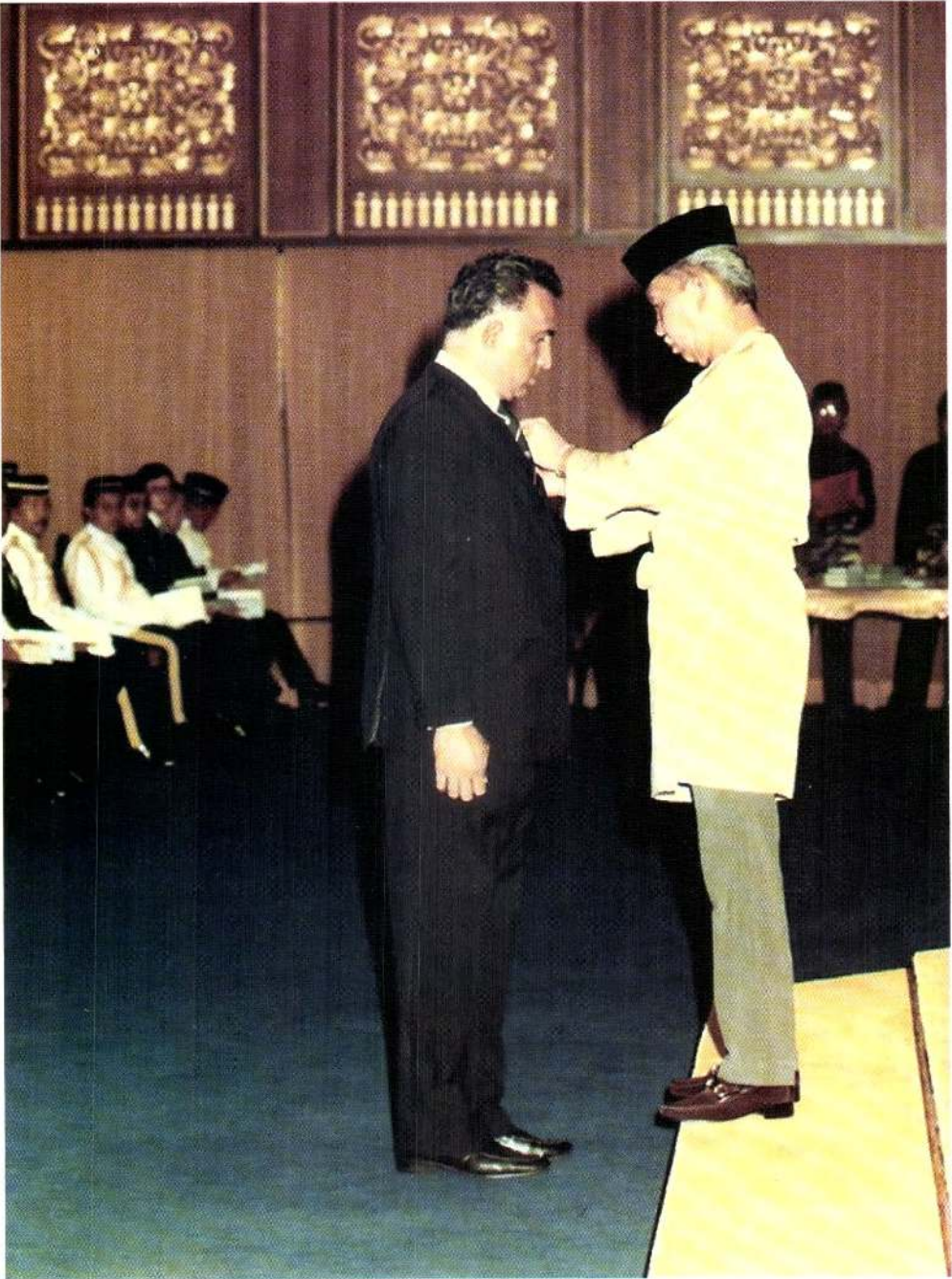
The posts for deputy



president, vice-presidents (five) and treasurer are expected to be contested.

Datuk P. Alagendra is now the deputy president. The vice-presidents are Datuk Mohamad Nor Ismail, Mohamad Nordin Hassan, Brig. Gen. Datuk Samsudin Hussein, Datuk Alexander Lee and Datuk Ahmad Baharon.

Former MHF secretary G. Vijayanathan is said to be going for a vice-president's post. For the treasurer's post, which is held by S. Jahendran, KLHA secretary T. Paramalingam is expected to be the challenger.



Awarded the AMN by His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.



Photo taken at the Sultan of Perak's palace in Kuala Kangsar.



Awarded the title of PJK by HRH Sultan of Selangor in 1983.



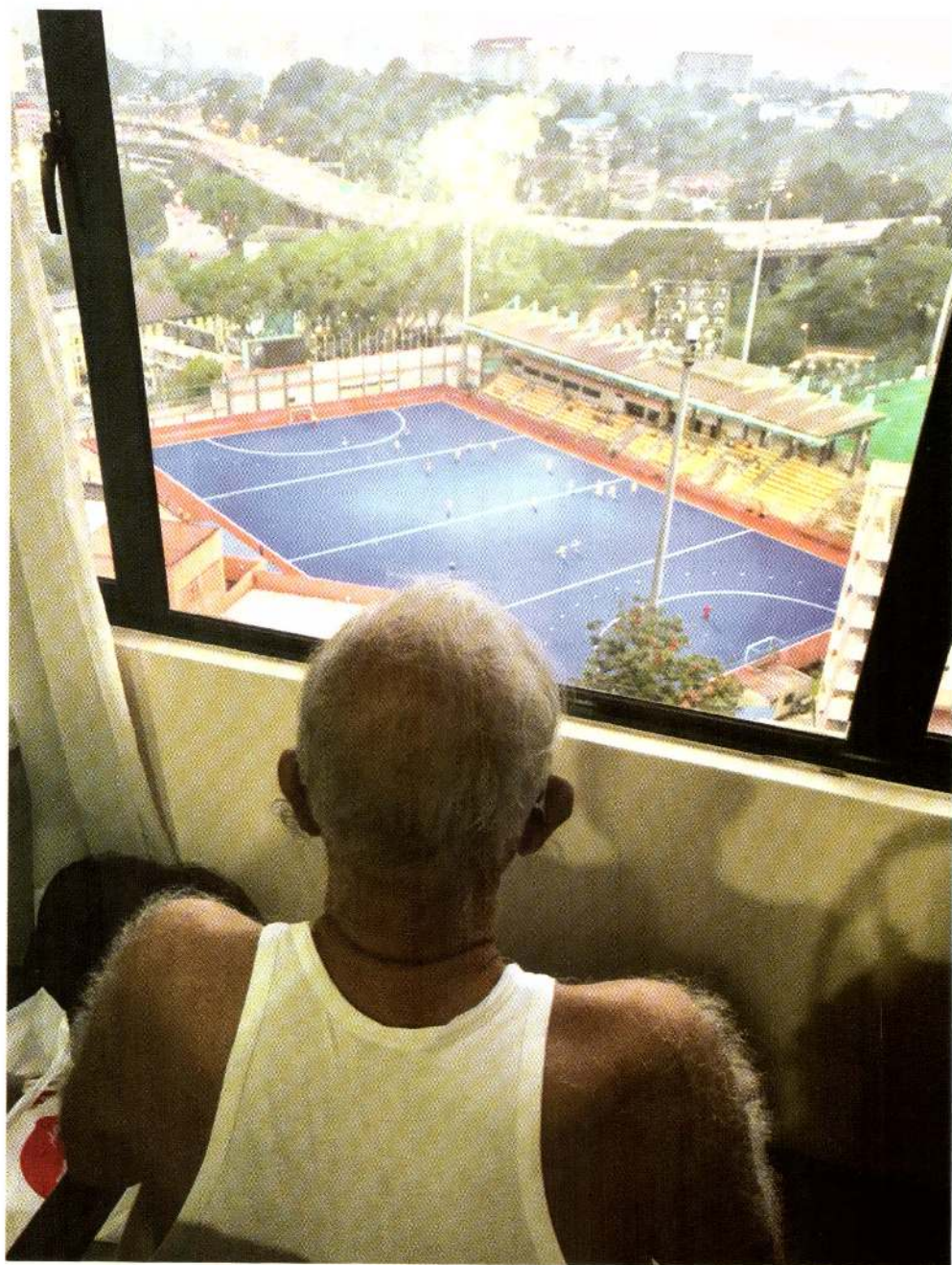
Awarded the title of AMP by HRH the Raja Muda of Perak in 2000.



The induction of Perampalam Saravnamuthu to the Olympic Council of Malaysia – Hall of Fame 2012.



At the Olympic Council's 50th Anniversary gathering.



Perampalam in Pantai Hospital on 31st March 2017. He was hospitalized with a high fever, but was excited to enjoy a National Hockey League game from his room window.

Chapter 12

Service to God, Country & Society *TPCA*



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
- Mahatma Gandhi

One could say that Perampalam's association with Kelab Sukan TPCA is a 'family affair' - three generations of his family have / are currently serving the club in various capacities with distinction. His father was one of the earliest members of the club since moving to KL from Seremban. Saravanamuthu served TPCA as a member of the Management Committee, Vice-President and Patron until his demise in 1966. Perampalam fondly recalls shuttling his father on his Lambretta scooter to the club, as his father enjoyed watching football and hockey matches on the club grounds, and playing the occasional game of mahjong with fellow club patrons.

TPCA's rich history can be traced back to the origins of the club itself. It was the first sports club in the country to build its own stadium. The original club was built on swampy lands – the founders had to painstakingly work on the grounds to raise the height by 3 feet in order to have proper drainage. When the club embarked on plans to build their own stadium, the foundation and drainage set by the pioneers was still solid, thus saving them from spending money for underground piping. The clubhouse was well managed and maintained by its dedicated executive committee, who made TPCA their second home. Many of them introduced TPCA to their children, who continued to upkeep the proud traditions and heritage of the club.

Perampalam's TPCA journey began in 1955 when he juggled two hats as player and committee member. He continued representing the club as a player until 1970, achieving numerous championship titles in local hockey leagues and tournaments. One memory still fresh in mind was the Ceylon - India tours in 1961. This invitational tour boosted the morale and confidence of the club and its players, propelling them to win all 13 games in the subsequent Selangor Hockey League. Although he hung his boots in 1970, he continued his service with the committee, serving in different responsibilities before becoming club President in 1994, a role he served with distinction for 20 years. He continued organizing the annual TPCA-CSC games with the Ceylon Sports Club, Singapore, a tradition backdating from 1929.

In 1975, TPCA had one of the best sports grounds in the country, and it was one of the playing venues chosen to host the Hockey World Cup in Malaysia. A good number of matches were played on TPCA and Kilat grounds as the Merdeka Stadium was deemed unsuitable. Realising TPCA stadium's potential, the Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) and the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) convinced the club to give up the grounds for *raison d'état*, citing the need for good hockey pitches to host the upcoming Junior World Cup. The Datuk Bandar and the Deputy President of MHF agreed in principle to provide an alternative ground as compensation. After careful deliberation, the club's management committee concluded that national interest takes precedence, and agreed to move out of the premises at Jalan Raja Muda. Perampalam remembers it being the darkest chapter in TPCA history when the clubhouse finally ceased its operations in 1982 after 68 years of faithful service.

TPCA approached the Ministry of Youth & Sports to discuss the compensation for alternative land. The ministry officials discovered that when the Sultan of Selangor granted the land to TPCA in 1914, no restitution was made to the Selangor Government, hence making TPCA's claim for compensation null & void. The government instead agreed to award TPCA with RM 1.2 million as compensation for the clubhouse and stadium only. When the government rescinded on its promise to provide TPCA with an alternative land, Perampalam and his fellow TPCA comrades began a long and arduous battle for justice. Not giving up, the case was brought up for discussion at the Parliament. The Parliament agreed that an alternative land should be awarded to TPCA, but till today no one has acted upon the decision. The funds were used to purchase an alternative land in Kajang, and it was decided a new clubhouse with modern facilities would be built on these grounds. Perampalam continued to write various government ministries and officials, including the Prime Minister, to appeal for funds to build the new clubhouse.

In 2014, TPCA celebrated its centenary, and Perampalam stepped down as President. He proudly handed the mantle over to Edwin Francis, a favourite of many TPCA stalwarts who saw him as a fitting successor. Edwin has been involved in TPCA since age 11, and being the son and grandson of former Presidents and the son-in-law of a former Deputy President, he shares a common passion with Perampalam to ensure that TPCA's legacy continues through its new clubhouse. Perampalam still serves the TPCA in the Development and Fundraising Committee; he hopes that once the club's new ground becomes operational in 2018, it will continue its eternal goal of producing Malaysian sporting greats.

Perampalam affirms that the TPCA motto "Forward We Move" echoes the true foundation of the club - to develop and nurture all-rounded sportsmen and sportswomen to represent the country, and become respected pillars of society. The club showcased the unique Malaysian diversity on and off the field, and players from different spectrums of Malaysian society went on to have successful playing careers at national level. This very same motto has become his personal mantra as he seeks to ensure that the chequered achievements and legacy of the club continues in its divine aim to serve future generations past its 100 year history.



Perampalam as a young man playing for TPCA – sporting an unshaven look.



Deepavali function at TPCA, in the late 50s.



A young Perampalam dancing the night away at a TPCA function in the late 50s.



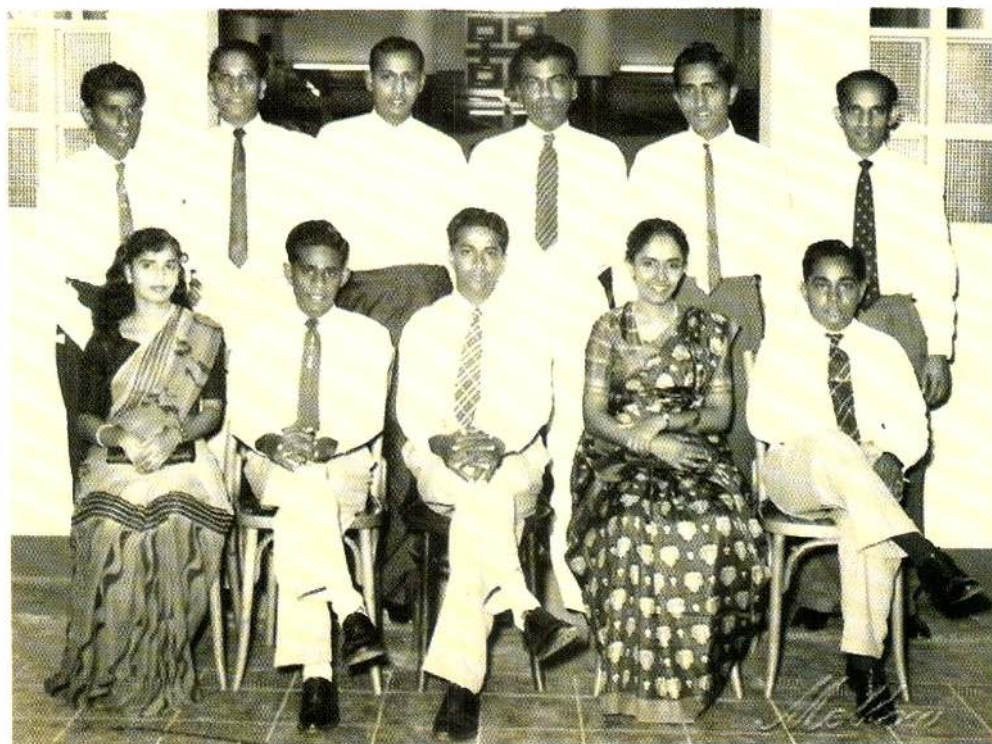
TPCA outing to the beach in Port Dickson, in the late 50s.



At another TPCA Deepavali function.



The TPCA Management Committee. 1963-1964.



The TPCA Youth section.



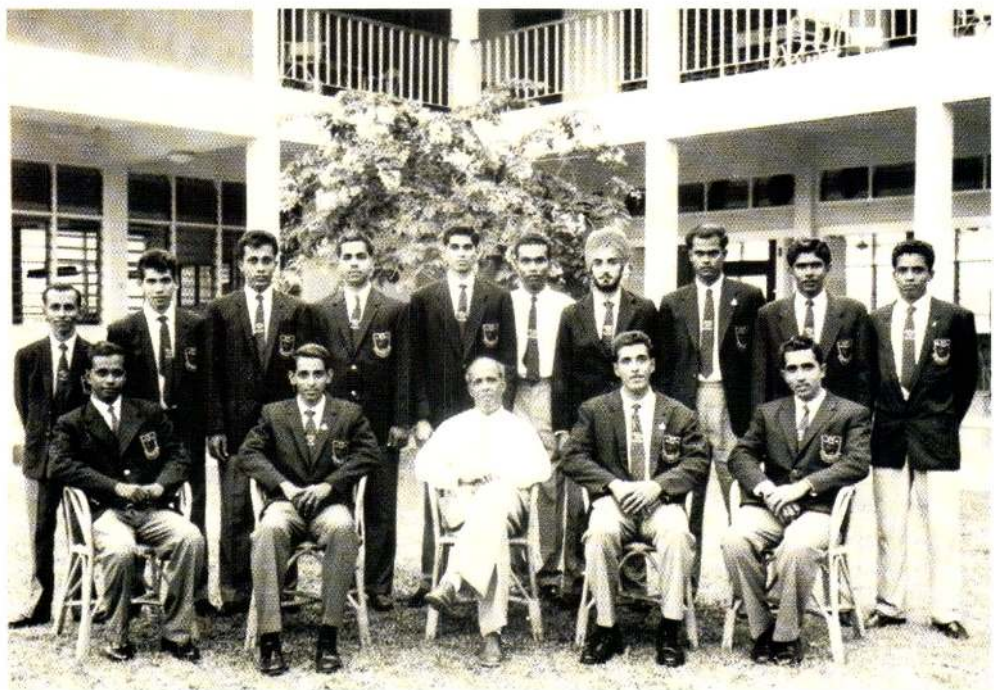
A grand send off - Perampalam leaving for India and Ceylon on a TPCA hockey tour.



Selangor Hockey Association knockout champions in 1968.



Meeting the then Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak.



*The TPCA team that toured India and Sri Lanka in 1960.
Photo taken with TPCA president Mr M Saminathan.*



The TPCA Management Committee. 1974 - 1975.



The TPCA general Committee – photo taken in 1979.



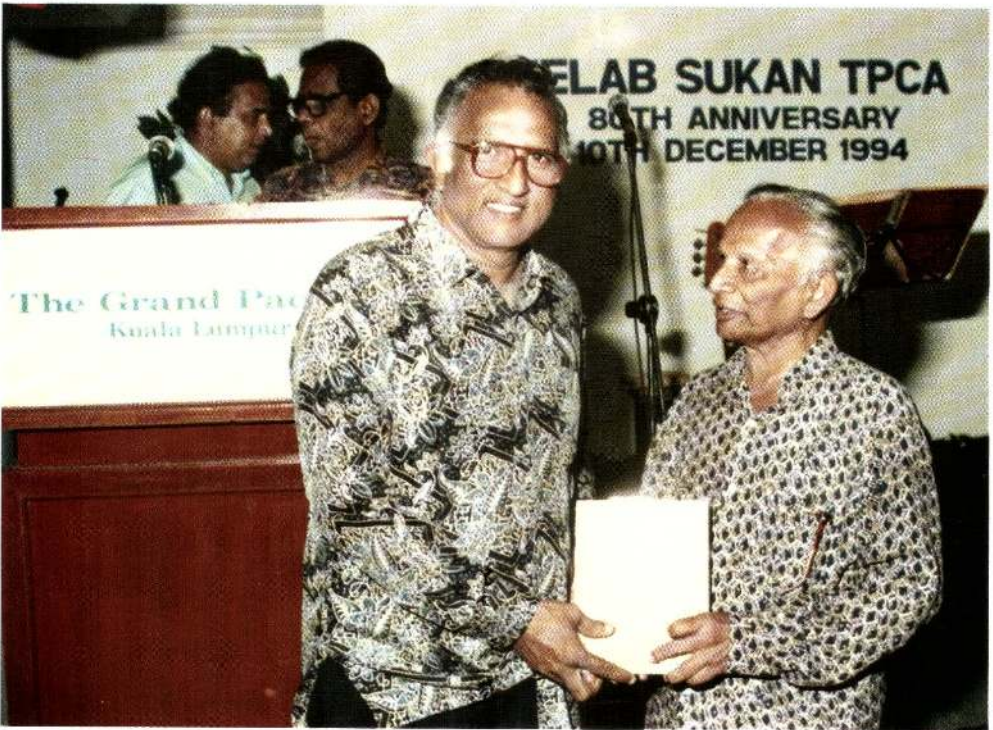
TPCA 85th Anniversary celebrations at the Concorde Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.



S. Perampalam, YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Ibni Almahrum Tunku Ja'afar, YM Che Engku Puan Sri Mahirah, and Dato' G. Vijayanathan.



*TPCA 80th Anniversary celebrations.
From left – Rajalingam, Dato' Roy Rajasingham, Tan Sri M. Jegathesan and C. Ayadurai.*



TPCA 80th Anniversary celebrations – honoring Mr Roberts.



At the TPCA Centenary Celebrations 2014, at the Hilton Petaling Jaya.



From left – Edwin Francis, Perampalam and OCM President YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran.



The Organising Committee of the TPCA Centenary Celebrations 2014.



The team cutting the anniversary cake.

List of Positions held by Perampalam Saravanamuthu

President: -

- Malaysian Ceylon Saivite Association (32 years) - 1982-2014
- Kelab Sukan TPCA (20 years) - 1994-2014

Vice President: -

- Selangor Hockey Association - 1982-2002
- Kelab Sukan TPCA - 1977-1993
- Statistics Sports Club - 1978-1980
- Perma (Founder Member) - 1975-1978

Honorary Secretary: -

- Malaysian Hockey Federation - 1986-1988
- Kampong Tunku Residents Association - 1970-1976
- Selangor Ceylon Tamil Association - 1974-1978
- Kelab Sukan TPCA - 1965-1968
- Statistics Sports Club - 1961-1968

Honorary Assistant Secretary: -

- Asian Hockey Federation - 1986-1988
- Malaysian Indian Sports Council - 1969-1979
- Selangor Hockey Association - 1959-1961

Honorary Treasurer:-

- Malaysian Hockey Federation - 1965-2002
- 10th Men's Hockey World Cup - 2002
- Selangor Hockey Federation - 1979-1981
- Selangor Government Services Sports Council - 1966-1970
- Kuala Lumpur Hindu Youths - 1955-1959

Chapter 13

Reflections from the Grandchildren



Fom left: Nila Anne, Ruthrainee, Dhaneshwara, Kishanea, Suhanya, Senure Lavanya, Visvar, Tharun.

“Grandpa has ears that truly listen, arms that always hold, love that’s never ending, and a heart that’s made of gold.” - Unknown

Our grandfather is one of the most upstanding patriots in our lives. To know our grandfather, lovingly called Tata by us eight grandchildren, one must first understand his humble beginnings. Tata has always abided by his three pillars of life - family, religion and community. He enjoys contributing to the community in many ways; nevertheless, he takes greater pleasure in spending time with his family. He believes that people get along best by being tolerable and even-tempered. Tata always says that being born human is the highest decree of birth. We grew up watching him being kind, honest and caring to others. He taught us that there is only one God, thus one should never criticize another's religion. He continuously stresses the importance of respecting everybody regardless of age, gender, race or belief.

Tata's values have influenced our lives for the better, teaching us to become respected members of our generation; humble in our thoughts, willing to face challenges, and committed to our responsibilities. He always aims for success, hardly failing as he worked hard and maintained life's exemplary attributes. Tata is sensible and level headed. He acknowledged his increasing age and deteriorating hearing, and this encouraged him to give up the reins of MCSA and TPCA to make way for the younger generation.

Tata's stories are short and self-contained with occasional punch lines. We are able to visualise his stories through his kaleidoscope of words and expressions, as he tells us tales of pride, humility, love, and camaraderie. These stories are not merely told for entertainment value as we are made to understand the significance behind it. This has shaped our way of thinking and has helped us a great deal. We especially enjoyed the stories about his sporting glory days, and his experiences from travelling to foreign countries. We looked forward to his big fat album which encased newspaper articles showcasing his sporting achievements. Tata also often brought us to the Bukit Jalil stadium to watch hockey tournaments. One of the highlights we remember was attending the 2002 Hockey World Cup which was hosted in Malaysia. It was a major sporting event at the time, and we were happy that Tata included us to be part of the hype and experience the excitement surrounding the event. When we actively participated in sports, he gave us a lot of advise and encouragement to excel in our chosen events, and took pride when we won medals and trophies in competitions.

Tata always put our wellbeing before his, ensuring we eat well, rest well, and focus on our studies. Growing up, we remember waiting for Sunday of most weeks to relish the mutton varuval and bone marrow curry at our grandparents' house. They would let us watch as much TV as we'd like and the fridge was always perfectly stocked; so we frequently reasoned with our parents to allow stay-overs at his house during the weekend. We relished the adventures we cousins had together during the time spent at our grandparents' house. Despite being just the four of us at the time (Ruthrainee, Suhanya, Visvar and Dhanesh), we were quite a handful.

We remember drawing on the walls, chasing each other all over the house, and damaging furniture by playing hockey and football in the living room.

One vivid memory that comes to mind was when we used to play catch – we would happily climb on and jump off the sofa. Our great-grandmother “Puttama” (Perampalam’s mother-in-law) would be sitting on her chair watching us, and ever so often we would accidentally stomp on her toes while playing. Old and frail, the usually quiet Puttama would suddenly exclaim in pain, and Tata would repeatedly warn us to be more cautious. Repeating this act several times, we were suddenly caught by surprise by Tata shouting “How many times do I have to tell you all not to play inside?!”. He and his trusty sidekick, Mr. Rotan, became the fifth participant in our game of catch, and gave us a good chase around the house!! In the last few years, we’ve seen Tata mellow down a lot. Our younger cousins are lucky to have not experienced his angry side. Now, he is often seen rocking them to sleep while singing lullabies.

We surely wish to be much like our Tata, who inspires us to strive for our best. Thank you Tata, for always being there for us, and encouraging us to live life to the fullest.

Ruthrainee, Suhanya, Visvar, Dhaneshwara, Senure Lavanya, Tharun, Kishanea, and Nila Anne.

Epilogue



“Men are free when they are obeying some deep, inward voice of religious belief. Obeying from within. Men are free when they belong to a living, organic, believing community, active in fulfilling some unfulfilled, perhaps unrealized purpose.” — D.H. Lawrence

Someone told me once that we should not regret growing older as it is a privilege denied to many. At 83, I feel truly blessed and grateful to have lived a joyous and peaceful life with my wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife like Satku, who has stood by me through thick and thin with her quiet and unassuming nature. Her love and gentle disposition lifted me from the darkest period of my life, and rejuvenated my sense of purpose. We feel lucky to be surrounded by the warmth and loving care of our children, children-in-law, and grandchildren.

From a young age, I was inspired by the concept of service above self, and I have always walked the path to serve mankind in order to make this world a better place. By the Almighty's Grace, I can proudly say that I have given my very best to fulfill my commitments and responsibilities to God, country, and family. Although family and friends have told me that I am a good son, brother, husband, father, friend or citizen, I can safely say I only succeeded with Him by my side. His Grace always came at the right moment to help me accomplish my tasks or overcome any obstacles. God has allowed me to gain good karma by paying it forward, being kind to others, and be of helpful service to the community.

I am very grateful to have family and friends who love and respect me endlessly. I am fortunate to have travelled far and wide to bear witness on how time and tide changed the world, and I hope to impart the knowledge and experiences gained to my children and grandchildren. I thank God for having my guardian angel Navamani watch over us and protect us, and I now seek His Grace to live my remainder years in happiness, good health, and prosperity.

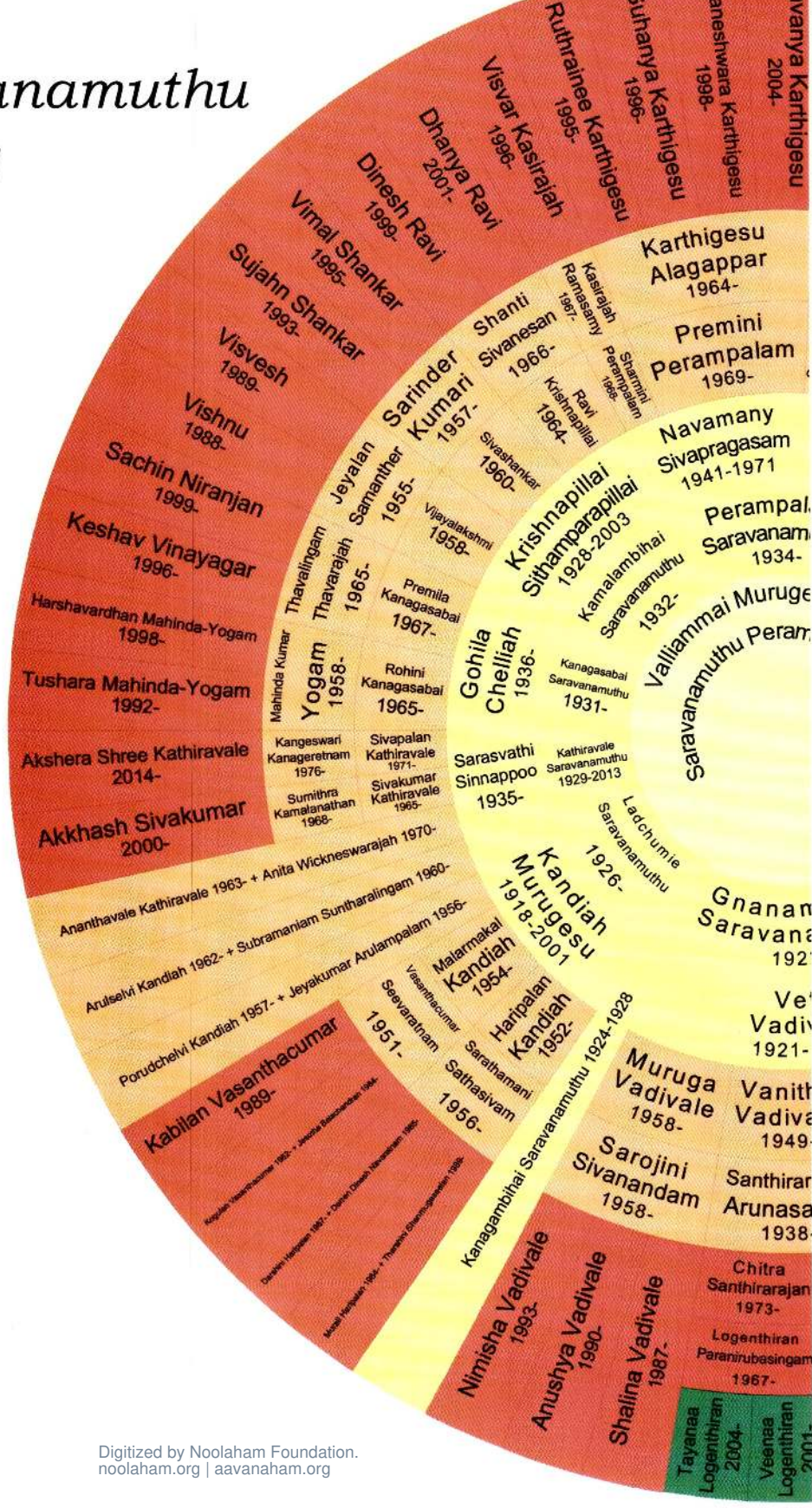
“Inbame Sulgha, Ellorum Vaalgha”

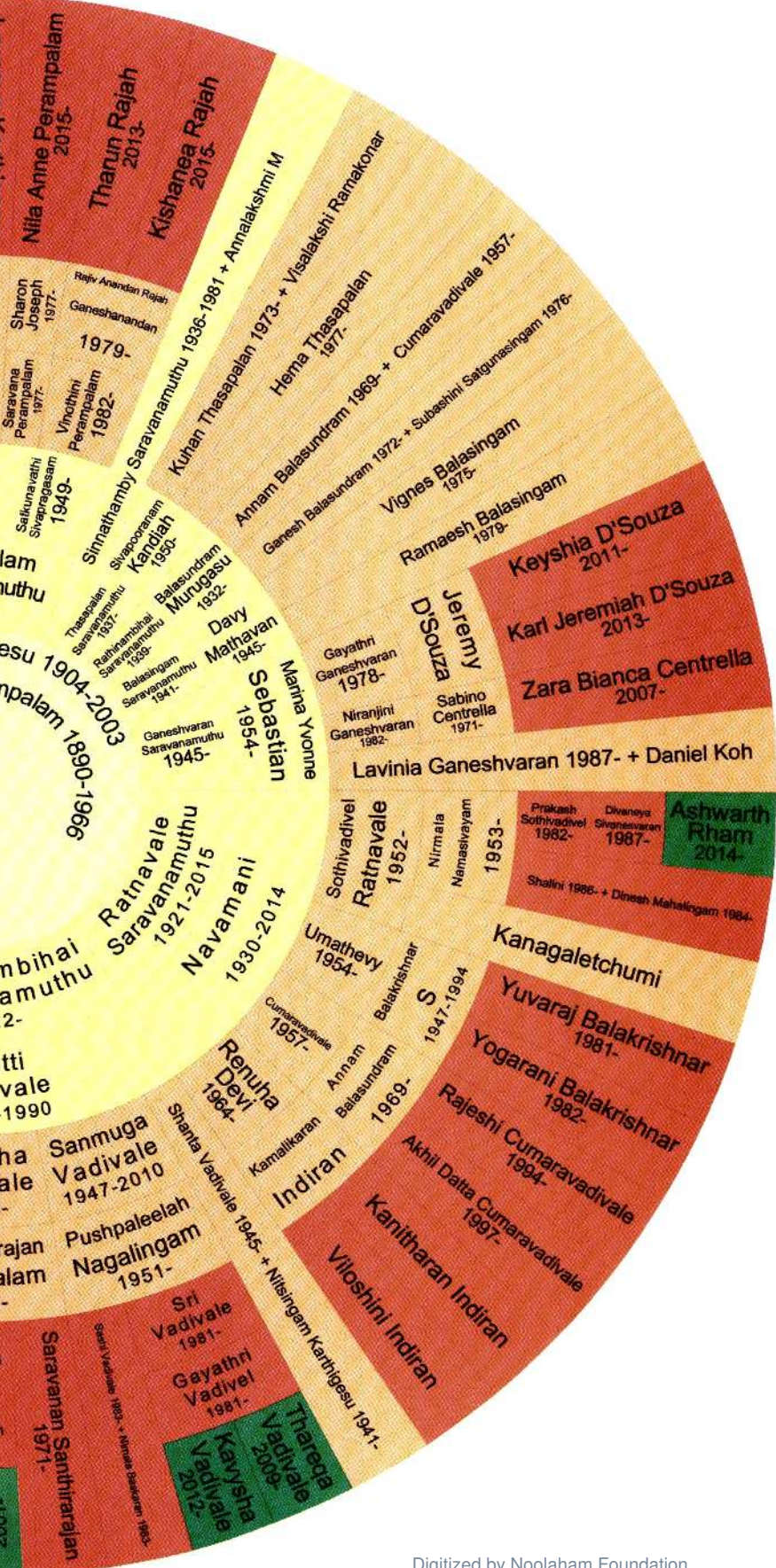
Perampalam Saravanamuthu



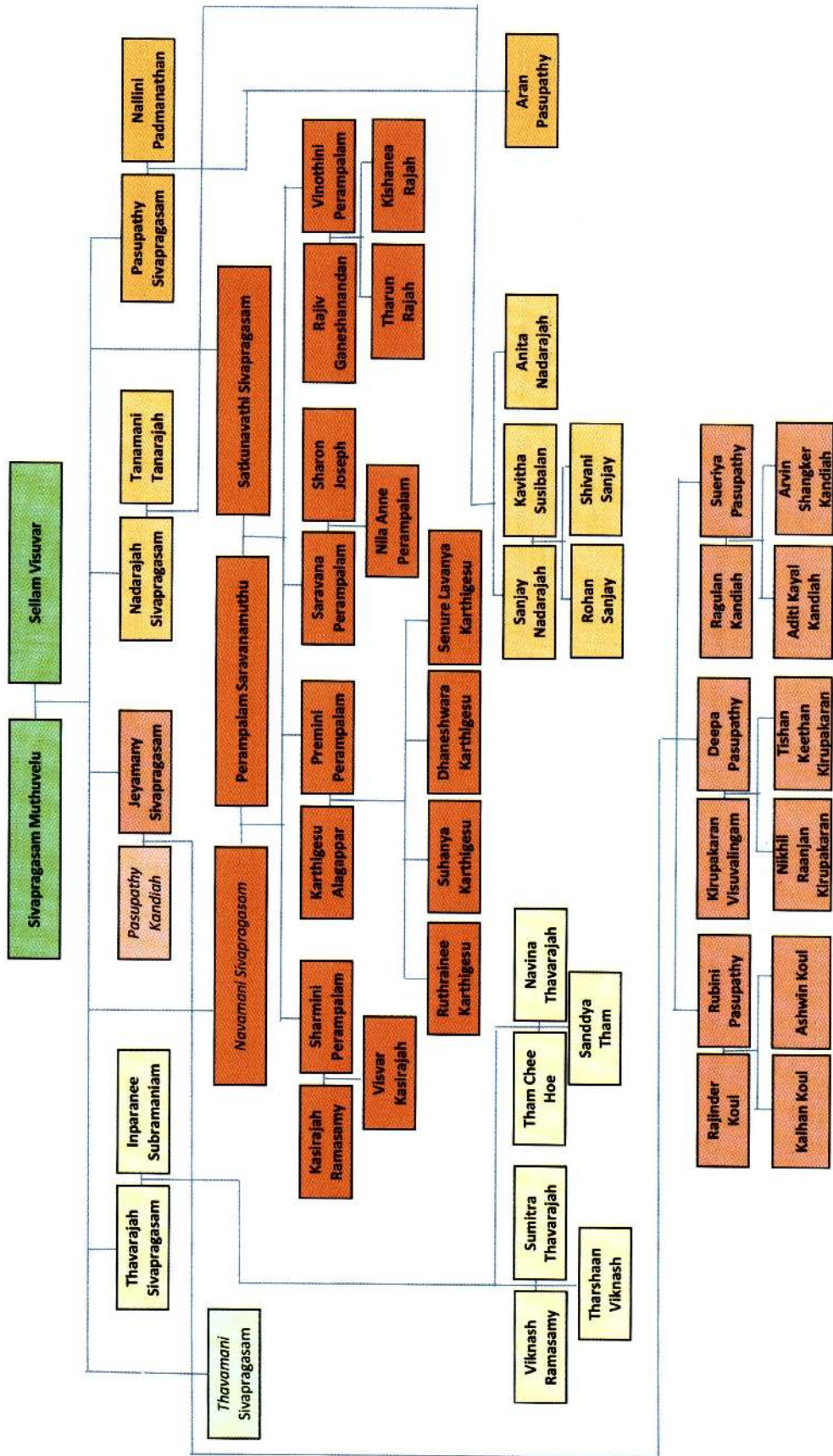
Family Tree

Saravanamuthu Family





Sivapragasam Family



Invictus

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.



A THOUSAND MOONS is the story of PERAMPALAM SARAVANAMUTHU. It takes us on a voyage from his experiences as a young boy from a big family, playing in the fields of KL, to his dedication & passion for sports and its development in the country. It talks about coping with loss, and how he courageously picked himself up to find a deep sense of service to community and devotion to God - rediscovering love & compassion along the way.