

SUREN

A Remarkable Journey



சுரேன்

தடம் பதித்த பயணம்

உ
சிவமயம்



மந்திரம்

சுக்லாம் ப்ரதரம் விஷ்ணும்
சசிவர்ணம் சதுர்ப்புஜம்
பிரசன்ன வதனம் தியாயேத்
சர்வ விக்ஞோப சாந்தயே

In Loving Memory of



RATNAVADIVEL SURENDRAN

President's Counsel

(16.12.1954 - 11.04.2016)

தீதீ வெண்பா

ஆண்டதாம் சீமன்த ஆகியோர் பங்குனியில்
புண்டதோர் வளர் திருதியையாம் ஈண்டுபுகழ்
சுரேந்தினாம் இவ்வுலக வாழ்வறுத்து
ஈசநாதர் பதஞ்சாந்த நாள்.

எமது அன்புத் தெய்வத்தின்
பாதார விந்தங்களுக்கு இம்மலர்

சமர்ப்பணம்

எமக்கெல்லாம் மாதா, பிதா, குரு தெய்வமாய் இருந்து
அளவில்லா அன்பைச் சொரிந்து அறிவுத்தாகத்தைக் கொடுத்து வாழும் வழியைக்
காட்டி இன்று விண்ணகம் சென்று விட்ட எம் அன்புக் குடும்பத்தலைவரின்
திருப்பாத கமலங்களிற்கு எமது நன்றி பொங்கும் இதய பூர்வமான காணிக்கை.

ஓம் சாந்தி ! சாந்தி ! சாந்தி !!!

பேரன்புடன்
மனைவி, மக்கள், சகோதரர்கள்

Dedication

*This is dedicated with our hearts brimming with solemn gratitude at the lotus feet of our
beloved Husband, Father, Brother and Guru who showered on us his love in abundance,
kindled in us the yearning for true knowledge, and guided us to tread the right path.*

Om Shanthi! Shanthi!! Shanthi!!!

*His ever loving
Wife, Children & Brothers*





பஞ்சபுராணம்

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

காப்பு

கஜானனம் பூத கணாதிலேவிதம்
கபித்த ஜம்புபல ஸார பசுவிதம்
உமாஸூதம் சோக வினாச காரணம்
நமாமி விக்னேஸ்வர பாத பங்கஜம்.

தேவாரம்

என்ன புண்ணியஞ் செய்தனை
நெஞ்சமே யிருங்கடல் வையத்து
முன்னம் நீபுரி நல்வினைப்
பயனிடை முழுமுணித் தரளங்கள்
மன்னு காவிரி கழ்திரு
வலஞ்சுழி வாணனை வாயாரப்
பன்னி யாதரித் தேத்தியும்
பாடியும் வழிபடும் அதனாலே.

திருவாசகம்

பால் நினைந்தாட்டும் தாயினும் சாலப்
பரிந்துநீ பாவியேனுடைய
ஊனினை உருக்கி உள்ஒளி பெருக்கி
உலப்பிலா ஆனந்தமாய்
தேனினைச் சொரிந்து புறம்புறம் திரிந்த
செவ்வமே சிவபெருமானே
யானுனைத் தொடர்ந்து சிக்கெனப் பிடித்தேன்
எங்கெழுந் தருளுவதீனியே.

திருவிசைப்பா

கற்றவர் விழுங்குங் கற்பகக் கனியைக்
கரையிலாக் கருணைமா கடலை
மற்றவவர் அறியா மாணிக்க மலையை
மதிப்பவர் மனமணி விளக்கைச்
செற்றவர் புரங்கள் செற்றவெஞ் சிவனைத்
திருவீழி மிழலை வீற் றிருந்த
கொற்றவன்றன்னைக் கண்டுகண் டுள்ளங்
குளிர என் கண்குளிந் தனவே

திருப்பல்லாண்டு

சீரும் திருவும் பொலியச் சிவலோக
நாயகன் சேவடிக்கீழ்
ஆரும் பெறாத வறிவு பெற்றேன்
பெற்றதார் பெறுவாருலகில்
ஊரு முனுகுங் கழற வழறி
யுமைமண வாளுனாக்காட்
பாரும் விசம்பு மறியும் பரிசுநாம்
பல்லாண்டு கூறுதுமே.

திருப்புராணம்

வேதநெறி தழைத்தோங்க
மிகுசைவத் துறைவிளங்கப்
பூதபரம் பரைபொலியப்
புனிதவாய் மலர்ந்தமுத
சீதவள வயற்புகலித்
திருஞான சம்பந்தர்
பாதமலர் தலைக்கொண்டு
திருத்தொண்டு பரவுவாம்.

திருப்புகழ்

ஏறுமயில் ஏறி விளையாடும் முகம் ஒன்றே
ஈசருடன் ஞானமொழி பேசும் முகம் ஒன்றே
கூறும் அடியார்கள் வினை தீர்க்கும் முகம் ஒன்றே
குன்று உருவ வேல் வாங்கி நின்ற முகம் ஒன்றே
மாறுபடு சூரரை வதைத்த முகம் ஒன்றே
வள்ளியை மணம் புணர வந்த முகம் ஒன்றே
ஆறுமுகம் ஆன பொருள் நீ அருளல் வேண்டும்
ஆதி அருணாசலம் அமர்ந்த பெருமாளே.
ஆதி அருணாசலம் அமர்ந்த பெருமாளே.

வாழ்த்து

வான்முகில் வழாது பெய்க மலிவளம் சுரக்க மன்னன்
கோன்முறை அரசு செய்க குறைவிலாதுயிர்கள் வாழ்க
நான்மறை யறங்கள் ளோங்க நற்றவம் வேள்வி மல்க
மேன்மை கொள் சைவநீதி விளங்குக உகைமெல்லாம்

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

விநாயகர் அகவல்

சீதக் களபச் செந்தாமரைப்பூம்
 பாதச் சிலம்பு பல இசை பாட
 பொன் அரைஞாணும் பூந்துகி லாடையும்
 வன்ன மருங்கில் வளர்ந்தழகெறிப்பப்
 பேழை வயிறும் பெரும் பாரக் கோடும்
 வேழ முகமும் விளங்கு சிந்தாரமும்
 அஞ்சுகரமும் அங்குச பாசமும்
 நெஞ்சிற் குடி கொண்ட நீலமேனியும்
 நானற் வாயும் நாலிரு புயமும்
 மூன்று கண்ணும் மும்மதச் சுவடும்
 இரண்டு செவியும் இலங்கு பொன் முடியும்
 திரண்ட முப்புரிநூல் திகழொளி மார்பும்
 சொற்பதம் கடந்த துரிய மெய்க்குஞான
 அற்புத னீன்ற கற்பகக் களிநே!
 முப்பழம் நுகரும் மூகூழி வாஹன!
 இப்பொழு தென்னை ஆட்கொள்ள வேண்டித்
 தாயாயெனக்குத் தானேழுந்தருளி
 மாயப்பிறவி மயக்க மறந்துத்
 திருந்திய முதல் ஐந்தெழுத்துந் தெளிவாய்ப்
 பொருந்தவே வந்தென் உளந்தனிற் புகுந்து
 குரவடி வாகிக் குவலயந் தன்னில்
 திருவடி வைத்துத் திரமிது பொருளென
 வாடா வகைதான் மகிழ்ந்தெனக் கருளிக்
 கோடாயுத்தாற் கொடுவினை களைந்தே
 உவட்டா உபதேசம் புகட்டி என் செவியில்
 தெவிட்டாத ஞானத்தெளிவையும் காட்டி
 ஐம்புலன் தன்னை அடக்கம் உபாயம்
 இன்புறு கருணையின் இனிதெனக் கருளி
 கருவிகள் ஒடுங்குங் கருத்தினை அறிவித்து
 இருவினை தன்னை அறுத்திருள் கடிந்து
 தலமொரு நான்கும் தந்தெனக் கருளி
 மலமொரு மூன்றின் மயக்கமறுத்தே
 ஒன்பது வாயில் ஒரு மந்திரத்தால்
 ஐம்புலக் கதவை அடைப்பதுங் காட்டி
 ஆறாதாரத் தங்குச நிலையும்
 பேறா நிறுத்திப் பேச்சுரை அறுத்தே

இடை பிங்கலையின் எழுத்தறிவித்துக்
 கடையிற் கழுமுனைக் கபாலமும் காட்டி
 மூன்று மண்டலத்தின் முட்டிய தூணின்
 நான்றெழு பாம்பின் நாவிலுணர்த்திக்
 குண்டலி யதனிற் கூடிய அசபை
 விண்டெழு மந்திரம் வெளிப்பட உரைத்து
 மூலாதாரத்தின் மூண்டெழு கணலைக்
 காலாலெழுப்புங் கருத்தறி வித்தே
 அமுதநிலையும் ஆதித்தன் இயக்கும்
 குமத சகாயன் குணத்தையுங் கூறி
 இடைச்சக்கரத்தின் ஈரெட்டு நிலையம்
 உடற்சக்கரத்தின் உறு ப்பையுங் காட்டிச்
 சண்டுக தூலமும் சதுர்முக சூக்ஷ்மம்
 எண் முகமாக இனிதெனக் கருளிப்
 புரியட்ட காயம் புலப்பட எனக்குத்
 தெரியெட்டு நிலையும் தெரிசனப்படுத்திக்
 கருத்தினிற் கபால வாயில் காட்டி
 இருத்திமுத்தி இனிதெனக் கரளி
 என்னை அறிவித்து எனக் கருள் செய்து
 முன்னை வினையின் முதலைக் களைந்தே
 வாக்கும் மனமும் இல்லா மனோலயம்
 தேக்கியே எந்தன் சிந்தை தெளிவித்து
 இருள்வெளி இரண்டுக்கு ஒன்றிடமென்ன
 அருள்தரும் ஆனந்தத்து அமுத்தி என் செவியில்
 எல்லையில்லா ஆனந்தம் அளித்து
 அல்லல் களைந்தே அருள் வழிகாட்டிச்
 சத்தத்தினுள்ளே சதாசிவங் காட்டிச்
 சித்தத்தினுள்ளே சிவலிங்கங் காட்டி
 அணுவிற் கணுவாய் அப்பாணுக் கப்பாலாய்
 கணுமுற்றி நின்ற கரும்புள்ளே காட்டி
 வேடமும் நீறும் விளங்க நிறுத்திக்
 கூடுமெய்த் தொண்டர் குழாத்துடன் கூட்டி
 அஞ்சுக் கரத்தின் அரும் பொருள் தன்னை
 நெஞ்சக் கருத்தின் நிலையறிவித்துத்
 தத்துவ நிலையைத் தந்தெனையாண்ட
 வித்தக! விநாயக! விரைகழல் சரணே!

அத்துவிதப் பொருள் காப்பாம்
(யோகர் சுவாமி அருளியது)



அத்துவி தப்பொருள் காப்பாம் - எனக்
கடியார்க் ளென்றென்றுங் காப்பாம்
சித்தரும் தேவரும் காப்பாம் - எந்தன்
சித்தத் திலங்கும் திருவருள் காப்பாம்

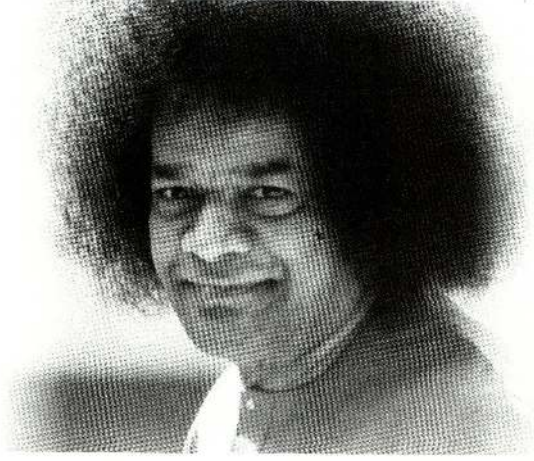
அட்ட வசுக்களும் காப்பாம் எனக்
கானந்த மான பராபரங் காப்பாம்
எட்டுத் திசைகளும் காப்பாம் - எனக்
கெங்கும் நிறைந்த சிவசக்தி காப்பாம்

பிராண னபானனுங் காப்பாம் - என்னைப்
பிரியா திருக்கும் பிரணவங் காப்பாம்
அராவணி வேணியன் காப்பாம் - எனக்
கருளை அளிக்கும் குருபரன் காப்பாம்

பஞ்சப் புலன்களும் காப்பாம் - என்னைப்
பரவு மடியவ ரனுதினங் காப்பாம்
குஞ்சர முகத்தவன் காப்பாம் - நல்ல
குழந்தை வடிவேலன் என்றென்றுங் காப்பாம்

சந்திர சூரியர் காப்பாம் - எங்கும்
தங்கு முயிர்க ளனைத்துமென் காப்பாம்
மந்திரந் தந்திரங் காப்பாம் - நான்கு
மறைகள் சிவாகமம் மாறிலங் காப்பாம் (அத்து)

பகவான் ஸ்ரீ சத்திய சாயி பாபா
அஷ்டோத்தர சத நாமாவளி
SAI STHOTHRAS & BAJANS



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ பகவான் ஸ்த்ய ஸாயி பாபாய நம: | 26. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஆபஸ்தம்ப சூத்திராய நம: |
| 2. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஸாயி ஸ்த்ய ஸ்வரூபாய நம: | 27. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ அபய ப்ரதாய நம: |
| 3. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஸ்த்ய தர்ம பராயணாய நம: | 28. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ரத்னாகர வம்சோத்பவாய நம: |
| 4. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ வரதாய நம: | 29. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சாயி கூழிடி ஸாயி அபேத சக்தி அவதாராய நம: |
| 5. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சத் புருஷாய நம: | 30. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சங்கராய நம: |
| 6. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சத்ய குணாத்மனே நம: | 31. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ கூழிடி ஸாயி மூர்த்தயே நம: |
| 7. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சாது வர்தனாய நம: | 32. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ துவாரகா மாயி வாஸினே நம: |
| 8. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சாது ஜன போக்ஷணாய நம: | 33. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சித்ராவதி தடபுட்டபர்த்தி விஹாரினே நம: |
| 9. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வக் ஞாய நம: | 34. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சக்தி ப்ரதாய நம: |
| 10. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ ஜன ப்ரியாய நம: | 35. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சரணாகத த்ராணாய நம: |
| 11. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ சக்தி மூர்த்தயே நம: | 36. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஆனந்தாய நம: |
| 12. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வேசாய நம: | 37. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஆனந்த தாய நம: |
| 13. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ சங்க பரித்யாகினே நம: | 38. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஆர்த்த த்ராண பராபணாய நம: |
| 14. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வாந்தர் யாமினே நம: | 39. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ அனாத நாதாய நம: |
| 15. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ மஹிமாத்த்மனே நம: | 40. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ அஸஹயா சஹாயாய நம: |
| 16. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ மஹேஸ்வர ஸ்வரூபாய நம: | 41. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ லோக பாந்தவாய நம: |
| 17. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ பர்த்தி கிராமோத் பவாய நம: | 42. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ லோக ரக்ஷா பராயணாய நம: |
| 18. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ பர்த்தி கேஷத்திர நிவாசினே நம: | 43. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ லோக நாதாய நம: |
| 19. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ யசகாய ஷிர்டி வாசினே நம: | 44. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ தீனஜன போக்ஷணாய நம: |
| 20. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ ஜோடி ஆதிபள்ளி சோம்பபாய நம: | 45. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ மூர்த்தி த்ரய ஸ்வரூபாய நம: |
| 21. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ பரத்வாஜ ரிஷி கோத்ராய நம: | 46. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ முக்தி ப்ரதாய நம: |
| 22. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த வத்ஸலாய நம: | 47. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ கல்குக்ஷ விதாராய நம: |
| 23. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ அபாந்தராமத்மாய நம: | 48. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ கருணாகராய நம: |
| 24. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ அவதார மூர்த்தயே நம: | 49. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ தாராய நம: |
| 25. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ பய நிவாரினே நம: | 50. ஒம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ ஹ்ருத வாசினே நம: |

51. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ புண்ய பலப்ரதாய நம:
52. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ பாப ஷூயகராய நம:
53. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ ரோக நிவாரிணே நம:
54. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ பாத ஹராய நம:
55. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆனந்தநுத கர்த்தாய நம:
56. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆதி புருஷாய நம:
57. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆதி சக்தயே நம:
58. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ அபரூப சக்திணே நம:
59. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ அவ்யக்த ரூபிணே நம:
60. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ காம க்ரோத த்வம்ஸஜணே நம:
61. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சாயி கனகாம்பர தாரிணே நம:
62. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ அற்புத சர்யாய நம:
63. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆபத் பாந்தவாய நம:
64. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ப்ரேமாந்மணே நம:
65. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ப்ரேம மூர்த்தயே நம:
66. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ப்ரேம ப்ரதாய நம:
67. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ப்ரியாய நம:
68. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த ப்ரியாய நம:
69. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த மந்தாராய நம:
70. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த ஜன ஹ்ருதய விஹாராய நம:
71. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த ஜன ஹ்ருதயாலாய நம:
72. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்த பராதீனாய நம:
73. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்தி ஞான ப்ரதீபாய நம:
74. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பக்தி ஞான ப்ரதாய நம:
75. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சுக்ஞான மார்க்க தர்சகாய நம:
76. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஞான சித்தி தாய நம:
77. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ கீதா போதகாய நம:
78. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஞான சித்தி தாய நம:
79. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சுந்ரதர ரூபாய நம:
80. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ புண்ய புருஷாய நம:
81. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பலப்ரதாய நம:
82. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ புருஷோத்தமாய நம:
83. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ புராண புருஷாய நம:
84. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ அத்தீதாய நம:
85. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ காலா தீதாய நம:
86. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சித்தி ரூபாய நம:
87. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சித்த சங்கல்பாய நம:
88. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆரோகடகமூய ப்ரதாய நம:
89. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ அன்ன வஸ்திர தாய நம:
90. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சம்சாரதுக்க ஷூயகராய நம:
91. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வாபீக்ஷட் ப்ரதாய நம:
92. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ கல்யாண குணாய நம:
93. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ கர்ம த்வம்ஸிணே நம:
94. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சாயி சாத மானஸ சோ பிதாய நம:
95. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வமத சம்மதாய நம:
96. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சாது மானஸ பரிசோதகாய நம:
97. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சாதகானுகர் ஹ வடவ்ருக்ஷ ப்ரதிஷ்டாப காய நம:
98. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சகல சம்சய ஹராய நம:
99. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சகல தத்வ போதகாய நம:
100. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ யோகீஸ்வராய நம:
101. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ யோகீந்த்ர வந்திதாய நம:
102. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ மங்கள கராய நம:
103. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சர்வ சித்தி ப்ரதாய நம:
104. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆபந் நிவாரிணே நம:
105. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ஆர்த்தி ஹராய நம:
106. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ சாந்த மூர்த்தயே நம:
107. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ கலப ப்ரசன்னாய நம:
108. ஓம் ஸ்ரீ பகவான் ஸ்ரீ சத்ய ஸாயி பாபாய நம:

மங்களம்! மங்கள்! மங்களம்!

சாயி பஜன்கள்

1. விநாயகா விநாயகா
விஸ்வா தாரா விநாயகா
சித்தி விநாயகா பவ பய நாசா
சுரமுனி வந்தித ஸ்ரீ கணேசா
2. சத் குர நாதணே வா வா வா
சச்சி தானந்தணே வா வா வா
சர்வ தயாளணே வா வா வா
சத்ய சாயி நாதணே வா வா வா

3. சந்த்ர சேகராய நம ஓம்
கங்கா தராய நம ஓம்
ஓம் நம சிவாய நம ஓம்
ஹர ஹர ஹராய நம ஓம்
சிவ சிவ சிவாய நம ஓம்
சாயீஸ்வராய நம ஓம் - சத்ய (2)
4. சத்ய ஸ்வரூபிணி மா - சாயி
ப்ரேம ஸ்வரூபிணி மா ஸ்ரீ ஜய
ஆனந்த தாயினி ஹ்ருதய விஹாரிணி
பர்த்தி நிவாசிணி மா
விக்ன விநாசிணி பவ பய ஹாரிணி
காளி கபாலினி மா
த்ரி புவன பாலினி மாங்கள தாயினி
மோக்ஷ ப்ரதாயினி மா - (பரமானந்த தாயினி)
5. சிவ குமாரனே சக்தி பாலனே வா வா வா
சரவணபவனே ஷண்முக வேலா வா வா வா
ஓம் காராத் தத்துவமே நீ வா வா வா
(புட்ட) பர்த்தி புரீஸ்வர சாயி நாதா வா வா வா (சிவகுமாரனே)
கந்தா வா வா வா வேலா வா வா வா சாயி வா வா வா
6. இராம நாம தாரகம் சதா பஜோரே சதா பஜோரே
இராம இராம இராம ஜெய் கோதண்ட இராமா
இராம இராம இராம ஜெய் கல்யாண இராமா
இராம இராம இராம ஜெய் பட்டாபி இராமா
இராம இராம இராம ஜெய் பிரசாந்தி இராமா
7. முரளி க்ருஷ்ணா முருந்தா க்ருஷ்ணா
மோஹன க்ருஷ்ணா க்ருஷ்ணா க்ருஷ்ணா
கோபி க்ருஷ்ணா கோபால க்ருஷ்ணா
கோவர்த்தன தர க்ருஷ்ணா
ராதா க்ருஷ்ணா பால க்ருஷ்ணா
ராச விலோலா க்ருஷ்ணா க்ருஷ்ணா
சீரடி க்ருஷ்ணா பர்த்தி க்ருஷ்ணா
ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயி க்ருஷ்ணா க்ருஷ்ணா
8. சிாடி சாயி துவாரகா மாயி
ப்ரசாந்தி வாசி சாயி ராம்
சாயி ராம் சாயி ராம் ஏக நாம் சந்த்ர நாம்
அல்லா ஈஸ்வர சாயி ராம்
பர்த்தி புரிகே ஹே பகவான்
தயாகரோ தயாகரோ தயாகரோ ஹே பகவான்
தயாகரோ க்ருபாகரோ தயாகரோ ஹே பகவான்
சாயி ராம் சாயி ராம் ஏக நாம் சந்த்ர நாம்

**ஸ்ரீ ரமணமகரிஷி அவர்களால்தயற்றப்பட்ட
ஸ்ரீ அருணாசல அக்ஷர் மணமாலை**

தருணா ஸுணமணி கிரணா வலிநிகர்
தரும ஸுஹமண மகிழ்மாலை
தெருணா டியதிரு வடியார் தெருமரல்
தெளியப் பரவுதல் பொருளாக
கருணா கரமுனி ரமணா ரியனுவ
கையினாற் சொலியது கதியாக
வருணா சலமென வகமே யறிவொடு
மாழ்வார் சிவனுல காள்வாரே.

முகவை கண்ண முரகனார்

காப்பு
அருணாசல வரக்கேற்ற வக்ஷரமண மாலைசாற்றக்
கருணாகர் கணபதியே கரமருளிக் காப்பாயே

நூல்
அருணாசல சிவ அருணாசல சிவ
அருணாசல சிவ அருணாசல
அருணாசல சிவ அருணாசல சிவ
அருணாசல சிவ அருணாசல

உரை
அருணா சலமென வகமே நினைப்பவ
ரகத்தைவே ரறுப்பா யருணாசலா

1

அழகுந் தரம்போ ககமும் நீயுமுற்
றபின்னமா யிருப்போ மருணாசலா

2

அகம்புகுந் தீர்த்துன் னககுக்கை சிறையா
யமர்வித்த தென்கொல லருணாசலா

3

ஆரக் காவெனை யாண்டனை யகற்றிடி
லகிலம் பழித்திடு மருணாசலா

4

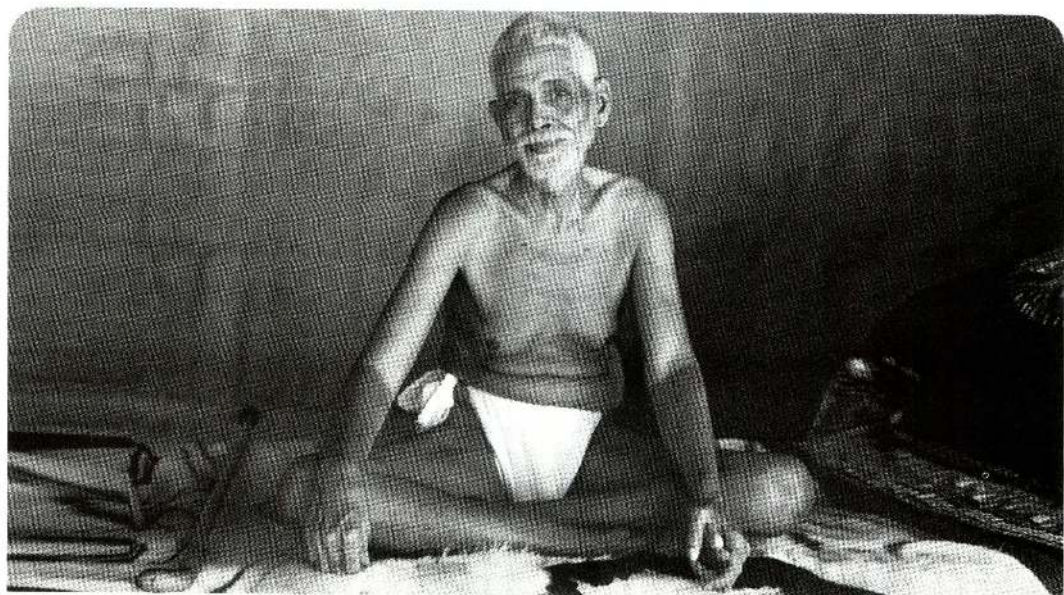
இப்பழி தப்புனை யேனினைப் பித்தா
யினியார் விடுவா ரருணாசலா

5

ஈன்றிடு மன்னையிற் பெரிதருள் புரிவோ
யிதுவோ வுனதரு ளருணாசலா

6

உனையே மாற்றி யோடா துளத்தின்மே ஹதியா யிருப்பா யருணாசலா	7
ஊர்சுற் றுளம்விடா துணைக்கண டடங்கிட வுன்னழ கைக்காட் டருணாசலா	8
எனையழித் திப்போ தெனைக்கல வாவிடி லிதுவோ வாண்மை யருணாசலா	9
ஏனிந்த வறக்க மெனைப்பிற ரிழுக்க விதுவனக் கழுகோ வருணாசலா	10
ஐம்புலக் கள்வ ரகத்தினிற் புகும்போ தகத்தினீ யிலையோ வருணாசலா	11
ஒருவனா முன்னை யொளித்தெவர் வருவா ருள்கு தேயிது வருணாசலா	12
ஓங்கா ரப்பொரு ளொப்புயர் வில்லோ யுனையா ரறிவா ரருணாசலா	13
ஒளவைபோ லெனக்குன் னருளைத் தந்தெனை யாளுவ துன்கட னரணாசலா	14





A Remarkable Journey - A Brief Sketch



Suren was a personification of love and a pillar of strength not only to his family and friends, but also to all those who knew him well, including those in the legal profession. The power in his words were so soothing and magical that it always rendered solace and comfort to all those who come to him with various problems.

The sad and sudden demise of Surendran came as a shock not only to his family members but to all those who knew him well in his legal profession and his friends and colleagues. His kindness and love will be dearly missed by all those who knew him.

The words of Swamy (Sri Sathya Sai Baba) fit him well.

“The human heart is like a pen.

The colour of the words written will be the same as the ink in the pen.

Likewise, when you fill the heart with love,

All that you think, say and do

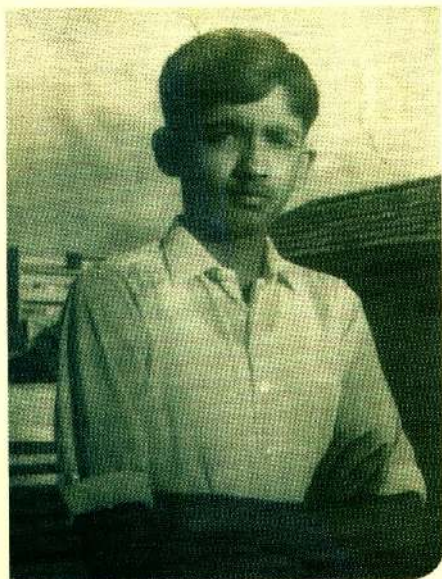
Will be filled with love”

Early days and spiritual background



Suren on his 1st Birthday

Suren was born in 1954 in Nallur Jaffna to Sri Arumugam Ratnavadivel (Iyah) and mother Ratneswari. His father was a true *servitor* of the Lord, who shone as a luminous star in the spiritual firmament for many decades. He brought up young Suren and his brothers, Narendran and Gathatharan, in that spiritual atmosphere. Suren's father took him to many religious satsangs and talks from the time he was two years old. He received the blessings



Suren at Sindhi Sai Centre

of a great Swamy (Saint Vaarivaara Udasin Baba Sri Pooran Dasji Muhary -108 years old) who came down from the Himalayas to Mr. Hidramani's home.

Suren was initiated by Swamy Ramadas at the age of seven. He had also got the blessings of Yogar Swamigal (Jaffna) at the age of five. He has visited many famous temples in India with his parents and brothers. The boundless Grace of the Yuga Avatar, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, was received by him on 15th August 1967. He was 13 years when Swamy called his family for an interview and embraced Suren, calling him "Bangaru" in Telugu (Golden boy.) He has had many Dharshans of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and also followed the Summer Course in the year 1979.

This time he experienced Baba's Aura every morning where Swamy gave Dharshan from his balcony. Swamy's discourses to the students with His resonating voice left a lasting impression on Suren's personality. Suren used to mention that it was Swamy's speeches that helped him to become a better orator.

Suren's spiritual experiences with Shiridi Sai baba were many. He always did his best to go to Shiridi when time permitted. Suren was very lavish in making donations for various Sai activities (medical, education and mass feeding) in Shiridi, Puttaparthi and Sri Lanka. His spiritual journey and going to Puttaparthi continued even after Swamy's Maha Samadhi. His last pilgrimage to Puttaparthi was in August 2015.

He basked in the sunshine of Divine Love radiated by such saints of high spiritual eminence for considerable length of time and he imbibed virtues like honesty, righteousness, charity, forgiveness, calmness, and benevolence. Having experienced this spiritual wisdom, he felt that it was his duty to pass this flame to other spiritual seekers, which he did as a service at the Lotus feet of Bhagavan Baba.

In 2010, he compiled and published a book in memory of his Father, Ratnavadivel Iyah, titled "Sai Sahaptham". In 2014



Suren delivering a speech at Kotahena Sai Samithi

he released a DVD “Sai Dharshan” in memory of both his parents. On Swamy’s Birth Anniversary, 23rd November 2015, Suren published a book named “Eternal Glory of Immortal Sai” (collecting devotee’s experiences from books and Radio Sai Programmes.) This work was started in September 2015. Suren fell sick in October but with Swamy’s Grace and strength he was able to successfully accomplish this work and it was distributed to all the Sai centres in the Island. His aim was that Swamy’s message should reach all the devotees and that they should experience the manifestation of the Divine Avatar.

Education and formative years

His Amma (Mrs. Ratneswari) took the lead in the education of her children. Suren fondly recalls his first day at school “when Amma took me as a toddler to my cherished *alma mater*, Jaffna Central College, she told me the most important thing in one’s life is education”. He excelled in his studies and extracurricular activities, winning many prizes for academic excellence. He also won prizes for English Oration, General Knowledge and general proficiencies. He had the distinction of winning 1st prize for General knowledge for seven successive years (from 1967 – 1973). He was a college Prefect and President of the Advanced Level Students Union (1973). He was also the House Captain of Percival House (1972) and President of the Hindu Union (1972). Suren represented his college at many inter-college debates and oratorical contests, held both at the district and provincial levels and won numerous 1st prizes.

Suren’s Amma also encouraged her children to blossom in extracurricular activities. But she was quite particular that whatever games or contests they took part, they should be at their study tables by 6 o’clock in the evening. This rule



Standing outside his school premises in 2003



Suren participating in a School drama (Court room Scene)

was enforced very strictly and they adhered to it. It was his Amma who kindled his interest in reading. She enrolled Suren at a tender age of 6 years to the U.S Information Centre and when he was 8 years old to the Jaffna Public Library. From that time onwards Suren became a voracious reader. He read on all subjects, ranging from

history, geography, politics and science to religion. Swamy Vivekananda's writings greatly inspired him when he was in his teens. He also read the Gospel of Swamy Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Ramana Maharishi, Paramahansa Yogananda, Sri Aurobindo, Yogar Swarmigal, Thirukkural, Periyapuram, Ramayanam and Mahabharatham. It goes without saying that he used to be engrossed when reading Swamy's stories (Sri Sathya Sai Baba & Shirdi Sai Baba books). His face always shone and radiated with divinity when he read Swamy's books. He was not only seeped in Swamy's teachings but also put them into practice as a true Devotee. In addition to that, classics from Shakespeare, Bernard Shaw and Milton were also a part of his regular reading.

Surendan, a great orator

Suren was an eminent lawyer of our times, a President's counsel and a Professor of Law. He has spoken in many seminars on commercial law as well as condominium and property law. When Suren stood in front of the podium, the audience was lost in his captivating voice, strength and dignity. He bore a light in his eyes with an imposing appearance. As Suren begins a speech, his resonating deep rich voice would enthrall the audience. His choice of words and the substance of his speech usually created a lasting impression on many young people who drew inspiration from his wisdom. He had the easy ability to speak on any subject with authority and had a keen sense for world history and politics- in addition to legal topics, ethics and philosophy- which drew in people with all sorts of interests to listen to him spellbound.

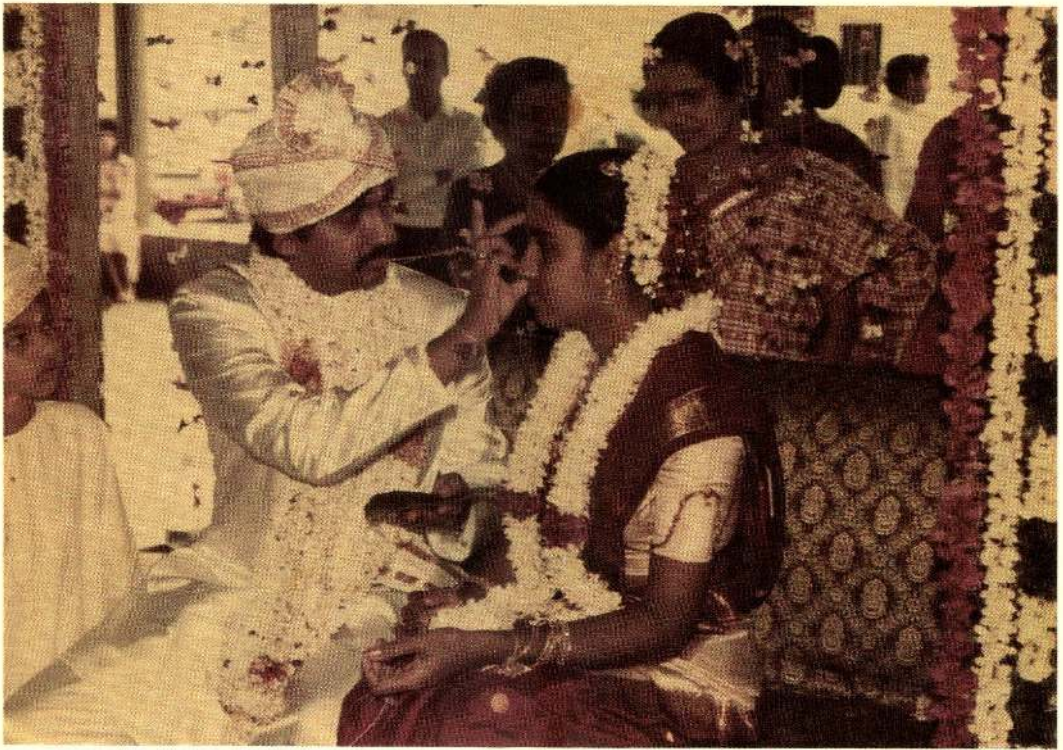


Speaking as the President of the A/L Student Union - Jaffna Central collage (1973)

His 2014 address at the Theosophical Society was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the members. As the President of the Vivekananda Society he presided in many meetings and gave many speeches on Swamy Vivekananda. He has commemorated Sir Pon. Ramanadan Memorial functions and spoken on behalf of the Vivekananda Society. His speeches at Colombo University (Tamil cultural day) and Jaffna Law faculty were astounding. When Suren was invited as the Chief Guest for the Annual Prize Giving of his school, Central College Jaffna,



Addressing at a Law conference (BASL)



he delivered a speech that was well received by the students. He also spoke at the Sri Sathya Sai Educare Programme on Swamy's 83rd Birthday at the Ramakrishna Mission. The numerous occasions he was invited to speak, on varied subjects, are a testament to his prowess in being a captivating speaker.

Family Life: His wife and children

On the 24th of November 1984, Surendran married Renukadevi, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Murugesu. Renuka was brought up in a spiritual environment with the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Her marriage to Suren, who was an ardent Sai devotee, made it a perfect match. It was indeed the marriage



With Children Prashanthan, Pradharshini & Pavithra

of two hearts and minds, the joining of two souls who have lived their lives in complete faith, love and devotion.

Suren and Renuka were blessed with three children, Prashanthan, Pradharshini and Pavithra. His son Prashanthan was his pride. His Daughter Pradharshini, passed away at the tender age of 12- having been ill from the time she was 8 months, which confined her to bed till the end of her life. Pradharshini's grandfather Mr. V. Murugesu, in his book "The cosmic Dance of Lord Shiva", wrote about his granddaughter (in whose memory the book was dedicated)



with Mama & Mami at his Silk party

"It is the story of a great child soul that took birth in our family and who by her silent presence brought about a vast transformation in the lives of all who came to know her." "She was a divine soul, a Goddess born in our midst"

His youngest daughter Pavithra was his pet and was very dear to him. His day was never content unless he saw her face.

An embodiment of love

Surendran was a loyal and loving son. Being the eldest in the family, he looked after his parents with love and care. He always strove to provide the best for them and kept them happy and comfortable.



Sivagnanalingam Uncle & Aunt, Anusha, Sharaniya, Sivaganesh, Yaso, Ashwini, Bakshi, Sivakantha, Yaso, Vishnu & Dhiyanan

His two younger brothers, Narendran and Gathatharan, always looked up to him as a father. They always reached out to him for advice and guidance. Though living in Canada, they always shared with him (on skype or phone) stories and interviews from Radio Sai Programmes and other spiritual experiences they had shared with their father (Iyah). They spent many hours in conversation, a pursuit which gave him immense happiness.

Suren was a loving and adorable nephew to his maternal Uncle and Aunt, Mr. Thuraisingham and Kamala Thuraisingam. Suren was a pillar of strength to them. He was extremely attached to all his cousins from both his father's and mother's sides. Mr. and Mrs. Sivagnanalingam, their children and grandchildren were like his family, and spent many a happy day at his residence. He was a wonderful host, caring and hospitable, and together with Renuka made a home that welcomed all.



With Aiyah, Amma, Renuka, Naren, Janaki, Tharan & Vinothini



Suren with his brothers - in - law Neelakandan Anna & Nithi

Suren was devoted to his father-in-law, Mr. V. Murugesu and they shared a lot in common- given their shared interest in law and spiritual philosophy- they developed a deep bond which he cherished.

Suren was deeply attached to his brother -in- law Mr. K. Neelakandan. Suren respected him as an elder brother and loved him abundantly for his

sincerity and truthfulness. Neelakandan Anna always stretched a helping hand in all family functions and in organizing all society matters. Surendran and his family were always grateful to Mr. Neelakandan as it was he who took the initiative and arranged his marriage with his sister-in-law, Renukadevi.

Mr. Nithi Murugesu, his brother -in-law (brother of Mrs. Surendran) was a dear and intimate friend. He spent many a day talking to him about their shared interests in law, politics and philosophy. Nithi's love and respect for Surendran Anna was immeasurable.

Mr. Neelakandan's children (Saravanan, Janani and Pranavan) were always in and out of Renuka's and Surendran's (Chithi and Chithappa) house from their childhood days. They were drawn to his love and personality like a magnet is to metal. They used to enjoy his lengthy talks and he in turn was immensely happy to share his thoughts with



Holiday with Neelakandan and Family

the young ones. Time was no barrier to these conversations. They loved their Chithappa and were always ready to render a helping hand. He took great pride in their achievements, as if they were his own children. He leaves a void in the lives of all his loved ones, that cannot be filled.

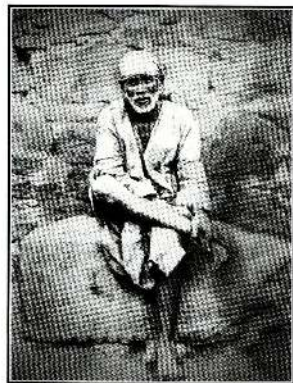
Suren was an epitome of spiritual virtues and embodiment of selfless love. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. May he rest in eternal peace and bliss at the Lotus feet of Bhagavan Baba.

OM sai Ram.



Suren's 50th Birthday with Family

From Shiridi Sai Baba's *Sai Satcharitam*



Devotee's Experiences

Now to return to the other more interesting subject. Lord Krishna has said in the Bhagavad-Gita (9-26) "Whosoever devoutly offers to Me a leaf, a flower, or a fruit or water, of that pure-hearted man, I accept that pious offering." In the case of Sai Baba, if a devotee intended really to offer anything to Sai Baba, and if he afterwards forgot to offer the same, Baba reminded him, or his friend about the offering, and made him present it to him, and then accepted it and blessed the devotee. A few instances are given below.

Tarkhad Family (father and son)

Mr. Ramachandra Atmaram alias Babasaheb Tarkhad, formerly a Prarthana-Samajist, was a staunch devotee of Sai Baba. His wife and son equally loved Baba or perhaps more. It was once proposed that Master Tarkhad should go with his mother to Shiradi and spend his May vacation there, but the son was unwilling to go, as he thought that in case he left his home in Bandra, the worship of Sai Baba in the house would not be properly attended to, as his father being a Prarthana Samajist, would not care to worship Sai Baba's enlarged picture. However, on his father's giving an assurance of oath, that he would perform the worship exactly as the son was doing, the mother and the son left for Shiradi on Friday night.

Next day (Saturday) Mr. Tarkhad got up early, took his bath and before proceeding with the Puja, prostrated himself before the Shrine and said - "Baba, I am going to perform the Puja exactly as my son has been doing, but please let it not be a formal drill." So saying he performed the Puja and offered a few pieces of Lump-sugar as naivaidya (offering). The sugar was distributed at the time of the lunch.

That evening and next, Sunday, everything went on well. The following Monday was a working day and it also passed well. Mr. Tarkhad, who had never performed Puja like this in all his life, felt great confidence within himself, that everything was passing on quite satisfactorily according to the promise given to the son. Next

Tuesday, he performed the morning Puja as usual and left for his work. Coming home at noon, he found that there was no Prasad (sugar) to partake of, when the meal was served. He asked the servant-cook, who told him that there was no offering made that morning, and that he had completely forgotten then to perform that part of the Puja (offering naivaidya). At this, he left his seat and prostrated himself before the Shrine, expressed his regret, at the same time chiding Baba for the want of guidance in making the whole affair a matter of mere drill. Then he wrote a letter to his son stating the facts; and requested him to lay it before Baba's feet and ask His pardon for his neglect.



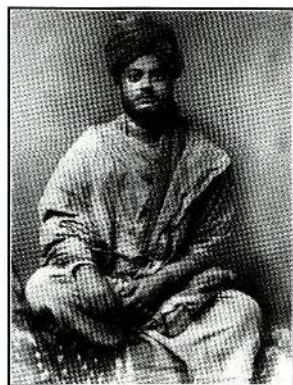
This happened in Bandra at about Tuesday noon.

At about the same time, when the noon Arati was just about to commence in Shiradi, Baba said to Mrs. Tarkhad, "Mother, I had been to your house in Bandra, with a view to having something to eat. I found the door locked. I somehow got an entrance inside and found to My regret, that Bhau (Mr. Tarkhad) had left nothing for Me to eat. So I have returned unappeased".

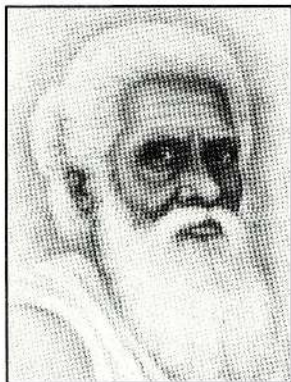
The lady did not understand this, but the son, who was close by, understood the whole thing: that there was something wrong with the Puja in Bandra and he, therefore, requested Baba to permit him to go home. Baba refused this, but allowed him to perform Puja there. Then, the son wrote a letter to his father, stating all that took place at Shiradi and implored his father not to neglect the Puja at home. Both these letters crossed each other and were delivered to the respective parties the next day.

Is this not wonderful?

Clarion Call of Swami Vivekananda



- Life is short! Give it up to a great Cause.
- I do not believe in a religion or God which cannot wipe the widow's tears or bring a piece of bread to the orphan's mouth.
- Jealousy is the central vice of every enslaved race. And it is jealousy and the want of combination which cause and perpetuate slavery.
- Stand firm like a rock. truth always triumphs.
- So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor, who having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them.
- Only that kind of work which develops our spirituality is work. Whatever fosters materiality is no work.
- There is no chance for the welfare of the world, unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.
- Want of sympathy and lack of energy are at the root of all misery, and you must therefore give these two up.
- It is indeed very difficult to have an equal love for all, but without it there is no Mukti.
- He who is the servant of all is the true master. He never becomes a leader, in whose love there is a consideration of high or low. He whose love has no end, and never stops to consider high or low, has the whole world lying at his feet.
- Aye, for a dozen bold hearts, large, noble and sincere.



யோகர் சுவாமிகள்

அருளுரை

சிவமயம்

நீ உடம்பன்று, மனமன்று, புத்தியன்று, சித்தமன்று நீ ஆத்மா. ஆத்மா ஒரு நாளும் அழியாது. இது மகான்களுடைய அனுபவ சித்தாந்தம். இந்த உண்மை உனது உள்ளத்தில் நன்றாய்ப் பதியக் கடவது. ஆனால், நீ கவனிக்க வேண்டியது ஒன்று உண்டு. அதாவது, தரும நெறியில் பிசகாதே. எவ்வுயிரும் எம்பெருமான் திருமுன்னிலே என்று சாதனை செய், கடவுள் உள்ளும் புறம்பும் உள்ளவர்.

இப்படிக்கு
அவனே நானே

(தன்னைப் பற்றிச் சுவாமிகள் கூறிக் கொள்ளும் வாசகம் அவனாகிய கடவுளே தான் தான் என்பது பொருள்)

நற்சிந்தனை

நல்லூரான் திருவடியை
நான் நினைத்த மாத்திரத்தில்

நல்லூரான் திருவடியை நான் நினைத்த மாத்திரத்தில்
எல்லாம் மறப்பேனடி கிளியே இரவு பகல் கானேனடி

1

ஆன்மா அழியாதென்று அன்றெனக்குச் சொன்னமொழி
நான் மறந்து போவேனோடி கிளியே நல்லூரான் தஞ்சமெடி

2

தேவரசிறைமீட்ட செவ்வன் திருவடிகள் காவல் எனக்காமெடி கிளியே கவலையெல்லாம் போகுமெடி	3
எத்தொழிலைச் செய்தாலென்ன ஏதவத்தைப் பட்டாலென்ன கந்தன் திருவடிகள் கிளியே காவலென்று அறிந்திடெடி	4
பஞ்சம்படை வந்தாலும் பாரெல்லாம் வெந்தாலும் அஞ்சுவமோ நாங்கள் எடி கிளியே ஆறுமுகன் தஞ்சமெடி	5
சுவாமி யோகநாதன் சொன்ன திருப் பாட்டைந்தும் பூமியிழல் சொன்னாலெடி கிளியே பொல்லாங்கு தீருமெடி	6

நல்லூர் வீதியில்

இராகம் - பிலஹரி

தாளம் - ரூபகம்

மல்லவீ

எந்நாளும் நல்லூரை வலம் வந்து வணங்கினால்
இடர்கள் எல்லாம் போமே.

அநுமல்லவீ

அந்நாளில் ஆசான் அருந்தவம் செய்த இடம்
அதுவாதலாலே அதிசயம் மெத்த உண்டு.

சரணம்

வேதாந்த சித்தாந்தம் கற்றதனாலென்ன
வேடிக்கைக் கதைகள் பேசினாலென்ன
வீதியில் வந்தொருக்கால் விழுந்து கும்பிட்டால்
வில்லங்கம் எல்லாம் இல்லாமற் போமே
சத்தியம் பொறுமை சாந்தம் அடக்கம்
நித்தியா நித்தியம் தெரியும் நிபுணர்
பத்திசெய உத்தமர் பரவும் நல்லூரில்
நித்தியம் வந்து பார்த்தால் முத்தி நிச்சயமே.



A loving tribute to Sathya Sai Baba

*"I give people what they want in the hope that
they will begin to want what I want to give them"*

- Shiridi Sai Baba

*"If you shed one tear drop for me
I shall wipe a hundred from your eyes"*

- Sathya Sai Baba

The Historic declaration made by Sri Aurobindo on 24/11/1926 the day after the birth of our beloved Swami:

*"Sri Krishna has descended into the physical.
A power infallible shall lead the thought, in earthly hearts
kindle the immortal's Fire, even the multitude
shall hear the voice".*

சுவாமி அவதரித்த மறுநாளே அதாவது 24.11.1926 அன்று மகாயோகி ஸ்ரீ அரவிந்தர் செய்த மாபெரும் பிரகடனம் :

"ஸ்ரீ கிருஷ்ணன் பௌதீகமாக அவதரித்து விட்டார். அசைக்க முடியாத அவரது சக்தி பூவுலக மாந்தர் இதயங்களிலே நிலையான ஆத்மீக தீயை கொழுந்துவிட்டு எரியச் செய்யும். அது பூவுலக மாந்தர்களின் எண்ணங்களை வழி நடத்திச் செல்லும். கணக்கற்ற தொகையினரான மக்கள் அந்த இறை வாக்கைக் கேட்பார்கள்"

"Bhagavan Baba is acclaimed the Avatar of the age, who has descended in human form to lead mankind along the path of love and devotion. There is something about Baba which is so profound and deep, so vast and limitless, so infinite and universal that it is not possible to describe it in words. One has only to experience it by being in his Divine presence. The greatest and the most convincing characteristic of an Avatar is its capacity to transform human beings. Baba has this capacity in a

supreme and unprecedented measure. One is enveloped in such a highly charged aura of love in his presence, such a profoundly spiritual and holy atmosphere that many are transformed on the spot. He is an Avatar who is conscious of his Divinity and lives constantly in a state of identification with Pure Consciousness. I saw my Krishna in Him”.

“பகவான் பாபா மனித குலத்தை அன்பு வழியிலும் பக்தி வழியிலும் நடத்திச் செல்ல வந்த இந்த யுகத்தின் அவதாரம் ஆவார். ஆழ்ந்த அகன்ற எல்லையற்ற முடிவேயற்ற அவரது அவதாரச்சிறப்பை சொற்களில் வடிக்க முடியாது இதை அவரது சந்நிதியில் இருந்து அனுபவித்து உணர மட்டுமே முடியும். ஒரு அவதாரத்தின் மாபெரும் இயல்பை மனிதர்களின் வாழ்க்கை முறையிலே மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவது ஆகும். இந்த இயல்பை பாபா மிக சிறப்பான அளவிலே வெளிப்படுத்துகின்றார். ஆவரின் சாந்நிதியத்திலே ஏற்படும் மிகவும் ஆழமான புனித சூழலிலே எத்தனையோ பேர்கள் அவரது தரிசனம் பெற்ற உடனேயே ஆத்மிக பாதைக்கு திரும்புகிறார்கள். அவர் தனது தெய்வீகம் பற்றிய உணர்விலேயே நிலைத்து சச்சிதானந்த சொரூபமாகவே என்றும் விளங்குகின்றார். பாபாவிலே என்னுடைய கிருஷ்ணனை நான் கண்டேன்”

Hon'ble Justice Sri P. N. Bhagavati
Former Chief Justice of India

“I have always been able to see the human aura, that is, the energy pattern which surrounds a person. The auras around average people extend as much as three to five feet. The aura around Sathya Sai Baba went beyond the building against which he stood; this energy field reached thirty or forty feet in all directions. In my experience I have never seen such a powerful and radiant aura. As I stood next to Sathya Sai Baba, I could see his aura reach beyond the platform; it surrounded all the people in the room, and reached each and every person in that room. His selfless love transcended their fears and worries. Perhaps of all the miracles I witnessed, no miracle is as great as the miracle of one giving so much love to so many people. In short Sai is love walking on two feet”.

“மனிதர்களை சுற்றியிருக்கின்ற ஒளிவட்டங்களை (aura) காண்பதிலே நான் தேர்ச்சி பெற்றவன். சாதாரணமாக மனிதர்களை சுற்றி இருக்கின்ற ஒளிவட்டமானது மூன்றிலிருந்து ஐந்து அடி அளவிற்கு மட்டுமே இருக்கும் ஆனால் பாபாவை சுற்றி இருந்த ஒளிவட்டம் அவர் நின்று கொண்டிருந்த கட்டிடத்தின் அளவையும் தாண்டி எல்லா திசைகளிலும் 30 அல்லது 40 அடி அளவிற்கு பரந்திருந்தது. என்னுடைய அனுபவத்தில் இவ்வளவு சக்தி வாய்ந்த பிரகாசமான ஒளி வட்டத்தை நான் கண்டதே இல்லை. பாபா அமர்ந்திருந்த பொழுது அவருக்கு அருகில் நின்று கொண்டிருந்த நான் அவரது ஒளிவட்டம் அந்த மேடையை கடந்து அந்த மண்டபத்திலே இருந்த ஒவ்வொருவரையும் அடைவதைக் கண்டேன். அவரது தன்னலமற்ற அன்பின் ஒளிவட்டம் மக்களின் பயங்களையும் கவலைகளையும் நீக்கி விடுகின்றது. நான் அறிந்த அற்புதங்களில் எல்லாம் மிகப்பெரிய அற்புதம். அவர் தனி ஒருவராக எத்தனையோ பேர்களுக்கு வழங்கிவருகின்ற அன்பின் அற்புதம் தான், சுருங்கச்சொல்லப்போனால் இருகால் எடுத்து உலாவிவரும் இணையற்ற அன்பே சாயி”

Dr.Frank G.Baranowski
University of Arizona – USA

“Bhagavan Baba is an avatar who interprets uplifts and is the architect of Operation Human Deliverance from darkness. Tamaso ma jyothir gamaya: Lead us from Darkness to Light. That is the mission of Bhagavan Sai. This vision and mission of Sai is all- comprehensive, all-inclusive and universally luminous. Bhagawan Sai is a celestial response. Adi Shankara, Shiridi Sai, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Ramana Maharshi, before all of them, a Budha, Jesus or Mohammad came and left. Now humanity faces the gravest crisis and needs the greatest fire fighter and here he is: SAI; the greatest fire fighter. Where Sai walks is hallowed ground, where Sai sits is shrine and where Sai speaks, darkness retreats”.

உன்னத பணி. அது புவலகம் எங்கும் ஒளி பிரவாகத்தை சிந்தும் ஓர் ஒப்பற்ற பணியாகும். முன்னைய காலத்தில் இராமகிருஷ்ண பரமஹம்சர், ரமணமகரிஷி, புத்தர், ஜேசுபிரான், மகமது நபி ஆகியோர் இப்புவலகத்திற்கு வந்தது அறியாமை உறக்கத்தில் ஆழ்ந்திருக்கும் மனித குலத்தை அவர்களது உறக்கத்திலிருந்து தட்டி எழுப்பி உண்மையை உணர்விக்கவே. இன்றைய காலகட்டத்திலே மனித குலம் முன் எப்போதும் இல்லாத நெருக்கடிகளை சந்தித்து வருகிறது. இந்த நேரத்திலே எரிந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் இவ்வலகத்திற்கு தேவைப்படுவது அனல் விட்டு பற்றி எரியும் தீச்சவாலகளை அணைத்து அடக்கக்கூடிய ஓர் மாபெரும் தீயணைப்புப் படை வீரனே (greatest fire fighter) அவர் தான் சாயி. சாயி எங்கெல்லாம் கால்தடம் பதிக்கிறாரோ அங்கெல்லாம் புனித பூமி உருவாகிறது. சாயி எங்கெல்லாம் அமர்கின்றாரோ அது ஆலயமாகிறது. சாயி எங்கெல்லாம் உரை நிகழ்த்துகின்றாரோ அங்கு அறியாமை இருள் விரட்டி அடிக்கப்படுகிறது.

Hon'ble Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer
Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

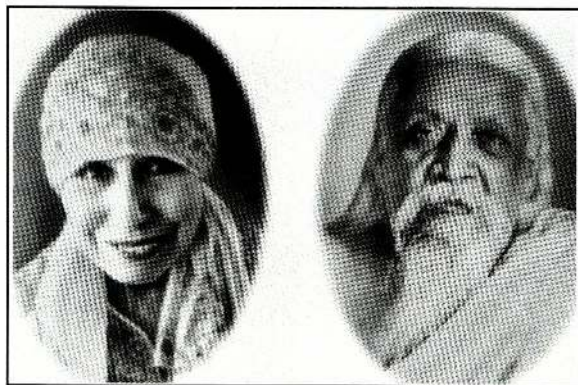
Stunned Stars in the galaxy stopped for a moment and asked themselves 'from where is this effulgence emanating? How could such effulgence emanate from planet earth?

Then it dawned on them that the light they saw is the light of love, light of grace, light of compassion radiating from Prashanthi Nillayam the abode of Sai

சுயமாக ஒளி கொடுக்கவே முடியாத பூமியில் இருந்து ஒரு ஒளிப் பிளம்பு புறப்பட்டு வருவதை வியப்புடன் நோக்கி ஒரு கணம் திகைத்து நின்ற விண் மீன்கள் பின்பு தான் புரிந்து கொண்டன அது சாயி நிவசிக்கும் பிரசாந்தி நிலையத்திலிருந்து புறப்படும் அன்பின் ஒளி அருளின் ஒளி கருணையின் ஒளி காருண்யத்தின் ஒளி என்று

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Former President of India

Gems from Sri Aurobindo and The Mother



- The nobility of a being is measured by its capacity of gratitude.
- The Mother -
- When, in our despair, we cry to the Divine, always He answers to our call.
- The Mother -
- It is not by running away from the world that you will change it. It is by working there, modestly, humbly but with a fire in the heart, something that burns like an offering.
- The Mother -
- He makes our fall a means for greater rise.
- Sri Aurobindo -
- Your will is free, it is deliberately left free and you have to choose.
- The Mother -
- When, in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a grace from the Lord and, indeed, it will become so.
- The Mother -
- It is in proportion to our trust in the Divine that the Divine Grace can act for us and help.
- The Mother -
- Only those years that are passed uselessly make you grow old.
- The Mother -
- When, O eager disputant, thou hast prevailed in a debate then art thou greatly to be pitied for thou hast lost a chance of widening knowledge
- Sri Aurobindo -
- Be conscious first of thyself within, then think and act.
- Sri Aurobindo -



The Gospel of Swami Ramdas

- By proper discrimination between the real and the unreal, give up the desire for wordly enjoyments which are but ephemeral. The more you fill your mind with God, the less will be its desire for sense - pleasures. Bhakthi intensifies vairagya. Strenuous effort and regular practice will gradually fill the mind completely with God and there will be no chance for wordly thoughts or desire to enter it. Now you experience immeasurable joy and the moment you utter God's name you go into ecstasy.
- God looks after us and gives us everything necessary. Will he not take up our so-called responsibility also? So, once you get into God's train, do not carry your burden on your head. Keep it at your side. Be sure that the train that carries you will also carry your trunk. We have to become conscious of God's protecting power always. His light is everywhere.
- In the Mantra 'Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram', Om stands for Nirguna Brahman, Sri for Jaganmata or Shakti, and Ram for Saguna Brahman. So in this you have Saguna, Nirguna and Shakti all together. It can be said that Ram stands for Purushottama-Nirguna and Saguna at the same time. Saguna means that which has name and form, and that is the prakriti. Om is Nirguna and both together is Ram, the Purushottama. Victory to Him I victory to him? where In you own heart. What will happen then? He will reveal Himself in your heart and then all your desires, vasanas and abhiman will disappear. So go on singing: 'Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram'.
- That is why it is said that bhakti is the easiest path. All other paths need a settled and regulated course of discipline, but in bhakti no such discipline is necessary. Love is a natural trait in us all, from our very childhood. As children we love our parents; as we grow, we love our brothers, friends, relations, husband or wife and so on. Instead of having these perishable things as objects of love, we had only to look upon God, the imperishable, as the sole object of our aspirations and love. Instead of loving the perishable which brings us sorrow, we must love the imperishable which brings us eternal peace.

ஸ்ரீ ராமகிருஷ்ணர்



அமுதமொழிகள்

- இறைவனிடம் ஆழ்ந்த பக்தி ஏற்படும். அவரிடம் அன்பு உதயமாகும். உள்ளம் உருகாவிட்டால் எந்தப் பயனும் இல்லை. சாதுசங்கம் வளர வளர இறைவனுக்காக உள்ளம் துடிக்கத் தொடங்கும். நோயில் வாடுபவன் எந்த வகையில் குணமாவான் என்று அவனது வீட்டினர் துடிப்பது போன்றது.
- ஏதாவது ஒன்றை உறுதியாக பற்றிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். மாடியை நல்ல படிக்கட்டு வழியாக அடையலாம். ஏனியில் ஏறி அடையலாம். கயிற்று ஏணி வழியாகவோ, வெறும் கயிறைப் பற்றிக்கொண்டோ, மூங்கிலைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டோ அடையலாம். ஆனால் அங்கே ஒரு கால், இங்கே ஒரு கால் என்றிருந்தால் பயனில்லை. ஒன்றை மட்டுமே இறுகப் பற்ற வேண்டும். இறையனுபுதி வேண்டுமானால் ஏதாவது ஒரு பாதையை உறுதியாகப் பற்றிக் கொண்டு முன்னேற வேண்டும்.
- ஒவ்வொரு மதமும் பாதையே என்பதை அறிந்துகொள். என்னுடைய பாதைதான் சரியானது. மற்ற யாருடைய பாதையும் சரியல்ல என்ற எண்ணம் கூடாது. வெறுப்பு கூடாது.
- இறை தத்துவத்தைத் தேட வேண்டுமானால் மனிதனில் தேடு. மனிதனில் அவர் அதிகமாகப் பிரகாசிக்கிறார். யாரிடம் ஊர்ஜிதா பக்தி பிரேமபக்தி பொங்குகிறதோ, யார் இறைவனுக்காக பித்துப் பிடித்தவனாக இருக்கிறானோ, யார் அவருடைய பிரேமையில் மூழ்கி தன்னை மறந்துள்ளானோ, அந்த மனிதனில் இறைவன் அவதரித்திருக்கிறார் என்பதை நிச்சயமாக அறிந்து கொள்.
- இறைவன் எங்கும் இருக்கவே செய்கிறார். ஆனால் அவரது சக்தி சில இடங்களில் அதிகமாகப் பிரகாசிக்கிறது. சில இடங்களில் குறைவாக வெளிப்படுகிறது. அவதாரங்களில் அவரது சக்தி அதிகமாக வெளிப்படுகிறது. சிலவேளைகளில் அந்த சக்தி முழுமையாக வெளிப்படுவதும் உண்டு. சக்திதான் அவதாரம் எடுக்கிறது.
- இறையனுபுதி பெற்ற பிறகு, இறைவன் நம்முடைய தந்தை அல்லது தாய் என்ற தெளிவான உணர்வு உதிக்கிறது. இறையனுபுதி கிடைக்காதவரை நாமெல்லாம் வெகு தொலைவில் உள்ளவர்கள், நாம் மாற்றான் குழந்தைகள் என்ற எண்ணம்தான் இருக்கும்.
- மரண வேளையில் எதை நினைக்கிறாயோ, அதுவாகவே பிறக்கிறாய்; என்று கீதையில் சொல்லப்பட்டுள்ளது. பரதமன்ன ஷஷமானே, மாணே; என்று கூறியபடியே சோகத்தில் உயிரை விட்டான்.

அதனால் அவன் மானாகப் பிறக்கவேண்டியதாயிற்று. எனவே ஜபம், தியானம், பூஜை எல்லாம் இரவு பகலாகச்செய்து பழக்க மாக்கிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். அந்தப் பழக்கத்தின் விளைவாக, அப்போதுதான் மரணவேளையில் தெய்வ சிந்தை வரும். இவ்வாறு இறப்பவன் இறையுருவம் பெறுகிறான்.

- உலகியல் பேச்சை அடியோடு விட்டுவிடுங்கள். இறைவனைப் பற்றி அல்லாத எதையும் பேசாதீர்கள். உலகியல் மக்களை கண்டால் மெல்ல விலகிவிடுங்கள். எல்லாம் சாரம் அற்றவை என்பதை இவ்வளவு நாட்கள் இல்லறம் நடத்தியதில் கண்டுகொண்டீர்களே! இறைவன்தான் உண்மை, மற்ற எதுவும் உண்மை அல்ல இறைவன்தான் என்றுமுள்ள உண்மை. மற்றவை எல்லாம் ஓரிரு நாட்களுக்குத்தான். உலக வாழ்க்கையில் தான் என்ன இருக்கிறது? மரிமாங்காய் ஊறுகாய் போன்றது அது. சாப்பிட விருப்பம் உண்டாகிறது. ஆனால் அதில் இருப்பதெல்லாம் வெறும் தோலும் கொட்டையும்தான். சாப்பிட்டால் புளிப்புச் சத்து கூடி சூலநோய்தான் ஏற்படுகிறது.

மரணமும் மறுபிறப்பும்

பந்தப்பட்ட ஜீவர்கள் மரணத் தறுவாயிலுங் கூட உலக விஷயங்களைப் பற்றியே பேசுகின்றனர். புண்ணிய ஷோத்திரங்களுக்கு யாத்திரை போவதிலும் கங்காஸ்நானம் செய்வதிலும், ஜெப தபங்கள் பண்ணுவதிலும் பிரயோசனமில்லை மனதில் உலகப்பற்று இருக்குமானால், அது மரணகாலத்தில் நிச்சயமாக வெளிப்படும். அப்போது அவர்கள் கண்டபடியெல்லாம் பிதற்றுவார்கள். சாதாரணமாக ராதாகிருஷ்ணனுடைய திவ்ய நாமத்தைப் பாடுங்கிளி, பூனையால் பிடிபடும்போது கீ. கீ என்று தனது சபாவமான குரலெடுத்தும் கத்தும்.

ஈசுவரனிடத்தில் பக்தி இராதபடியால் தான் மனிதன் வெகுவாகத் துன்பத்துக்குள்ளாகிறான். அந்திம காலத்தில் ஈசுவரனுடைய ஞாபகம் வரும்படியான வழியை ஒவ்வொருவனும் தேடிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். அவ்வழிதெனில் ஈசுவரனிடம் பக்தி பூண்டொழுகுவதொம். முன்னாடியே ஒருவன் இப்படிப்பட்ட பக்தியிற் பழகுவானானால், அது அவனுடைய அந்திம காலத்திலும் நிச்சயமாக மனதிலெழும்.

ஜீவனானது இவ்வுலகத்தை விட்டுப் போகும் தருணத்தில் கடைசியாக எதைப் பற்றி நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்குமோ அதற்குரிய உடலில் மறுபடியும் வந்து பிறக்கின்றது. ஆதலால் பக்தி சாதனை மிகவும் அவசியமெனத் தோன்றுகிறது. இடையறாத அனுஷ்டானத்தினால் உலகப் பொருள்களைப் பற்றிய எண்ணம் மனதில் உண்டாகாமற் போவதால் ஈசுவரனைப் பற்றிய சிந்தனையே ஆத்மாவினிடம் குடிக்கொள்ளும். மரணத்தறுவாயிலுங் கூட அந்தச் சிந்தனை நீங்குவதில்லை.

சூனையில் வேகாத மண்பாண்டம் உடைந்தால் அம்மண்ணையே வேறு புதிய பாண்டம் உண்டாக்கக் குயவன் உபயோகிப்பான். ஆனால் சூனையில் வெந்த பாண்டம் உடைந்தாலோ அதன் துண்டுகளை அப்பால் அவனால் உபயோகிக்க முடியாது. அதுபோல ஒருவன் அஞ்ஞானத்துடன் மரணம் அடைந்தால் மறுஜன்மம் அடைவான். ஆனால் உண்மை ஞானமாகிய அக்கினியால் வெந்த ஒருவன் பரிபூரணமாக இறப்பானானால் அவனுக்கு மறு ஜன்மம் கிடையாது.

வேகவைத்த நெல்லை பூமியில் விதைத்தால் அது மறுபடியும் முளைக்காது வேகவைக்காத நெல் தான் முளைவிடும். அதுபோல, சிந்தனை பிறகு ஒருவன் இறப்பானானால் அவன் மறு ஜன்மம் அடைவதில்லை அசித்தனே, தான் சித்தனாகும் வரையில் திரும்பத் திரும்பப் பிறவியெடுக்க வேண்டும்

Message from Swami Atmaghanananda



*Sri Ramakrishna Math
Kanchipuram*

We are sorry to learn about the passing away of Mr. Surendran, President's Counsel. We sincerely condole his death and pray for the peaceful repose of the departed soul at the Lotus Feet of the Lord.

Mr. Surendran hailed from a family of devoted parents, and thus had imbibed good qualities like devotion, humility and gentleness. In spite of his compelling duties at home and his office, he involved himself in public service activities, including being the President of the Vivekananda Society in Colombo for a long period. His sudden demise is really a great loss to one and all!

May the Lord bestow strength to the bereaved family to bear his loss!



Tribute to Aiyah R. Surendaran



Pt. Jaidev Kumar Sharma
Sindhi Centre

He was my guru brother. As Aiyah (Mr. Ratnavadivel) always calls me his forth Spiritual Son and tells me everything about the family and Saints and his spiritual life. He used to say, "I have a son whom I feel proud of and when lots of people meet me and say, you are Surendran's father that really makes me happy".

Whenever I meet him he is always energetic, positive and talks wisely. He was always simple, full of smiles, warmth and always welcoming. Anni, Mrs. Surendaran is also always very pious and like goddess Sharda, just stood by him till the end of his journey. She has always been very supportive and says 'yes' to everything he says. Today after his demise, she is really a pillar of strength to his family. Both were the ideal couple. May God rest his Soul in peace and Baba's blessings, be with him.

Yours ever loving,
Maharaj



ஆத்ம சாந்தி

மிரார்த்தனையுரை

ஆன்மீகசுடர் ரஷ் தொண்டுநாதன் சுவாமிகள்
(ஹவாய் சைவ ஆதீன் குரு சுப்பிரமணிய சுவாமிகளின் சீடர்)

இறைவனின் இனியபடைப்புக்களில் மனித வாழ்வு மகத்துவமானது. மானிட வாழ்வின் சிறப்பை உணர்ந்து ஆன்மீகச் பாதையில் பயணம் செய்பவர்கள் பாக்கியசாலிகள், பிறப்பாலும் வாழ்வாலும் ஆன்மீகப் சூழலில் வாழும் பாக்கியம் பெற்றவர் பெரியார் திரு. இ. சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள். இப்பெரியாரின் மறைவுச் செய்தி அடியேனுக்கு ஆச்சரியத்தைத் தந்தது. அன்னாரின் குடும்பத்துக்கு எவ்வாறு ஆறுதல் சொல்வதெனத் தெரியவில்லை. நல்ல சிந்தனையோடு வாழ்ந்த உத்தமபுருஷர். அன்னாரின் அழைப்பின் பேரில் கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையில் மூன்று தடவைகள் உரையாற்றும் சந்தர்ப்பம் கிட்டியது அவரது அருமையான தலைமையையுரைய ரசித்து வாழ்த்தினேன். யான் கற்ற யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் மாணவத் தலைவனாக விளங்கிய இவர் தன் மாணவப் பருவத்திலேயே சொல்வன்மையால் மதிப்பை பெற்றவர். சொல்வன்மையே அவரை புகழ்ப்புத்த வழக்கறிஞராக வாழ்வித்தது அன்னாரின் நெருங்கிய உறவினர் திரு. கந்தையா நீலகண்டன் ஐயா அவர்களின் தொடர்பால் இக்குடும்பத்தவர்கள் யாவரும் எனக்கு சகோதரர் ஆகினர். என் சொல்வோம்? நல்லதோர் அறிவாளியை நாம் இழந்துவிட்டோம். மரணத்தை யார் தான் வெல்லுவார். அனைவரும் சந்திக்கவேண்டிய தொன்றே. அன்னாரின் ஆத்மா சாந்தி பெற சிதம்பர நடராசப் பெருமானை வேண்டி குடுபத்தவர்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் கூறி அமைகிறேன்.



ஆத்ம சாந்திப் பிரார்த்தனையும்

துயர்பகிர்வும்



சீவஸூரி க.வைத்தீஸ்வரக்குருக்கள்

(தலைவர்)

சைவாபிமானியும் பிரபலமான ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியுமாகிய இரத்தினவடிவேல் சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள் இறையடி சேரந்த செய்தி கேட்டு மிகுந்த கவலையடைந்தோம். சமயத்தின் மீது மிகுந்த பற்றும் உறுதியும் கொண்டதன் காரணமாக அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றத்தின் நம்பிக்கைப் பொறுப்பாளர் சபையின் உறுப்பினராகவும், கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையினது தலைவராகவும் திகழ்ந்தார். சட்டத் துறையில் தனது அதியுயர் சட்டஅறிவின் மூலம் பல உயர்பதவிகளை வகித்த சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள் அதன் மூலம் பல உயரிய பணிகளையும் செய்துள்ளார். இந்நிலையில் அவரது ஆத்மா சாந்தி அடைய பிரார்த்திப்பதுடன் அன்னாரின் இழப்பினால் துயரடைந்திருக்கும் குடும்பத்தினருக்கும் எமது ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம்.



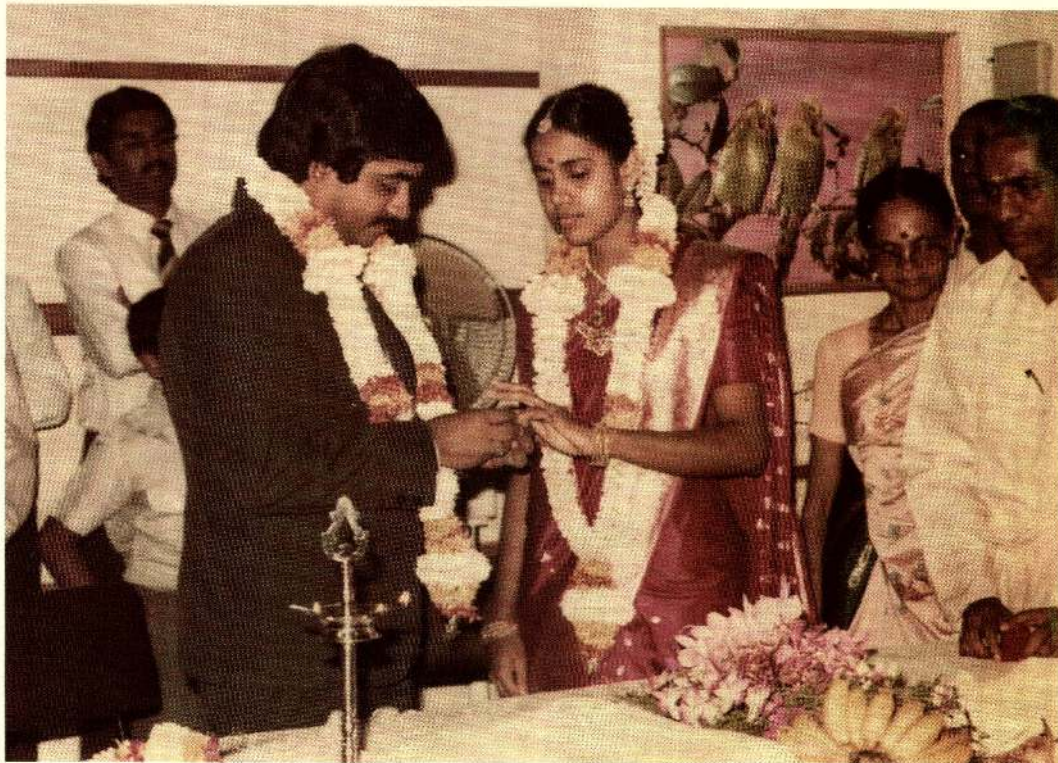
Dedication to my loving husband



Renukadevi Surendran

"All life is a spiritual journey under the protection of a compassionate God" says Samuel Sandweiss in his book 'With Love Man Is God'. These lines reveal the true purpose of man's life on earth, but it is hard to overcome the deep pain and sorrow at the loss of my loving husband.

You often quote Swamy Vivekananda's words "Life is short, but the subject is vast." True to these words, you departed too soon from this world but the subject that you gathered in this short period of your lifetime was deep and vast. The wide knowledge you gathered intellectually and spiritually was unparalleled. Your





learning was equal to an Encyclopedia; your vocabulary equivalent to that of an Oxford dictionary; your memory, eidetic. You were born a genius and when you were praised by others, you smiled humbly. Despite your high academic achievements and unparalleled knowledge, pride never overcame you. Truth, nobility and right conduct were the hallmark of your character.

You were a true son and devotee of our beloved Bhagavan Baba and you never faltered from the path of righteousness. You were always calm and collected, happy and content; never angry or agitated. The radiant face and captivating smile of yours will never fade from my memory.

I had not been initiated as a devotee of Swamy when we got married. You, however, never once asked me to follow your beliefs and you always let me find my own path. As my faith in Swamy strengthened with his blessings and healing to our family, you gave me books to read which helped me grow spiritually. Our trips together and as a family to Puttaparthi, enabled us to experience the Divine presence of Swamy; he enveloped our whole being with his powerful and loving gaze at Dharshan times. This experience gave fulfillment to our lives.

We read many books on Swamy together and I will cherish those moments forever. Even during your illness, you always asked me to read Swamy's life stories. It was a great source of courage for both of us in those difficult times. In our last few months together you, had developed an urge to read old issues of *Santhana Sarathi*. You requested your brother Narendran to bring them from Puttaparthi. I recall those



Watching Swamy's dharshan - Singapore (Dec.2015)

long nights in Singapore, during your treatment, when you could not sleep, we would sit up together reading, watching Swamy's dharshan videos and enjoying ourselves. You were my constant spiritual companion- helping me understand the joys and sorrows of life.

Walking down memory lane, I recall the happy days I shared with you. I loved to listen to the interesting incidents of

your childhood days which you used to narrate to me. You had a knack for telling stories with great zest; always delivering a story with the right amount of suspense and plot points. I was completely captivated by your rich and deep voice. The old Tamil songs which you often sang in your melodious voice still ring in my ears. I eagerly wait to attend the Bajans at Sindhi Centre conducted by our loving Aiyah to listen to your soul stirring Bajans sung with so much devotion. When you went to do your LLM in Brussels, I followed you a month later with young Prashanthan. We went sightseeing together, where you took us to all the historic places- given your penchant for discussing world history and your love for learning. Our travels together in Europe and London are forever etched in my mind.

You imparted your knowledge not only to your children, but also to all your juniors, friends and relatives who always approached you like an open book, ready to be filled with knowledge, information and high values. No one tired of conversing with you; you had the easy ability to explain even the most complex moral or idea with a simple story. Every conversation was enjoyable despite the discussions going past midnight.

Your love and kind words also extended to our driver Sarath (who joined work in 1998) and Soma (from 1986) And not a day have I witnessed you getting angry or agitated when they haven't followed



an instruction given by you. You have always looked after their needs and helped them and their families during difficult times. It is hard to wipe their tears when they speak of your greatness.

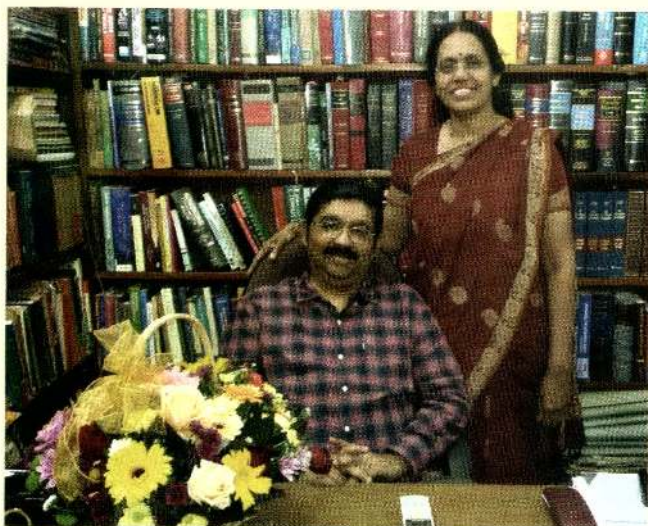
Your chamber is empty; your chair is vacant and your majestic presence is what we all miss. Your hard work and dedication, to provide the best for your clients was incredibly remarkable. It is hard to think



Shastiaphapoorthi (Dec. 2014)

that those days are over, when you would continue working with your juniors well past midnight. You would ask me for many cups of tea to keep you going through the night. Each time you made it a point to compliment me- always generous with your words and encouragement. "Superb tea" you will say smiling in that deep voice of yours. To think now that there would not be another day when I can make tea or prepare a lovely meal for you, makes me unhappy. Oh how I miss and yearn for those moments that will never happen again...

You were a pillar of strength to me. I always found courage in your words of encouragement and praise of my hard-work at Mirra Montessori House of Children. You made me feel that I was chosen by the Divine to serve young children and bring out the best talents hidden within them, by giving them a sound foundation.



30th Wedding Anniversary (24.11.2014)

You doted on all our children-who became a source of love and joy for you. You were a guiding light to them; your advice and guidance have given them great strength to carry on with courage and righteousness. Many stories and experiences you have related to them, sharing your thoughts and knowledge, have helped them to blossom into good human beings adhering to great values.

The sound education you gave

them, supporting them in their chosen fields, encouraging them to take on new challenges, showing them the way forward, have and will always guide them in every venture they undertake. When our darling Pradha passed away, you comforted me and gave me strength to face the world and transcend the suffering and pain. You taught me Swamy's teachings:

"True devotion lies in being in a state of equanimity, both in pleasure and pain. One should remain equal minded in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, victory and defeat. Such equanimity can be obtained only through love"

You stood like a pillar; firm in your principles never giving room to unfair play.

Though you are no longer present in our midst and you are no more in your physical form to adorn our home, I am very grateful to Swamy (Baba) that he sent his loving son down to this earth to guide me and share with us his wonderful and enduring qualities which will always be a part of my life and will never fade away.

You lived a fruitful life, accomplishing all the duties of a true and loving husband; and a great father. Though you have departed from this physical world, your *Atma* (soul), which is the purest self, has merged with the Divine. I am sure you will always continue to guide and protect us.



A few words about Appa



Prashanthan Surendran

“What is the difference between a generator and an electric motor?” This was a question that Appa asked me when he took me to buy ice cream as a kid, and saw me staring at a small generator. Even though Appa was a lawyer by profession, he knew I had an interest in science and hence encouraged me to pursue my interests from a very young age. When I finally read about generators and electric motors during my teens, I realized that Appa’s simple explanation, given to me as a child, was apt.

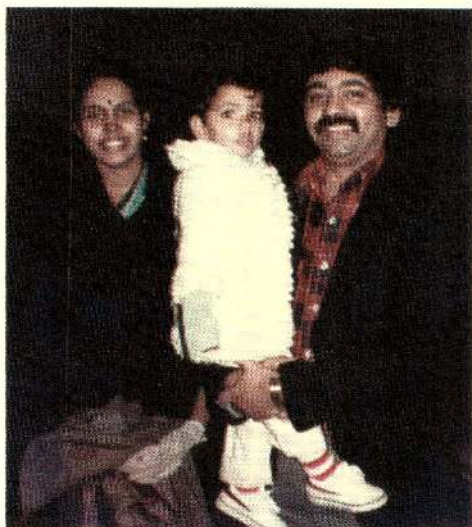


Appa did not confine himself to law. His curiosity for knowledge extended to the realms of physics and engineering. While I was in college, if he came across an interesting scientific fact, he would call me to get a better explanation. The many discussions I had with Appa, sparked my curiosity, helped me to move out of the well that I lived in, and expand my knowledge to areas outside of science.

I owe my accomplishments in school and my career, to Appa’s encouragement and support. I am fortunate to have had him as a father and guide.

*“If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be **beauty in the character**.
If there is beauty in the character, there will be **harmony in the home**.
If there is harmony in the home, there will be **order in the nation**.
If there is order in the nation, there will be **peace in the world**.”*

-Sri Sathya Sai Baba



This is a verse that Dr. Abdul Kalam (former President of India), loved to recite during his discourses. It was also a verse that Appa adored very much.

Appa's post-graduate work was in International Law. He enjoyed reading and discussing philosophy, law, politics and history related to this subject. Appa had acquired a plethora of knowledge through his dedicated reading and enjoyed discussing these topics. Appa never talked about an ideal system that could bring **peace in the world**. However he felt that protecting the rights of individuals in our country, is a step

towards bringing **order in our nation**. This idea was on the back of his mind, when working on cases for his clients.

Appa always enjoyed a good philosophical debate. When I was young, I remember asking Appa if there is any way in which we could prove that a higher power or God exists. Even though he was a highly spiritual person, he provided the space and discourse for alternative ideas such as atheism. He began his response by mentioning to me, that this was the same question that Swami Vivekananda had asked when he was young. Appa went on to say, that even he practised an atheistic train of thought during a phase in his very own life.

One day I asked Appa, "Why don't you argue at home, when someone brings up a point that you disagree with?" To this he said that, it is best to keep arguments for courts. He said that everyone is entitled to their own views, and that he will standby his. He believed that arguing at home to prove a point will disrupt the **harmony**. I have always known him to maintain good relations with his immediate and extended family.

The last advice that Appa gave me in January 2016, before I left to the U.S, was the following:

"There will be moments in life when you will be pressured with a lot of work, or face a tough situation. It is very easy to



London (Dec. 1987)

lose one's composure during such instances, and hurt another person by words or by action. You could have great ideals, aspirations and want to make the world a better place, but it ultimately boils down to how you treat others and conduct yourself in daily life. Keep this in mind as you go forward."

Appa's final advice, reminds me of the following Thirukural...

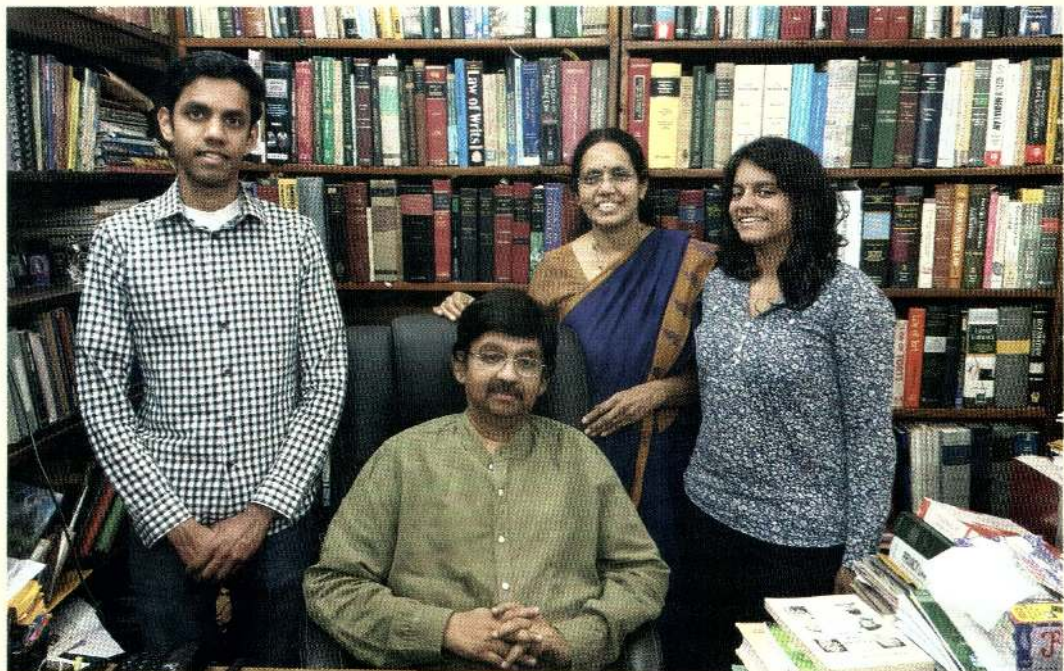


தீயினால் சுட்டபுண் உள்ஆறும் ஆறாதே

நாவினால் சுட்ட வடு - (குறள் 129)

(A wound caused by fire would heal with time, but never, a hurt caused by words.)

I have seen Appa during good times and tough times. Even when life would throw a curved ball at him, he made it a point to conduct himself in the right manner. Everything else that he did in life flowed as part of that right conduct. When I think about his life, and Sathya Sai's verse cited above, I feel that Appa always had **"righteousness in the heart"**.



In his Chambers (Jan. 2016)

Appa was immersed in the teachings and works of Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda was an inspiration to Appa and his speeches gave him strength.

Following is an excerpt from Swami Vivekananda's speech, delivered at the Home of Truth, Los Angeles, California. In this excerpt, Swami Vivekananda explains the eternal nature of our soul. He says that there is no death, since there is no birth. There is no existence or non-existence. This world is an apparent existence. We as humans are trapped by time, space, and causation :

"Now, when we study metaphysics, we come to know the world is one, not that the spiritual, the material, the mental, and the world of energies are separate. It is all one, but seen from different planes of vision. When you think of yourself as a body, you forget that you are a mind, and when you think of yourself as a mind, you will forget the body. There is only one thing, that you are; you can see it either as matter or body – or you can see it as mind or spirit. Birth, life, and death are but old superstitions. None was ever born, none will ever die; one changes one's position – that is all. I am sorry to see in the West how much they make of death; always trying to catch a little life. "Give us life after death! Give us life!" They are so happy if anybody tells them that they are going to live afterwards! How can I ever doubt such a thing! How can I imagine that I am dead! Try to think of yourself as dead, and you will see that you are present to see your own dead body. Life is such a wonderful reality that you cannot for a moment forget it. You may as well doubt that you exist. This is the first fact of consciousness – I am. Who can imagine a state of things which never existed? It is the most self-evident of all truths.



So, the idea of immortality is inherent in man. How can one discuss a subject that is unimaginable? Why should we want to discuss the pros and cons of a subject that is self-evident?

The whole universe, therefore, is a unit, from whatever standpoint you view it. Just now, to us, this universe is a unit of Prana and Âkâsha, force and matter. And mind you, like all other basic principles, this is also self-contradictory. For what is force? — that which moves matter. And what is matter? — that which is moved by force. It is a seesaw! Some of the fundamentals of our reasoning are most curious, in spite of our boast of science and knowledge. "It is a headache without a head", as the Sanskrit proverb says. This state of things has been called Maya. It has neither existence nor non-existence. You cannot call it existence, because that only exists which is beyond time and space, which is self-existence. Yet this world satisfies to a certain degree our idea of existence. Therefore it has an apparent existence.

But there is the real existence in and through everything; and that reality, as it were, is caught in the meshes of time, space, and causation. There is the real man, the infinite, the beginningless, the endless, the ever-blessed, the ever-free. He has been caught in the meshes of time, space, and causation. So has everything in this world. The reality of everything is the same infinite. This is not idealism; it is not that the world does not exist. It has a relative existence, and fulfils all its requirements, but it has no independent existence. It exists because of the Absolute Reality beyond time, space, and causation..."

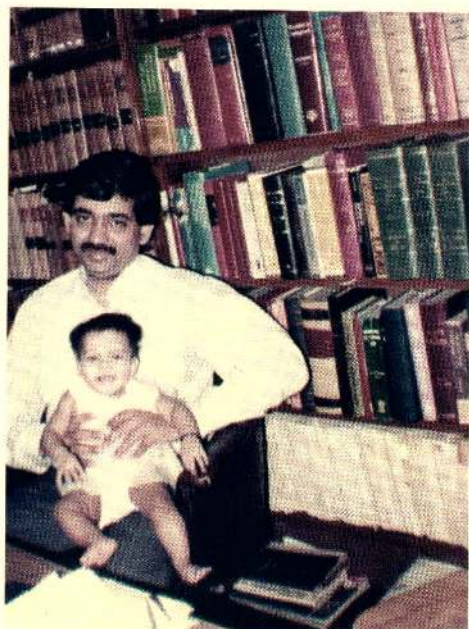
"On some other occasions, I told you the definition of God and man. Man is an infinite circle whose circumference is nowhere, but the centre is located in one spot; and God is an infinite circle whose circumference is nowhere, but whose centre is everywhere. He works through all hands, sees through all eyes, walks on all feet, breathes through all bodies, lives in all life, speaks through every mouth, and thinks through every brain. Man can become like God and acquire control over the whole universe if he multiplies infinitely his centre of self-consciousness. Consciousness, therefore, is the chief thing to understand. Let us say that here is an infinite line amid darkness. We do not see the line, but on it there is one luminous point which moves on. As it moves along the line, it lights up its different parts in succession, and all that is left behind becomes dark again. Our consciousness; may well be likened to this luminous point. Its past experiences have been replaced by the present, or have become subconscious. We are not aware of their presence in us; but there they are, unconsciously influencing our body and mind. Every movement that is now being made without the help of consciousness was previously conscious. Sufficient impetus has been given to it to work of itself."

- Swami Vivekananda (Home of Truth, Los Angeles, California)

Appa and I...



Pavithra Surendran



I read somewhere "A father holds his daughter's hand for a short while but he holds her heart forever". But my darling Appa held my hand for a long, long time and will keep holding it as tight as he used to forever in my heart.

I have spent many an hour helping Appa type certain articles and his written submissions, which I would take a million print outs of, one after the other, and each time with an additional new word or thought inserted. I was always amazed how easily a river of words would flow out of him, effortless, whether he was making a speech or recalling a touching spiritual experience with Swamy. I was never at a loss for words, from the time I was in school, because he was always there

to help me. Whether it was to write an essay, poem, speech or article, I did not have to struggle as he was by my side giving me points, correcting my grammar and providing me with all the necessary words. But today I sit in his chambers and begin to write this message without his words and guidance. I feel lost without my Appa- my walking dictionary, my confidant, my rock, my everything.

My childhood memories of Appa are of the happy moments we spent together, and some of the fun and naughty moments as a child. I remember most of the stories because of his incredible memory in being able to recall them to our family and friends. One story he recalled often was how I would walk into his chambers as a toddler and topple his books one by one onto the floor, while he was engrossed with his work. On a day when I continued to do the same, a heavy law book toppled on



At the Prefects' Oath ceremony at St. Bridget's

my foot, and thereafter I never attempted this play again. He jovially recalls this story, saying that sometimes one should learn their own lesson the hard way.

My school days and teens were spent mostly with Appa, guiding me in my studies and helping build my knowledge. I would do anything to go back to those days, where he asks me to take a book from his chambers (law, philosophical, spiritual), turn to a particular page (that he instantly remembers from memory), makes me read it; correcting me in-between, narrating the next line before I had even read it. Many have often praised his photographic memory.

Appa's knowledge was as vast as an ocean. I am thankful to God for giving me an Appa blessed with so much knowledge and for always having time to share the same with me and Anna. Appa always says that we should constantly give work to our brains and not let it rust. He never wanted to see us wasting time in anyway and if he ever caught us idling around, he will give us a math problem asking us to solve it. Though he was a lawyer, he never forgot other subjects such as Math, Science or Physics. Whenever Anna and I had any doubts he was always ready to help us with it. I remember those long trips out of Colombo where he asks me to calculate displacement and velocity while travelling; he made it so interesting that I never felt I was being asked something related to my studies.

When I had to do my London Advanced Level examinations and didn't want to leave St. Bridget's convent, I spoke to Appa about it. He said "don't worry you can remain in your school serving your *alma mater* and continue the London A/L's privately" He was the only one who supported my wishes to remain in school and that was because he knew what it was to be a part of your



On our way to Puttaparthi

school and serve, just like he did as a college prefect in Jaffna Central College.

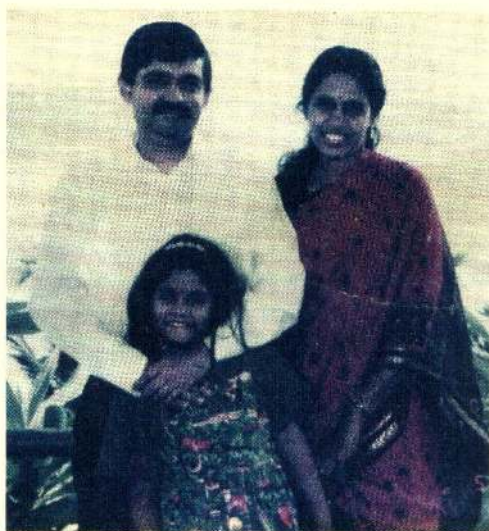
Appa also enjoyed and appreciated Carnatic music and Bharathanatyam and encouraged me to learn both arts. He loved singing bajans and has taught me some of the most beautiful ones that I know. He had



Arangetram - 09.08.2008

an amazing ear for music and could spot even a single note that is not in tune. When singing Bajan with him, if I happen to go off key, he would mask it with his outstanding devotional voice. He selected the bajans and sent me to Sindhi Center to sing on Swamy's birthday for the past 8 years on his behalf. The Bharathanatya Arangetram that he arranged for me in 2008 was one of THE best days of my life. He was involved in every little detail, to the smallest requirement, when organizing this Arangetram, as he always takes a keen interest in organizing any event. He has always been a person who was very particular about the comfort of others when organizing anything. He made sure that we didn't have too many speeches in-between that would bore the audience and that we select the best and most popular Carnatic pieces which could be enjoyed by the majority of the crowd. He also selected the beautiful Bajan "Ramanama tharaham" for which he insisted that I should dance to, after my rendition at the end of the programme when he came

onto the stage - I saw a proud Appa with a bright smile on his face eager to embrace me. It is a scene that I will cherish forever.



Appa was someone who never liked saying "it can't be done". For him, Everything and anything was possible. He always wanted us to give the answer, "it CAN be done Appa". He wants us to try, even when he asks the most impossible task, such as attaching a two hour long video of Swamy to an email. After joining medical school, I worried about how neither Anna nor I had followed him in the field of law to carry his name forward. When I mentioned this to



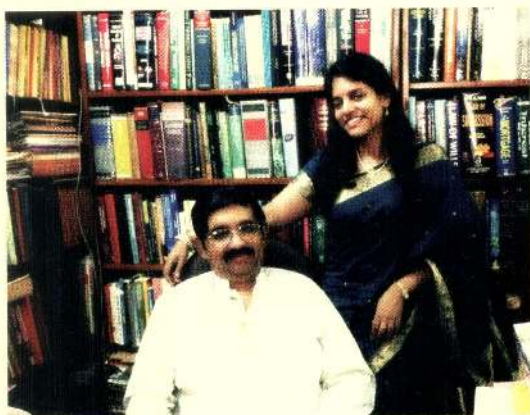
Appa, he immediately said “Why not? you can always do law if you want to. Where there is a will there is a way. But first you should finish what you started whole heartedly. Don’t ever get confused”.

My last few months with Appa brought me even closer to him and God, which helped me remain positive throughout.

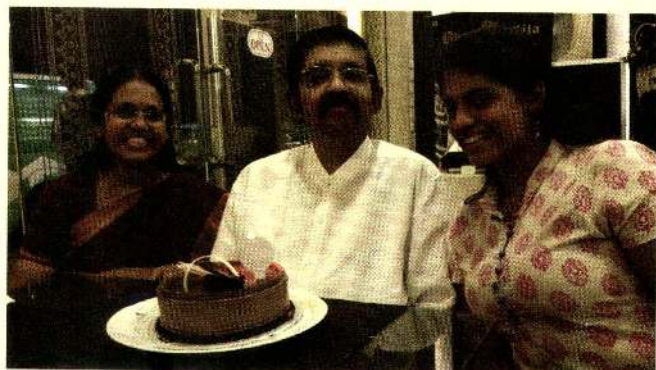
When Appa’s health complications began in October, that was the time when all my happy memories almost came to an end. I still remember that day and how I felt when I opened Appa’s report – The CA19.9. My whole world started falling apart. As medical students, we learnt how to ‘break bad news to patients’. Never in my dreams did I imagine that I would be breaking a news like this to MY own Appa.

All what I learned from Appa, during this period of his life, was to be positive and never give up, even during the toughest times. Never did he utter a word of complaint asking why he got such an illness. Even after we went to Singapore and discovered the severity of his condition he told Pranavan, Maithi and me “don’t worry darling even if the whole world is against me saying that it can’t be cured I will NEVER give up. So keep doing the best that you all can” these lines still reverberate in my ears.

“When calamities and adversities over take us we are reminded of him” says Shirdi Sai. I remember those days when Appa asks me to get a book from the Swamy (shrine) room and then sarcastically says “Oh sorry you might not know which side the room is, so I will get it”. He usually would say this when I forget to light the lamp and tell my evening prayers. But in the past 6 months when each medical report came out, the ONLY side I knew was that shrine room and the only person I turned to was Swamy. Day by day, Appa brought me closer and closer to Swamy and it is a bond that I would never want to lose as Appa is now with Him. The positive mind set of Appa and his faith in Swamy made us all stay positive and hope and pray for a miracle. And this is what I did until his last breath. But perhaps, the greatest thing to be happy about is that he will no longer feel any pain or discomfort from his illness.



Between these hard times, there was a beautiful and unexpected moment in our lives - the time he improved rapidly with treatment from December - February. On his 61st birthday after receiving his 2nd cycle of chemotherapy he told us that he wants to go to the Shiridi temple in Singapore and thereafter for dinner. That was the best thing that I had heard in 2 months. I watched him regain his appetite rapidly, and it was so exciting for me to see him eat by himself after so long. He came to the Shiridi temple and was able to sit in the 1st row and participate in the evening aarathi and that was the first time after so long that we saw him come out of the hospital and hotel rooms and walk around without a wheelchair holding my hands just like old times.



61st Birthday, Singapore (16.12.2015)

Tharan Chithappa and Naren Chithappa's visit to Singapore, during November 2015, gave him so much more courage and faith. The conversations of the 3 brothers on Swamy's miracles and teachings were lovely to listen to. They were a pillar of strength to me and Amma. Seeing Anna after 5 years in December 2015 was one of Appa's happiest moments ever and to think that the times we spent together with Appa would never come back... is hard to digest. After the 2nd PET scan showing a positive result, Appa was more positive than before. We were able to travel back to Srilanka as Appa's condition was improving. Watching him wear his coat and going back to courts, work past midnight with his juniors, engage in long phone calls with his loved ones... all these were a dream come true for me. I just wish that I could have paused time during those moments. He also fixed my marriage during the month of February, confirmed the date as 6th of July and started informing all his close relatives about the wedding.

But his health deteriorated over the last month and when I used to come and ask him medical related questions as to how he was feeling, he started telling me "Don't come to my room as the doctor girl, come as my daughter girl". I was always his little princess and nothing could change that. Appa's illness took its toll on all of us, but what I admired the most was Amma's strength and unshaken faith. At times when even we felt exhausted, she would find strength from within to keep going.

During Appa's last few weeks, even though his condition was worsening he continued to speak about the wedding arrangements. When he wanted me to buy the *koorai* saree I refused to go as he was in hospital during that time. But he

said "I will be fine *kunju*. Don't worry, go happily and buy the *koorai saree*" I still cannot believe that Appa isn't here but he is definitely watching over us and will be blessing us. He once told me "Tell Prasanna (my fiancé) not to take my darling little daughter far away from me" and I said "Don't worry Appa, we are not going to leave you and go anywhere". Instead, he has left us all and gone far away and I cannot believe this has happened, it's all still like a dream to me.

One morning when I walked into his room to see how he was doing, he told me "don't worry darling, I'm fine, Swamy has blessed me". His eyes were filled with tears, his voice choked when he added "today when I was watching Swamy's dharshan on TV there was thunder and lightning and the TV went blue, but Swamy's image remained on the screen for 7 minutes with raised hands" What a miracle. Three days before Appa passed away I recalled this incident and realized that Swamy has taken care of Appa and his great mission on earth was accomplished and his soul was ready to be one with Swamy. They say "God gives his toughest battles to his greatest soldiers" and Appa is one of those rare soldiers who fought his battle like no other and had the fortune of accomplishing many great feats in his short life.

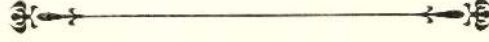
Om Sai Ram.





25th Birthday (02.02.2016)

அன்புள்ள அண்ணா...



சகோதரர் - மைத்துனிகள்

Scarborough
Ontario
Canada

16 December 2015

அன்புள்ள அண்ணா, அண்ணி, பிராஷந்தன், பவித்ரா அறியவேண்டியது.

இங்கு நாம் அனைவரும் நலமாக உள்ளோம். அதுபோல உங்கள் அனைவரினதும் நலன்களுக்காக இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றோம்.

அண்ணா உங்களுக்கு எமது 61 ஆவது பிறந்தநாள் நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள். சாயியின் அருளால் உங்களுக்கு தேவையான வாழ்கைப் பயணங்களை சாயி உங்கள் வழி நடத்துவார் என்று பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம்.

அண்ணா, நாங்கள் உங்கள் அருகில் இருந்த போது கடிதங்கள் வரைய வேண்டிய தேவை ஏற்படவில்லை. ஆனால் நாம் இடம் விட்டு இடம் பிரியும் போது தான் கடிதங்கள் வரைவதுண்டு. இந்த கணணி மயப்படுத்தப்பட்ட இயந்திரமான மனித வாழ்க்கையில் காலம் காலமாக நிலவி வந்த இந்த உறவுகளை நினைவுறுத்திக் கொள்ளும் பாரம்பரிய முறை கிட்டத்தட்ட காலாவதியான வேளையில், மீண்டும் இதனைப் புதுப்பிக்கின்ற வகையில் உங்களுடன் உரையாடுவதற்காகவும், பழைய நினைவுகளில் திளைத்திருப்பதற்காகவும் இக்கடிதத்தை எழுதுகிறோம்.

முதன் முதலாக இந்த உறவுகளையும், உணர்வுகளையும் தந்த அந்த உலகநாதனுக்கு உளமார்ந்த நன்றிகளை தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டு, உங்கள் உடன் பிறந்த தம்பிமார்கள் ஆகிய நாம் எமது உணர்வுகளை இப்பொழுது தங்களுடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்கிறோம்.



நினைவு கொண்ட நாள் முதலாக எமக்கு “அறிவொளி, அளவுகோல், ஆசான்” அத்தனையும் நீங்கள் தான். எமக்கும் உங்களுக்கும் இடையிலான வயது வித்தியாசம் ஆறும், எட்டும் தான்.

எமது ஐயா கொழும்பில் வேலை செய்து கொண்டும், எமது அம்மாவும், அம்மம்மாவும் வீட்டு வேலைகளை கவனித்துக் கொண்டும் இருக்கையில் எமக்குரிய பாடசாலை படிப்புக்களை கவனித்துக் கொண்டது நீங்கள் தான்.

எமது ஐயா எம்மையும், தன்னைத் தெரிந்தவர்களையும் ஆன்மீகப் பாதையில் இட்டுச் செல்லும் போது எமது அம்மா எம்மை சிறந்த பாடசாலைகளில் சேர்த்து விட்டு இருந்த போது நீங்கள் தான் உங்கள் தம்பிமார்களான எமது படிப்பு, பழக்க வழக்கங்கள், பண்புகள் எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் மேற்பார்வையாளராக இருந்து வந்தீர்கள்.

எம்மால் மற்றவர்களுடன் தாழ்மையற்ற முறையில் பழக முடிவதில்லை, மரியாதைக் குறைவாக நடந்து கொள்ள முடிவதில்லை. நாம் எமது அம்மா மீது கோபப்படவோ, உரத்துப் பேசவோ, சண்டை பிடிக்கவோ முடியவதில்லை. உங்கள் முன்னிலையில் மற்றவர்களைப் பற்றி குறைப்படுவதில்லை. தனிக்கல்வி போதனைக்காக யார் வீட்டுக்கு வந்தாலும் சிறிதளவேனும் மரியாதைக் குறைவாக நடத்த முடியாது. உங்கள் கண்களுக்கும், செவிகளுக்கும் முன்னிலையில் சாயி பஜனையிலும் கலந்து கொள்ளாமல் இருக்க முடிவதில்லை, பாடசாலைகளுக்கு ஒருநாளும் செல்ல முடியாமல் இருந்ததில்லை. பள்ளிக்கூட பாடங்களில் குறைவான புள்ளிகளை எடுக்க முடிவதில்லை. சந்தியில் நான்கு நண்பர்களுடன் அரட்டை அடிக்க முடியவதில்லை, மாலை ஆறரை மணிக்கு மேல் விளையாட முடிவதில்லை. இவற்றை எல்லாம் மீறினால் கன்னங்களும் காதுகளும் சிவக்கும், தலையில் ஏதோ தட்டுவதுபோல் தெரியும் அல்லது போனால் சுவாமி அறையில் ஒரு மணித்தியாலம் தரித்தும் நிற்க வேண்டும்.

இவ்விதமான சிறுவயதுக் கண்டிப்புக்களின் மூலம் எமக்கு நல்ல பழக்க வழக்கங்களை போதித்தினால் எம்மைப் பற்றி மற்றவர்களிடம் இருந்து நல்ல விதமான அபிப்பிராயங்கள் கிடைத்தன. இத்தகைய ஒரு அருமையான அண்ணா எமக்கு கிடைத்தமை அந்த ஆண்டவனின் ஆசிரவாதமாகவே கருதுகின்றோம்.

நல்லூர் அடி வாழ்வுதனில்:

அன்புள்ள அண்ணா, நாம் என்ன புண்ணியம் செய்தோம் மானிடராகப் பிறப்பதற்கு? அதிலும் உடல் ஊனமற்றவர்களாகப் பிறப்பதற்காகவும் யாவற்றுக்கும் மேலாக இந்த நல்லூரம்பதியில் பிறப்பதற்கும், எமது பாட்டனார், பாட்டிகளான அமரர்கள் அம்பலவாணர் ஆறுமுகம், மயில்வாகனம், மகேஸ்வரி மற்றும் தாய் தந்தையர்களான இரத்தினேஸ்வரி, இரத்தினவடிவேல் ஆகியோர் வாய்த்ததற்கும், எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் மேலாக சாயியின் கிருபை கிடைத்ததற்கு நாம் என்ன தவம் செய்தோம்?

எமது பாட்டனார் அமரர் மயில்வாகனத்தாரின் அன்பும், அரவணைப்பும், செல்லமும் உங்களுக்கு பிரத்தியேகமாக கிடைத்தது நாம் அறிவோம். பிறகு அன்றிமார்கள் ஆன சரோஜினி அன்றி, கமலினி அன்றி, சாந்தினி அக்கா, விக்கி மாமா, ராஜன் மாமா, இந்தி மாமா, அவர்கள் உங்களை பற்றி சென்னதை நாம் உங்களுக்கு அப்படியே இங்கு தருகிறோம்:

“He was blessed with acting talents at an early age. Shivaji Ganeshan was his favourite actor & he would try to imitate him. Sivaji's speech as Kattabomman in “Veera Pandiya Kattabomman” was delivered straight from memory to the local home audience. That speech where the British & their colonial rule were condemned so passionately would bring tears to the audience.

He was a good singer even as a young boy. He would sing the song “ poanaal pohattum podaa” from the movie “ Paalum pazhamum” perfectly & would not care when the audience giggled.

Although physically he was a soft & tender child (like a flower), he had great stamina. His aunt Shanthini would push him on his tricycle & once he toppled over scratching



himself & bleeding. He was a 2 year old toddler but did not shed a tear. It was his aunt who ended up crying.

He was very eloquent & it was no surprise that he chose Law as his profession. His gift as an orator made him choose Law instead of Medicine which his grandparents had in mind.



Bajan session with Pillai Aunty & Shanthini Akka

When he was growing up, spoken English was not so common. He was so eager to speak English fluently that even at that young age he asked his aunt Shanthini to converse with him in English. She agreed and he was very serious about those sessions. At such a tender age, he had such ambitions and that led to his success in life.

He had a great aunt named "Pillai Anty" who was a musician and who held music classes, bajans, etc. He would faithfully attend those classes, which showed his spiritual leanings even at that early age.

Suren was a kind person. He would never hurt anyone by word or deed. His kind nature was demonstrated by the way he treated Pillai Anty (who, unfortunately was blind from birth). His kind nature was his most remarkable characteristic.

When Suren was growing up in Jaffna, we were living in Colombo & hence did not have the chance of seeing him that often. Only during the holidays we had the chance to meet him in Jaffna. What we all remember most about him was his talent for singing and acting from the time he was small. Also, he was very talkative and was always very pleasant with everyone.

The most striking characteristic that he possessed was his talent for pleasing everybody - he had nothing but nice things to say to people which showed how he loved people, a quality that few possessed."

அன்புள்ள அண்ணா, உங்களை, எமது பாட்டனார் அமரர் மயில்வாகனம் தூக்கி வைத்திருக்கும் படங்களும், எமது சின்னம்மாமார்களான சும் (சுமித்திரா), விம் (விமலா) ஆகியோருக்கு இடையில் நீங்கள் சிறுபிள்ளையாக இருந்த போது எடுக்கப்பட்ட படங்களும், இளம் பிராய நினைவுகளை நினைக்கும் போது இனிமையாக இருக்கின்றது.

அன்புள்ள மாமா (வூரைசிங்கம்) மாமி (கமலா) அவர்களும் உங்களுடன் எவ்வளவு அன்பாக இருக்கின்றார்கள்.

நல்லூரில் எமது அம்மம்மாவுடன் வாழ்ந்த நாட்களும், எமது சின்னம்மாமார்களுள் ஒருவரான கமலா சின்னம்மா உங்களது சிறுபிராய செயல்களை நினைவு கூறுவார். அத்துடன் எமது தம்பியான வித்தியாவின் கெட்டித் தனங்களையும், எமது தங்கைமாமார்களான வாசுகி, ஜனனி வற்சலா, மஞ்சலா ஆகியோருக்கு கிடைத்த அன்பான கவனிப்பு, அவர்களுடன் நாம் நல்லூரில் விளையாடித் திரிந்த நாட்களும் இன்றும் நினைவில் நிற்கின்றன.

அத்துடன் பிள்ளை அன்றியுடன் நீங்கள் கழித்த நாட்களும் அவர்களுடன் திருக்குறள் மற்றும் பாட்டுகள் படித்த நாட்களைப் பற்றி ஐயா கூறுவார். எவ்வாறு நல்லூரடியில் முதல் முறையாக பஜனை அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது? எவ்வாறு பஜனைகள் பாடப்பட்டன? என்பது பற்றி எல்லாம் ஐயா கூறக்கேட்டிருந்தோம். அத்துடன் நீங்கள் பாடிய பஜனைகளை கேட்பதற்கும் இனிமையாக இருந்தது.

பாடசாலை நாட்களில் கண்ணாடிக்கு முன்பாக நின்று பேச்சுப் போட்டிக்கான ஒத்திகை பார்ப்பதும் அதிகாலையில் 2.30, 3.00 மணிக்கே எழும்பிப் படிப்பதும் அத்துடன் எமது சித்தப்பா சித்திர வடிவேலுக்கு எழுதிய கடிதத்தில் “சித்தப்பா நான் எமது வகுப்பில் முதலாம் பிள்ளையாக வந்துள்ளேன் எனக்கு ஹெலிகொப்டர் ஒன்று வாங்கி அனுப்புங்கள்” என மழலை வயதிலும் நன்றாக எழுதி இருந்தீர்கள். அத்துடன் நீங்கள் பாடசாலை நாட்களில் அதிகமான விடயங்களில் முன்னணி வகித்ததை பெருமையுடன் நினைவு கூருகின்றோம். பேச்சுப் போட்டிகள், பின்பு பாடசாலையில் Prefect, Senior Prefect ஆக பணியாற்றியதும் பாடசாலையில் ஒவ்வாறு வருடமும் கடைசில் வரும் அந்த Perceval House, நீங்கள் Perceval House Captian ஆக இருந்த அந்த வருடம் நடந்த விளையாட்டு போட்டியில் முதல் House ஆக வந்தது. இதனால் நானும் ஒன்றுவிட்ட சகோதரன் பிரேமனும் பெருமையாக கூறி கொள்வோம் உங்களை பற்றி. அண்ணா மேலும் எமது நல்லூர் வாழ்க்கையை பின்னோக்கிப் பார்க்கையில், அதுவே எமக்கு வாழ்வின் அடித்தளம்.

எமது ஐயா ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் கொழும்பில் இருந்து யாழ்ப்பாணத்திற்கு வந்து, எமக்கு ஆன்மீக சம்பந்தமான கலந்துரையாடல்கள், பின்பு மந்திரங்கள், முக்கியமாக காய்த்திரி மந்திரம், இராம நாமம், என்பனவற்றையே எமக்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்வார். எங்கள் ஐயா எப்பொழுதும் எல்லோரைப் பற்றியும் ஒவ்வொரு நல்ல பக்கங்களை மற்றும் மகிழ்ச்சியாக கூறுவார். ஆனால் ஒருநாளும் எங்களுக்கு இந்த மாதிரி தான் வாழவேண்டும், இப்படி தான் வாழவேண்டும் என்றும் கூறியது இல்லை. ஐயா பிறவியில் சைவமாக இருந்தும், எம்மை சைவமாக இருக்கச் சொல்லி வற்புறுத்தியதும் இல்லை. ஆனால் ஐயாவின் அந்த விதமாக ஒவ்வொருவரையும் சமமாக நோக்கும் தன்மைதான் எம்மையறியாமலே எம்மில் ஆழப் பதிந்து விட்டதுபோலும். அதனால் தான் என்னவோ மற்றவர்களுடன் (சுற்றத்தார், உறவினர்கள்) ஒருவிதமாகவும் கோபிக்க முடிவதில்லை. சண்டை சச்சரவுக்கு போவ முடிவதில்லை. அத்துடன் மற்றவர்களை மரியாதைக் குறைவாக நடத்த முடிவதில்லை.

ஐயாவின் ஆத்மிகமும், பொது வாழ்கையில் அம்மாவின் பிரத்தியேகமாக எம்மைக் பற்றிய முன்னேற்றம் பற்றியுமே சிந்திக்கும் தன்மையினாலேயே நாம் இப்பொழுதும் இந்த நிலமையில் இருக்கின்றோம்.

நல்லூர் என்று கூறும்போது இ எமது சுற்றத்தார் உறவினர்கள், நண்பர்களுடன் நல்லூர் முருகனும் எமது வைரவ கோவிலும் தாம். வைரவர் எமது குடும்ப காவல்தெய்வம் தான். எமது கனக மாமி கூறுவர். எவ்வாறு எமது வீட்டு கிணத்தடியில் வைரவர் காலையில் குளிக்கும் சத்தம் கேட்கும் என்றும், பின்பு பெரிய உருவம் வெள்ளை வேட்டியில் மிதுவடிச் சத்தத்துடன் நடந்து செல்வார் என்றும் கூறுவர். ஒருமுறை எமது பிள்ளை அன்றி ஒரு குறிப்பு சொன்னார், வைரவர் சொன்னதாக “நீ போன பிறப்பில் ஒரு அந்தணர் பூ கட்டும் போது அதனை பார்க்க வேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லும் போது நீ பார்த்தமையினால் உனக்கு அந்த அந்தணர் சாபம் விட்டமையினால் உனக்கு பார்வையற்று போய்விட்டது” அண்ணா அந்த கதை, இன்னும் நினை விருக்கிறதா? பின்பு ஒவ்வொரு வெள்ளிக்கிழமையும் மாலையில், பிள்ளை அன்றியுடன் சேர்ந்து தேவாரம் படித்து பிரசாதம் பெறுவோம். அதன் பிறகு நாம் இருவரும் பிரேமனும், சபேஷனும் அதனை பின்பற்றினோம். அதுவே எமது ஆரம்ப ஆலயவழிபாடாகும். எமது அருமை அம்மம்மா மூலமாக பின்பு நல்லூர் கோவிலுக்கு சென்று வழிபடுவோம்..

அத்துடன் எமது சுற்றத்தார் உறவினர்களையும் மறக்க முடியாது இ எந்தவிதமான காலச் சக்கர ஓட்டத்திலும். யோகப் பெரியம்மா, சசி அக்கா, சாந்தி அக்கா, சிறி அண்ணா, புவி அண்ணா, சரோ அக்கா, யசோ அக்கா, பிரேமன் எல்லோரும் அன்பாகவும் எம்மிடம் எவ்வளவு பிரியமாகவும் இருந்தார்கள் என்பதும், எவ்வளவு



Conversation with Naren - Singapore (Nov. 2015)

காலத்திற்கு பிறகும் எமக்கு உணரக் கூடியதாக இருக்கின்றது. எமது அம்மம்மா, சின்னம்மாமார்களான (விம் சின்னம்மா, சும் சின்னம்மா) பிரியமாக இருந்தது போல் சிங்கப்பூர் அம்மம்மாவும், கமலா பெரியம்மாவும் பிரியமாக இருந்தனர். நாம் அங்கு வாழும் போது எமக்கு முதல் இழப்பு பாலராஜா மாமா பிறகு குஞ்சி அம்மம்மா (யோகப் பெரியம்மாவின் அம்மா) பின்பு எமது அருமை அம்மம்மா. எங்கள் பிரியமான மாமி (எமது ஐயாவின் அக்கா)

என்பர்களை இழந்தோம். அதன் பிறகு விக்கி சின்னையாவையும் இழந்தோம். எமது அம்மமாவும் மாமியும். சகோதிரி, சகநண்பிகள் மாதிரி தான் பாசத்தோடு பழகினார்கள். எங்களுக்கும் அந்த பாசத்தை பொழிந்தார்கள்.

வித்தியா, வாசுகி, ஜனனி, வட்சலா, மஞ்சலா ஆகியோர் எங்களுக்கு கிடைத்த சகோதர, சகோதரி பாசம் பிணைப்புகள். அத்துடன் உறவு பாட்டனாரான, செல்லமாக அழைக்கும் ராசமாமா, (பிள்ளை அன்டியின் சகோதரர்) விசயா அன்டி தொடர்பும் உமக்கு வக்கீல் படிப்புக்கு ஒத்தாசையாக இருந்து. இந்திரா அன்டி அத்துடன், புவிமாமா, பவாக்கா, சாந்தினி அக்கா ஆகிய உறவினர்கள் அடுத்த வீட்டில் இருந்து எமக்கு அவ்வப்போது தேவையான உதவிகளை செய்ததை மறக்க முடியவில்லை இன்னும்...

சட்டநாதன் மாமா, ஜெய மச்சான், மகா மச்சான், ரவி மச்சான், சற்குரு மச்சான், கமாலநாதன் மச்சான், ஜெகன் மச்சான், எல்லோரும் எம்முடன் பாசமாக இருந்தார்கள். எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் கடவுளைத்தான் நன்றி கூறுகின்றோம்.

அத்துடன் உமது பால்ய பள்ளிக்கூட நண்பர்களான ரமணன் அண்ணா, சிவகுருநாதன் அண்ணா, சுபாஷ் Cafe முதலாலியின் மகன் சுரேந்திரன் ஆகியவர்களையும் மறக்க முடிவதில்லை. இவ்வளவு நண்பர்கள் இருந்தார்கள் என்று.

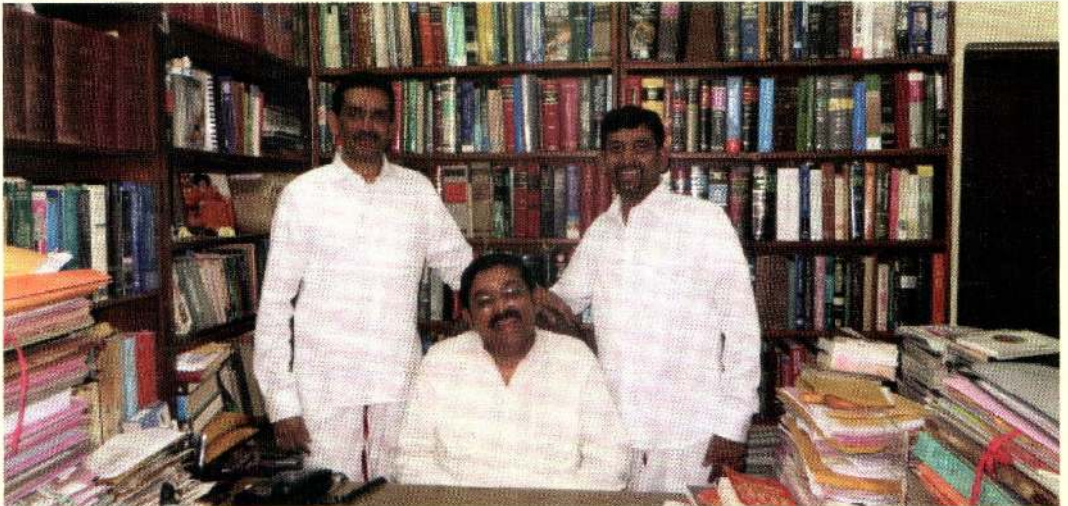
பின்பு சுரேந்திரன் (சுபாஷ் Cafe முதலாயின் மகன்) உமது 16 வது பிறந்த நாளுக்கு புதிய 2 ரூபா நோட்டில் உமக்கு 16 வது பிறந்த நாள் வாழ்த்துக்கள் கூறினது இன்னும் நினைவு இருக்கின்றது. இன்னும் இவ்வாறு பல பல நினைவுகள் அதை பற்றியும் எழுத ஆர்வமாக இருக்கின்றது. இப்போது நேரமின்மை காரணத்தால் இக்கடிதத்தை இத்துடன் முடிக்கின்றோம்.

மேலும், இவ்விடம் உமது நலங்களை விசாரிக்கின்றார்கள். உங்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் பிரார்த்தனை பண்ணுகின்றோம். ஆரம்பத்தில் நல்லூரில், ஆரம்பித்த சாய் பஜன் ஐய்யா மூலமாகவும், பிள்ளை அன்றியின் வழிநடத்துதலில் மூலமாகவும் அண்ணா, நீங்கள் தான் முதல்மையான பஜன் singer. இங்கு கனடாவில் சாய் பஜன் சந்திரனின் வழி நடத்துதலில் தொடர்ந்து சென்று கொண்டு இருக்கிறாது. அண்ணா நீங்கள் அனுப்பிவைத்த பாபாவின் 90 வது பிறந்த நாளைக்கு, நீங்கள் சமர்ப்பணமாக அனுப்பி வைத்த புத்தகங்கள் சந்திரன் சாய் சமித்தியிலும் கொடுத்துள்ளோம். அதனை சந்திரனும், ஜனனியும் தேவையானவர்களுக்கு கொடுப்பார்கள். இத்துடன் இக்கடிதத்தை முடிக்கின்றோம். மீண்டும் அடுத்த கடிதத்தில் நேரம் இருக்கும்பொழுது விபரங்களை எழுதுகின்றோம்.

இப்படிக்கு

உங்கள் அன்பு தம்பிகளான

நரேன், தரன் மற்றும் மைத்துன்களான ஜானக், வீனோதீன்



Suren - My 'Sagalan' and also my learned friend at the Bar



Kandiah Neelakandan

Sister-in-law's Husband, Friend & Confidant

We are indeed suffering a great loss by the demise of Suren. Soft-spoken, mild-mannered and unruffled – he was in a class of his own.

We lament his death and in sorrow; we bow our heads in his memory. I was perhaps one of the two individuals, the other being his Junior Kandeepan, who had the opportunity of observing Suren in the courts as well as in the chair during the meetings of the Vivekananda Society, of which he was the President. He never returned abuse to those who turned abusive. He never used harsh language. He was always very polite.

He was born a Sai devotee and departed with Sai Baba by his side. Addressing a large gathering of Sai Devotees on Bhagavan Sathya Baba's 83rd Birthday at Colombo Ramakrishna Mission Hall, Suren said:

“One cannot measure the depth of Bagawan's teachings like an ant trying to measure the depth of the ocean. But one can only say, if you understand



one unique facet of Swamy's life - that love transcends all and if you translate that love into service, then you are always there with Swamy and Swamy is always there with you"

Suren was always with Swamy and Swamy was always with him. I was moved to see his sweet daughter Pavithra writing "Sai Ram" repeatedly on a book with tears coming down her eyes by the side of Suren at Lanka Hospital when the Doctors had given up on saving Suren's life. To put it in Suren's own words, he "has gone to Swamy's Lotus Feet".

Suren was always proud to be identified as a Jaffna man. Although I was not born in Jaffna (being born to Jaffna Tamil parents who lived in Malaysia and returned to Jaffna when I was three years old), I too had the same inclination. Therefore, whenever Suren and I had opportunities of chatting at either of our homes, our conversation always reflected our pride as Jaffna Tamils who wished to continue to be governed by the Law of Thesawalamai. We had numerous common interests. Both of us had a Jaffna palate and we were very fond of pittu, string hoppers, venthaya kulambu, long beans, manioc curry and pappadam.

Although neither of us were politicians, we were interested in politics and shared the same political views. Furthermore, both of us have been keen students of the law and interested in spiritual matters. All these common interests created a close bond between the both of us. Of course, we had certain differences in our attitudes and behaviors. I could never be as calm as he was. I could not always be as polite as he was. Unlike me, he was never hasty. Nevertheless the common interests we had overshadowed those differences.

Suren was born and grew up in the Divine surroundings of Nallur, in close proximity to the Nallur Kandasamy Temple. This is what was said of Nallur by a poet Jean Arasanayagam in 'Remembering Nallur - 1984':

"....turning over and over again in the sand
of the temple veedhi your eyes are blind
to all but god, you rolled your body
through the dust your veshti stained
with sweat, then you saw god,
cried out his name, unceasingly you
cried, held out to him your heart
clutched in your hands, offered as sacrifice...."

Not only did he grow up as a son of 'Nallur', Suren always remained so until the very end.

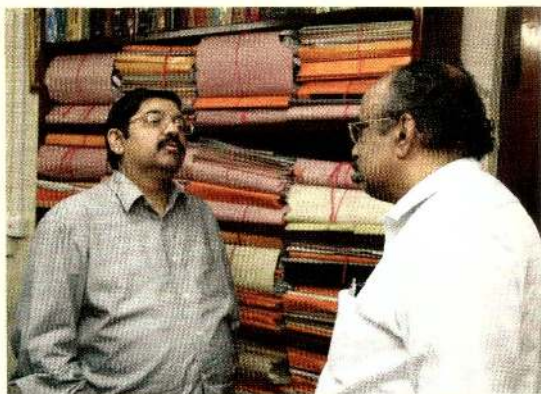
My acquaintance with Suren was at the farewell dinner to Mr. K. Sivananthan, who was migrating to Australia. This was in June 1984 at the Taj Samudra Hotel. Young bachelor Suren, joined my wife Sashi and me at the table reserved for vegetarians. During our first meeting itself, he impressed us both and we thought he might be the 'Krishna' dreamt of by Renuka, who never missed a single Krishna Jayanthi. When I came to know that Suren was a Sai devotee, I decided to approach Ms. Urmila Sambandan (another Sai devotee who was my client at that time), having obtained the approval of my parents-in-law. Ms. Sambandan arranged for me to meet Aiyah (Suren's father), who took a special liking to me at the very outset and this led to a successful completion of the marriage proposal.

I will never forget how Suren's wedding took place with a radio announcement on 24th November 1984. The wedding was fixed to be held that evening at Shri Manicka Vinayagar Kovil. Suddenly, a few days before the wedding, curfew was declared during night-time and this was to continue on the wedding day also. The wedding, therefore, had to be advanced to the morning.

I vividly remember how I went to the Kovil and got our Chief Priest Mani Aiyar to seek an answer from Lord Vinayagar by tying flowers and the Lord's reply was to advance the wedding to that morning. We frantically began making telephone calls (on land-lines) to all the invitees and as there was difficulty in reaching everyone, we decided to have the change of time announced over radio. That may perhaps be the only wedding announcement that was ever made on radio. It had the desired result. Virtually everyone who was invited attended the wedding. When I was given the sorrowful task of drafting Suren's obituary notice on 11th April 2016, I recalled how I also drafted the wedding announcement in 1984 and I could not control my tears. I did not ever imagine that that day would come.

Another interesting feature is that Suren had two 'best men'. Renuka who was very fond of her first nephew - my elder son Saravanan and was keen that he should also be a best man with Renuka's cousin Pathma akka's son, Kumar. Saravanan was just five years old at the time. That was the story of how Suren became my Sagalan.

Suren won the love and respect of all my three children because of the affection he showered on them as their Chiththappa. Children of both families still love each other as own brothers and sisters. Suren's affection towards my children earned their sincere and dedicated admiration. I know how Pranavan struggled and spent several sleepless nights trying everything possible to save Suren's life. It was miserable for him to see Suren disappear from this world, in the midnight of 10th/11th April 2016. Suren was surrounded by all his loved ones as he departed this world.



I really miss my daily chats with Suren, which was part of our routine every night after dinner. Sometimes forgetting that he is no more, I think of calling him after my dinner. We used to chat on phone on a variety of subjects which included interesting legal problems politics and sufferings of our people. Of course, we never failed to talk of our Jaffna identity. He and I too were proud of what the

Prime Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia said of Jaffna Tamils.

I wish to quote:

Mr. Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaysia once remarked:

"The dedication and stability of the Ceylonese who worked in large numbers in almost every branch of the public administration and in the plantation and industrial sectors, has left an indelible mark in my mind."

Dato Seri Dr. Visu Sinnadurai, Adjunct Professor of Malaysia who edited the publication 'Legacy of the Pioneers; 125 years of Jaffna Tamils in Malaysia', quoting what their Prime Minister said has observed as follows:

"What was notable was that they discharged their respective duties with great pride and dedication. They key drivers to the success and contribution of the Jaffna Tamils were a sense of pride, dedication and motivation to perform well and succeed. Further, a sound education has always been regarded as the cornerstone to success, and as a consequence, a high premium placed on education. In fact, as in my own family, our parents subsequently inculcated upon us these high principles, noble values, and a strong desire to excel."

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the famous Prime Minister of Singapore had this say:

"In terms of numbers the Ceylonese, like the Eurasians, are among the smallest of our various communities. Yet in terms of achievements and contributions to the growth and development of modern Singapore and Malaysia they have done more than warranted by their numbers. In the early days of Malaysia's and Singapore's history the civil service and the professions were manned by a good number of Ceylonese. Even to day the Ceylonese community continues to play a prominent role in these and other fields of civil life. For example in

Singapore, today, the Speaker of our Parliament is a Ceylonese. So is our High Commissioner in Great Britain. So is our Foreign Minister. In the Judiciary, in the Civil Service, in the University, in the Medical Service and in the professions they continue to make substantial contributions out of all proportions to their numbers. They are there not because they are members of a minority community but on the basis of merit."

Gerald Hawkins wrote :

"All men are equal but some are more equal than others", and the Jaffnese are in the latter class. They work hard and faithfully wherever they go and have won not only general respect but also affection so great that they have earned many nick names such as "The Aberdonians of Asia" and "God's Gift to the Government Officials."

Both of us used to recall these words of praise, and lament about the current predicament of Jaffna and our people.

Suren has been a source of encouragement to me in my service first as the General Secretary and then (since 2nd December 2012) as President of the All Ceylon Hindu Congress ("ACHC"), of which he was a Trustee. I used to consult him on statements which I used to draft for ACHC. As both of us were on the same wave length, his contributions and suggestions were very useful and readily acceptable to me. Although he did not want to step into limelight, he knew the 'pulse' of our community. At the same time he would discourage from making any controversial statement and I always appreciated this as it was done in my interests.

We Hindus believe that Love is God ('Anbe Sivam'). Love to God must be cultivated for love's sake and not for the sake of any reward, that being the form of God. Saint Thirumoolar has sung in Thirumanthiram that Love and God are one. Sir Pon Arunachalam has rendered into English those words of deep meaning, as follows:

*"The ignorant call Love and Siva two different objects.
No one knows that Love and Siva are both the same.
If one knows that Love is Siva.
One will abide in grace the form of Love and Siva"*

Suren not only preached but also practiced the doctrine of Love without fearing the jeers of the world. Swami Vivekananda once said:

"In the past present and future Love is greatest! Thus following the ancient sages, we have dared to preach the doctrine of Love, without fearing the jeers of the world."

Suren's words and life reminded me of a song of Saint Thayumanavar, which has been translated by Sir Pon Arunachalam as follows:

*"Whatsoever the eye seeth is Thou,
Whatsoever the hand doeth is Thy working,
What the mouth uttereth is Thy praise,
The earth and other elements and all living are
Thy gracious forms, O Lord".*

The following lines of Swami Vivekananda are also reminiscent of my memories of Suren:

*"Loving others is virtue; hating others is sin.
Faith in God and in one's own self is
Virtue; doubt is sin.
Knowledge of oneness is virtue; seeing
Diversity is sin.
The different Scriptures only show the
means of attaining virtue."*

Suren, as a Senior, gave his juniors salutary leadership which reminds me of what Lord Krishna said in Bhagavad Gita:

"Whatever action a great man performs, common men follow. And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts, all the world pursues."
- (Bhagavad Gita-3.21)

He was really a 'yogi' performing his duty equipoised. Lord Krishna told Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita as follows:

*"You have a right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of action. Never consider yourself the cause of the results of your activities and never be attached to not doing your duty.
"Perform your duty equipoised, O' Arjuna, abandoning all attachment to success or failure. Such equanimity is called yoga. - (Bhagavad Gita 247-48)*

Thiruvalluvar has said:

"It is said that all good things are natural to those who know their duty and walk the path of perfect goodness" (Kural 981)

In the words of His Almighty, a person of "firm resolve with mind and intellect dedicated to Me, he, My devotee, is dear to Me". (Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita 12.14)

Suren always wished the Bar to maintain its reputation untarnished and its pristine glory treasured for all times. He always enjoyed his professional work with the pleasure derived from arguing cases.

For a Lawyer to be a successful Counsel he must have complete, accurate and profound knowledge of the law in all its relevant branches, of course with an acute mind and a logical approach to the questions that arise in the case for decision. He had the required ability to present a clear argument in a manner which would win the attention of the judges and convince them of its correctness.

He won the confidence of the judges who trusted him because they know that he would never mislead or deceive them on any question of law or fact, and that in every statement he made they could rely on him to be faithful and honest.

The hard work and meticulous preparation he put into his work was prodigious. He was equally excellent in presenting in courts what he had prepared. His mind was always alert.

If he had lived for a few more years, success as a leading counsel would have in super-abundance but fate has decreed otherwise.

He was extremely widely read both within and outside the law but most intensively in the works and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. It was a treat to listen to his addresses as the President of Colombo Vivekananda Society at its various functions. Those speeches had all the qualities that an eminent religious preacher normally has with a stamp of quality that was inimitably his own.

No length of years will dim the memory of the good Senior who guided juniors in his chambers in a pleasant friendly and fatherly manner. He was always considerate to them. There was hardly a junior who did not learn something from him. He was a model Senior.

Renuka who caringly stood by Suren in all the shades of his life in good times and in hours of pain and sorrow may only console herself that she was very fortunate to have had a devoted husband.

Although it is unfortunate that they have lost their Appa who remained to end youthful to Prashathan and Pavithra can always be proved that they are and will always be recognized the children of a great gentleman of rare excellence.

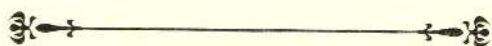
With indomitable courage that he always displayed he fought his illness to the last.

His greatness lied not merely in his qualities as a counsel and his masterly of law but in his character as a gentleman. A number of our colleagues who called at Suren's home to pay their last respects was of one voice when they told us that he was a great gentleman and always treated everybody –even his opponents in court cases – with the utmost courtesy. No doubt there was a personal charm about him. He was more a good Hindu and Saibaba devotee. He held the office of the President of Colombo Vivekananda Society and also of Trustee of All Ceylon Hindu Congress with distinction. The Hindu community of this country has lost a great leader who was held in his esteem.

Suren would have said goodbye to this world with one thought "*Honeste Vivere, Neminem leaders seu alicui tribune - I have lived honourably, I have never harmed anyone, I have given everyone his due*".



Our Chithappa – a wonderful and enlightened human being



Saravanan Neelakandan, Janani Rajeswara &
Pranavan Neelakandan

Niece and Nephews



Saravanan & Janani with Chithhappa, Chithi & Prashanthan

Since the day we remember, our Chithappa Mr. A.R. Surendran, showered us with much love and affection. We, in turn, loved and respected him and regarded him as a father-figure.

Chithappa was rich in love, kindness, warmth, generosity, virtue, knowledge, intelligence, honesty, integrity and modesty. He welcomed everyone with an ever-smiling face and was always generous with his time and compliments. Our Appa would always encourage us to obtain Chithappa's advice and guidance prior to taking important decisions.

Kanag-Isvaran Sir, in his reflection, has quoted the Tamil proverb 'அகத்தின் அழகு முகத்தில் தெரியும்' ('*the beauty of the soul can be seen in one's face*'), which is an apt description of Chithappa's persona. Having grown up in the holy city of Nallur, which was the historical capital of the ancient Jaffna Kingdom, in the environs of the sacred Nallur Kandaswamy

Temple, Chithappa was imbibed with a very rich cultural and religious heritage. He was an ardent devotee of Nalluran and Sathya Sai Baba. One of our earliest memories of Chithappa is witnessing him perform pooja in the shrine room, followed by a few thevarams and bhajans. We loved to listen to him sing, in his sweet and clear '*ganir*' voice, and would patiently sit beside him. We also had the opportunity of listening to him sing Sai bhajans at the Sindhi Centre, whenever we tagged along for the Thursday pooja conducted there by Chithappa's father 'Aiyah'.

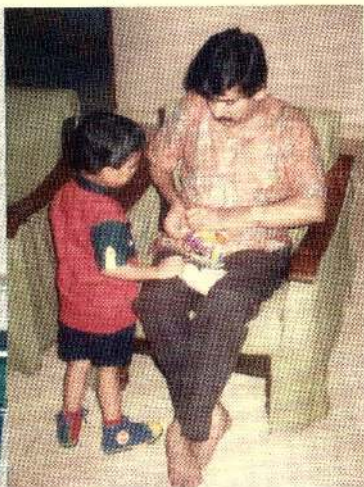


Chithappa always knew what to say to cheer people up and encourage them. He gave everyone around him, including his clients, a sense of confidence and support. He had the talent of getting people to work

without scolding them or pushing them too much. He never liked troubling people and was never short of gratitude to those who help him. He genuinely respected everyone and their differences.

Chithappa was very proud of our academic achievements and would keenly inquire about what we were doing at school and subsequently at university. He was overjoyed that all three of us had chosen law as our profession, and would frequently discuss legal points and the 'latest happenings in Hulftsdorp' with us.

Chithappa had a rare gift of being able to converse with anyone; may it be a toddler, a teenager or an elderly person, he quickly established a rapport. He was very well read and had a remarkable memory. We would often sit and chat with Chithappa in his chambers, after he had finished work, and he would discuss wide-ranging topics, including law, politics, Hindu philosophy, British and American history, astrology, Carnatic music, cricket etc., seamlessly moving from one to the other. We used to be held spellbound as he narrated, in great detail, incidents from the lives of many great men. He would often quote, from memory, lines from Swami



Chithappa and Pranavan

Vivekananda's speeches. Similarly, he would quote from landmark judgments, and recall the name of the judge who had written the judgment and its citation in the law reports. His knowledge was such that many referred to him as a 'walking library' or 'living encyclopaedia'.

As we listened to Chithappa's interesting stories we never felt the time pass by. However tired we were or however late the hour was, we would always leave his chambers full of smiles and laughter. Sometimes we find that we are still smiling when we reach home, as we enjoyed his company so much. He would often quote Shakespeare's famous lines that time stands still *"with lawyers in the vacation, for they sleep between term and term, and then they perceive not how time moves"*.

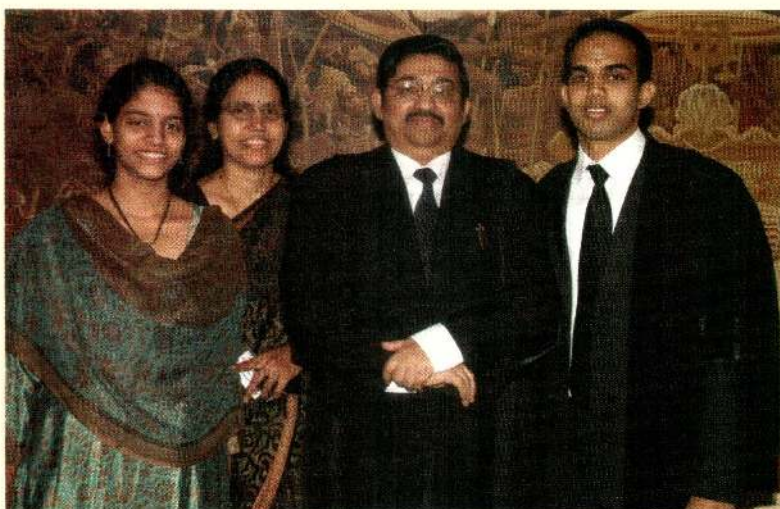
Law was his passion and he was ever willing to appear without a fee for less privileged clients or in support of a worthy cause, and he would prepare and study for these cases as much as he would for any other case. There are so many clients who are grateful to him each day of their lives for winning them justice. Quite often, he would tell his instructing lawyers, not to charge too much from the client and to ask them to pay what they can.

Nothing made him happier than sitting at his desk in his chambers and talking about the law. The other thing which made him equally happy was spending quality time with his family, relatives and friends.

Chithappa was courteous to everybody and never had a harsh word to say about



at Saravanan & Janani's Oaths taking Ceremony (2006)



at Pranavan's Oaths taking Ceremony (2010)

anyone; even those who had wronged him. These outstanding qualities earned him the love and respect of his colleagues in the profession and everyone who ever had the privilege of getting to know him.

Chithappa had a cool temperament and would rarely lose his temper. On the rare occasion when a grave injustice to a client would cause him to get angry, he would still exercise self-control and eloquently make his submissions in court, albeit with a slight rise in the decibel level. Once when he had ignored a snide remark from the opposing counsel, we asked him why he had not retorted. He simply replied that we should not get drawn into unnecessary 'skirmishes' but should concentrate on winning the case, which he did.

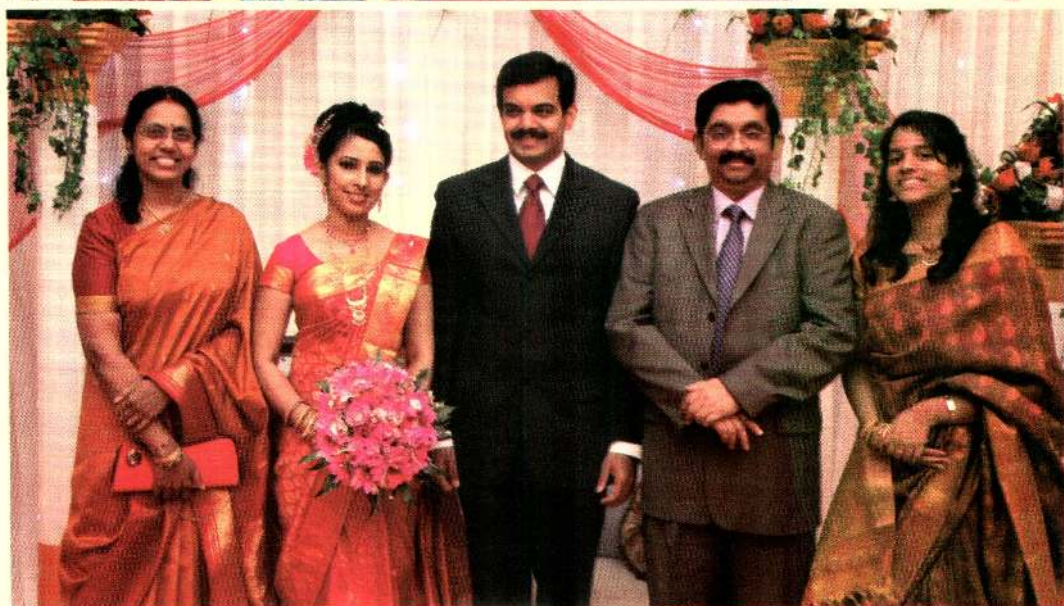
Chithappa was also a very humble and private person, who always believed in keeping a 'low key'. In 2004, he obtained a Doctorate in Law from a leading international law school but he never publicised this fact and chose not to use the prefix 'Dr.' in front of his name.

We always enjoyed witnessing Chithappa's support matters or arguments in Court. We looked forward to these dates and used to get disappointed if the case was not taken up. Seeing Chithappa in action in court was always a master-class in advocacy and articulation.

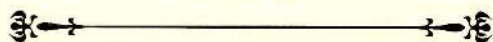
The five-month period soon after his diagnosis of cancer was an emotional roller-coaster for all his loved ones. Out of the three of us Pranavan, had the opportunity of spending more time with him during these five months in and out of hospitals and during his stay in Singapore for treatment. His unwavering faith and strong character gave us confidence. Even as each trip to the hospital and the treatment

took a toll on him, he never lost hope and remained cheerful and greeted us with his customary welcome '*come, rasa*'. Even during his last days, it was heart-warming just to be in his presence. He did not fail to impress all his doctors and nurses with his magnetic personality.

There is no doubt we are indeed going to miss him. We can only console ourselves in the belief that his beautiful soul had continued on its journey to a better place.



Remembering our Loving Suren



Dr. Satkurunathan

Cousin

I never, ever, dreamt that I will have to pen a few lines of appreciation on our loving Suren. But this reflects the uncertainty of life of a human being in this earth. This confirms with the saying of Mahathma Gandhi that the next moment in our life is not in our control.

The sudden death of Suren is an irreparable loss to his family, friends and clients.

From April 1953 to April 1955 I was living with my Uncle at Hampden Lane Wellawatte. Suren was born on 16-12-54. He was a sweet fair baby and received the admiration of all relatives and friends of my Uncle. He was brought up in Colombo until 1958 when the ethnic disturbances displaced him to Jaffna.

His primary education in Jaffna Central College where he excelled in his studies and got admitted to Law College in 1975.

He started practicing as a lawyer in 1979 and excelled in his profession for which he received the honour of 'President's Counsel' in 2004.

Suren's professional life was a success story till the end. He was knowledgeable in all aspects of law and was sincere to his clients.

His Juniors had total love and praise for him in all what he did.

His personal life was soaked in Spirituality activities, a born teetotaler, honest, gentle with a high degree of integrity and sincerity to all who came into contact with him.

His life was not always a bed of roses. He had instances of tragedy and ill health which he suffered in Silence undeterred he continued his profession.

As his brothers were away in Canada the responsibility of looking after his parents fell on him which he did with love and full responsibility.

Few months ago he spoke to me and informed me to be available for his loving daughter's wedding in July. That was the last time I spoke to him.

During the month of January 2016 I had a personal legal matter for which I sought his advice. He promptly attended to the matter and informed me that he will appear on my behalf and treat this case as his case and for me not to worry. That is Suren my cousin the one I can never ever forget.

During that last one month it was all tragic news to me. First I was told he was admitted to Lanka Hospitals in a serious medical condition. I promptly went and saw him.

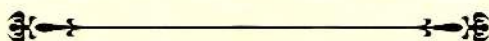
Then he was unconscious and lying on the bed with total serenity in his face. His wife briefed me on his state of health.

He left all of us on 11.04.2016.

May Your Atma Rest in Peace and Harmony



A letter...



Arumainathan

Cousin

Dear Renuka, Prasanthan & Pavithra,

We are so saddened and find no words to express how devastated we were when we received the message about Suren's sudden demise.

Suren was more like a brother to me. He was our beloved cousin and all my family members had a lot of affection for him. Out of all I had the opportunity of associating with him in all matters including legal consultations. I cherish so much the affection he had with us. In fact I still remember the last time I met him in September 2015 prior to our departure to Canada. I never realised that there would be no more meeting between us such a cruel fate.

His devotion to religious matters and following of Sai Teachings has been commendable. He led his life as a true Sai devotee.

It is very distressing for us to accept the fact that Suren is no more. We always remember the smiling Suren inviting us at his place for a dinner at his place more often than once.

We very well know that his sudden departure has created such a void in your family and no words of consolation from us, would be sufficient to come over the grief at this moment.

However, knowing very well the impermanence of life and eventual call of death waiting for every individual, we have to accept the reality that Suren has been called to Rest in the lotus feet of Lord Shiva.

We hope and pray to God to grant you courage and strength to overcome this moment of sadness and proceed forward and full fill his dreams.

Warm Regards,

Ravi Machchan, Rani Akka and Children & family

சாயி சுரேன்திரா...



சசி அக்கா
மற்றும் பள்ளைகள்

ஓம்
ஹரி ஸர்வோத்தம வாயுஜிவோத்தம
ஸ்ரீ ஸ்ரீ ராகவேந்திரா ஸ்சவாமிகள் மருத்திக்கா பிருந்தவனம், நல்லூர். யாழ்ப்பாணம்

சாயி சுரேன்திரா

தம்பி சுரேன் மீளா துயிலில் ஆழ்ந்து விட்டார். ஆனால் இந்த சசி அக்கா உங்களின் சிறுபராயத்தை நோக்கி எனது சிந்தனைகள் மிளிக்கிறது. உங்களின் தந்தையார் திரு திருமதி இரத்தினவடிவேல் இரத்தினேஸ்வரி சகோதரர்கள் நரேன்திரன், கதாதரன்.

சுரேன் சுருக்கமாகவே உம்முடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்கின்றேன். 1946ம் ஆண்டு சாது முருகதாஸ் அவர் உங்களின் தந்தையாரையும் இன்னும் சில இளைஞர்களையும் இந்தியாவுக்கு அழைத்துச் சென்று பகவான் ஸ்ரீ ரமண மகரிஷி, சுவாமி ராமதாஸ், மாதாஜி மற்றும் கிருஷ்ணாபாய் போன்ற ஜீவன் முக்தர்களின் ஆசிகளையும் பெறச் செய்திருந்தார்.

1954ம் ஆண்டு திருக்கார்த்திகை பூரணை அன்று சுவாமி ராமதாஸ் சிந்தி சமூக நிலையத்திற்கு வந்து, உங்கள் தந்தையார் சுவாமிகள் மூலம் குருமந்திர உபதேசம் பெற்றிருந்தார் என்ன மகிமை சுரேன் நீங்களும் 1954ம் ஆண்டு மார்ச்சு மாதம் 16ம் திகதி பிறந்தீர். எல்லா சுவாமிகளின் ஆசிகளை பெற்ற தந்தையாருக்கு பிறந்த பிள்ளை நீங்கள் உங்களின் தந்தையார் திரு. இரத்தினவடிவேல் அவர்கள் அம்பாள் உபாசகர் ஸ்ரீ சக்ர பூஜை செய்பவர் அப்படிப்பட்ட உத்தமருக்கு பிறந்த பிள்ளை நீங்கள்.

சுரேன் நாம் எல்லோரும் நாலாவது பரம்பரையாக நல்லூர் கந்தசுவாமி கோவிலுக்கு அருகில் வசித்து வருகிறோம். நல்லூர் சித்தர்கள் வாழ்ந்த பூமி சித்தர் செல்வப்பா சுவாமி, யோகசுவாமி எல்லோரினதும் திருவடிகள் பதிந்த இடம் நல்லூர் அப்படிப்பட்ட இந்த இடத்தில் பிறந்து வளர்ந்த உங்களுக்கு அந்த ஞானம் தானே.

சிறுவயதிலே நாங்கள் விளையாட செல்வோம் அந்த மாலை நேரம் நீர் அமைதியான புன்னகையுடன் இந்த அக்காவின் கையை பிடித்து கொண்டு வருவீரே. அதேபோல் இன்று வரைக்கும் அதே புன்னகையுடன் வாழ்ந்தீர்.

உங்களின் ஆரம்பக்கல்வி நல்லூர் மங்கையற்கரசி தமிழ்கலவன் பாடசாலை, சுரேன் நினைவிற்கிறதா? பாடசாலை தலைமை ஆசிரியரை "பெரியம்மா" என்று கூப்பிடுவோம் ஆசிரியர்களை அக்கா என்று சொல்வோம்.

இந்த ஆரம்ப பள்ளி மேடைதான் கலைக்கும் விவாதத்திற்கும் உமக்கு வித்திட்ட இடம் நீர் மிகவும் அழகாக உமது கைகளை உயர்த்தி “அந்த நாள் முதல் இந்த நாள் வரை வானம் மாறவில்லை” என்ற சினிமா பாடலை பாடினார். இது தான் உமது அரங்கேறிய பாடல். கப்பல் ஓட்டிய தமிழன் கட்டபொம்பன் வசனங்கள் பேசுவீரே, என்றும் இந்த சசியாக்காவின் மனதில் பசுமையாக இருக்கிறது.

நாலாம் ஆண்டிற்கு பிறகு உமது படிப்பை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் ஆரம்பித்தீர். நீர் யாழ் மத்தியில் எத்தனை கலை நிகழ்ச்சியில் பங்கு பற்றியிருந்தீர். உங்களின் சங்கீத ஆசிரியர் திரு வேலுப்பிள்ளை அவர்கள் காலை நேர பிரார்த்தனைக்கு நீர்தான் தேவாரம் பாடுவீர். சனி ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமைகளில் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் நடக்கும் சங்கீத வகுப்பிற்கு நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் நல்லூரில் இருந்து காரில் படிக்க செல்வோம் ஞாபகம்தானே? ஒரு கலை நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் பாடிய பாட்டு நினைவிருக்கிறதா?.

மீனபாடல்

‘முயல் மீனார் முன்னின்று முழுவதையும்
முற்றக்க ஓட்டியும் ஓராவும்
ஒதுங்கிநின்று மா இடிக்க
சூடை சூடையாக பனியாராம் பண்ணிவைக்க’

இந்த நினைவுகளை எல்லாம் உம்முடன் இந்த அக்கா பகிர்ந்து கொண்டே போகலாம் சுரேன் நல்லூரில் சாயிமண்டலி (1969ம் ஆண்டு) ஆரம்பித்தோம்.



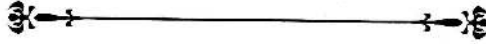
உமது படிப்பை கொழும்பில் தொடர்ந்தீர் எல்லா பட்டங்களையும் பெற்றீர். சட்டகல்லூரியில் படித்து 79ம் ஆண்டு முடித்தீர்.

இல்லற வாழ்க்கையில் இணைந்தீர். 1984ம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் மாதம் 24ம் திகதி திருமதி முருகேசு தம்பதிகளின் புத்திரி பவித்திரமான ரேணுகாவை கரம் பிடித்தீர். ரேணுகாவும் வாழ்க்கையில் எல்லாவற்றிக்கும் உங்களுக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருந்தார். மூன்று பிள்ளைகளான பிரசாந்தன் பிரதா, பவித்திராவிற்கு தந்தையானீர்.

பிள்ளைகளை ரேணுகாவின் கைகளில் கொடுத்து விட்டு எங்கு சென்றீர்?

எங்கள் குடும்பத்திற்கு எல்லாவற்றிலும் உதவினீரே எம்மால் மறக்க முடியுமா? உம்மை பற்றி பகிர்ந்து எழுத ஒரு புத்தகமே வேண்டும். எங்கள் குடும்பத்தற்கு மாபெரும் தூணாக இருந்தீரே! அந்த பவித்திரமான தூண் எம்மை விட்டு பூமியில் சரிந்து விட்டதே ...

உயிருக்கு உயிரான சிநேகிதன்



வே. பொ. பாஸ்கங்கம்

நண்பன்

ஓம் ஸ்ரீ ராம் ஜெய் ராம் ஜெய் ஜெய் ராம்

உயிருக்கு உயிரான உறவாக விளங்கிய எம் சுரேனை இவ்வளவு விரைவாக எம்மிடமிருந்து பறித்துக் கொண்ட இறைவனை வைத்து கொண்டு இச் சிறு குறிப்பை எழுதுகின்றேன்.

சுரேன் என்று வாஞ்சையுடன் அழைக்கப்பட்ட அமரர் திரு. இரத்தினவடிவேல் சுரேந்திரனுடன் சுமார் 45 வருடங்களாக எனக்கு பரீட்சயம் உண்டு. எம்மை ஆத்மீக வழிகளில் இளம் வயதிலேயே ஈடுபட வைத்த எம் குருநாதர் இரத்தினவடிவேல் அவர்களின் புத்திரன் என்ற வகையில் சுரேனை அவர் A/L கற்ற காலங்களிலேயே காணும் சந்தர்ப்பம் இருந்தது.

இளவயது முதலே நல்ல குணங்கள் அவரிடம் நிரம்பியிருந்தன. யாரையும் கவரும் நல்ல களையான முகம் நடிகர் கமலஹாசனுடன் நாம் இவரை ஒப்பிடுவோம். அவரது தோற்றத்துக்கு ஏற்பவே நல்ல உள்ளம் கொண்டவர்.

நல்ல ஒழுக்கம், அமைதியான பேச்சு, யாரையும் புண்படுத்தாத உயர் பண்பு, பக்தி நெறியில் ஈடுபாடு இவை எல்லாம் சுரேனை சராசரி மனிதரிடமிருந்து வித்தியாசப்படுத்திக் காட்டின.

சுரேனிடம் நிரம்பி இருந்த திறமையை எப்படிச் சொல்வதென்பது எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. யாழ் மண்ணில் தோன்றிய அவர் கொழும்பில் மிகப் பிரபலமான சட்டத்தரணியாக விளங்கினார். அவருடைய சட்ட அறிவு, வாதத் திறமை எல்லோரையுமே கவர்ந்தது. கொழும்பில் நீதித்துறை, சட்டத்துறை முக்கியஸ்தர்கள் எல்லோருமே இவரை மிகவும் மதித்தார்கள்.

கார்வில் பிளேஸில் உள்ள இவரது இல்லத்துடன் இணைந்த அலுவலக அறையில் இவருடைய துரழைப்பு பிரசன்னத்துடன் இவர் வழக்குகளுக்கு தயார் செய்து கொண்டிருப்பது ஒரு அற்புதமான காட்சியாக இருக்கும். இவரது அபரிதமான ஞாபக சக்தியினால் சட்டப்பத்தகாங்களில் எந்தப் புத்தகத்தில் எந்தப் பக்கத்தில் குறிப்பிட்ட விடயம் வருகிறது என்பதை Juniors க்கு சொல்லி விடுவதைக் காணலாம். தொலைபேசி எண்கள் எல்லாம் இவருக்கு மனப்பாடமாக இருக்கும். பின்னிரவு வரை நேரம் போவதே தெரியாமல் பணியாற்றிக் கொண்டிருப்பது இவர் இயல்பு. இரவு 1 மணி, 2 மணிக்கு உறங்கப் போவது அவருக்குச் சாதாரண விடயமாக இருந்தது.

ஸ்ரீ சத்திய சாயி பகவானின் தீவிர பக்தர் இவர். இவருடன் பகவானைப் பற்றி மணிக்கணக்கில் பேசிக் கொண்டிருக்கலாம். எங்கெல்லாமோ தேடி நிறைய விடயங்களை அவர் வைத்திருப்பார். அவருடன் உரையாடி வருகையில் அருமையான தெய்வீக அனுபவம் ஏற்பட்ட திருப்தி வரும்.

தாய் மொழி தமிழில் நிறையப் பற்றுக் கொண்டவர். இவர் சிறுவயது முதல் அழகான கவிதைகள் புனையும் திறன் கொண்டிருந்தார். வாசிப்பில் நிறைய ஆர்வம் கொண்டிருந்த இவருக்கு உலக விவகாரங்கள் தொடர்பான பொது அறிவு நிறையவே இருந்தது. எவ்விடத்திலும் எந்தத் தலைப்பிலும் திறம்படக் கருத்துக்களை முன்வைக்கும் இவரது ஆற்றல் இவரைச் சபையில் முன்னிருக்கச் செய்தது.

திரு.சுரேந்திரனுக்கு நிறைவான குடும்ப வாழ்க்கை அமைந்தது. பண்பும், பக்தியும், அன்பும், அமைதியும் கொண்ட மகாலட்சுமியாக மனைவி ரேணுகா அமைந்தார். குழந்தை ப்ரதா சிறுவயதிலேயே மறைந்து விட்டார். பிரசாந்தன், பவித்ரா இருவரும் தங்கமான பிள்ளைகள் தந்தையின் உயர் பண்புகள் எல்லாம் இவர்களிடம் உண்டு.

கொழும்புக்குச் செல்லும் போதெல்லாம் சுரேனிடம் நாம் செல்வதுண்டு அலுவலக அறையில் எழுந்து நின்று வாருங்கள் மாமா என்று முகமலர்ச்சியுடன் அழைத்து Juniors க்கு விடை கொடுத்து நேரம் போவது தெரியாமல் என்னுடன் உரையாடி இரவு உணவைச் சேர்ந்து உண்டு வழியனுப்பி வைக்கும் இனிய சுரேனை நான் இனிமேல் சந்திக்க மாட்டேன் என்ற உண்மை நெஞ்சை உறைய வைக்கிறது. இந்த இனிய மானிடனைத் தன் சமூகத்திலேயே வைத்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்ற உந்துதலில் இறைவன் கவர்ந்து விட்டார் போலும் நிச்சயமாக இறைவன் பாதத்தில் எங்கள் சுரேனுக்கு நல்ல பதவியே வழங்கப்பட்டிருக்கும், அதே இறைவன் அவரது இனிய குடும்பத்தாருக்கும் எமக்கும் ஆறுதலைத் தரட்டும்.



SUREN, My kith Junior and Colleague



S. Sivarasa PC
Family Friend & Colleague

Indeed it was my privilege to be associated with Suren all of thirty five years as kith, then as junior and finally as a colleague at the Bar.

It was after I reverted to the unofficial Bar in July 1979 that the association commenced. I came to know him intimately as we were together in a number of cases and quite often they were in the outstations which occasioned our, being together for substantial periods of time and enabled us to divert our attention to matters other than the law.

In his school days at Jaffna, Suren who resembled a South Indian film star, a good singer and a qualified Muruthangist was very popular not only amongst the boys but also the girls who were pursuing higher studies. Perhaps his period at the Law College prevented him from furthering his prowess in music.

We used to proceed to the outstation courts in my car and I had the privilege of listening to his rendition of not only carnatic music and film songs but also devotional songs. The singing of devotional songs was invariably succeeded by an analysis of hindu philosophy from which I gained knowledge.



It was after his return from abroad, having obtained higher qualifications in the law, that Suren gave me the opportunity to benefit from his knowledge of the historical development of other foreign jurisdictions.

He was distinctly familiar with the legal history of the United States.

The work that we enjoyed most was writing opinions. Suren relished taking a contrary view and hence would leave no stone unturned in its pursuit. I have often had the pleasure, at his bequest, of working long hours, reading tomes and tomes of law and decided cases and finally arriving at the desired conclusion, Suren greatly enjoyed our court cases be they be in the Original Courts or Appellate Courts. Certainly he preferred the Appellate Court and more so when we were challenging established precedents. He could with admirable facility foresee and foretell a judges' disagreeing remark. But immediately restrain me from the expressing dissent. Such was his nature that every judge in every court approved and enjoyed Suren's conduct and participation.

In the closing years of the 20th Century as Suren was reaching a level of eminence, I had several opportunities of seeing the display of goodness and kindness to the young lawyers who had joined his chambers. It was exemplary.

In August 2001, when I moved my residence to Melbourne, Australia, Suren succeeded me as the President of the Vivekananda Society and during the years of his Presidency the Society functioned admirably and Suren had the opportunity to give expression to his religious fervor.

Suren was a loving husband, and a doting father, a sincere friend, a kind and generous employer and a devout Hindu.

His motto was 'Help others at all times'.

May his soul Rest in Peace.



with Gnanathasan

A tribute to a Gentleman to his fingertips



A Gnanathasan PC
Family Friend & Colleague

I pen these words with deep sadness to honour and appreciate the memory of the late Mr Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendhran President's counsel, who passed away on the 11th of April, 2016 having led a life of grace and dignity. The late Mr Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendhran, whom I fondly and lovingly addressed as Suren, was a friend and guide in as much as he was a brother to me. He was to me and to all alike, a constant source of advice, inspiration and love and therefore his passing away has left a deep void in me, in his family and in all those who had the good fortune of knowing him. He has closed his honourable career leaving behind a host of friends to mourn him and having left the profession which he adorned, richer for his activities and poorer for his loss. Suren's demise is a great loss to the legal fraternity and in particular to the Tamil community. Even though he has permanently left us, the Tamil community and in particular Hindus and Sai devotees will always remember his yeoman services and we are thankful to God, for the life of his faithful servant.

I have no doubt that this publication will have many enduring tributes to our dear departed Suren.

Many will miss him, and many more will mourn his demise.

Both of us devilled in the chambers of eminent President's counsel, my cousin and Suren's uncle, late Mr.A. Mahendrarajah. He entered the Sri Lanka Law College in January, 1975. He was one year senior to me and we both were involved in Sri Lanka Law College Tamil Mandram. He was highly respected and regarded as one of the most popular law students of our time. I had the good fortune of interacting very closely with him.

In all our moments of joy and sorrow alike, Suren was always the first to call and celebrate or mourn with us as the circumstances required. I was always touched by his caring and reassuring words, when I was in need of them most. More than everything else he was a loyal friend and reliable ally. He had genius for making

friends, was cultured, always bright and cheerful. He was one of the most delightful companions and I do not think he ever made an enemy. The other positive facets of his life were his forthrightness and frankness. While showing his sympathy and compassion to the needy on the one hand, he never feared to correct the wrong doings and mistakes of people without any hesitation. He always called a spade a spade. There was no compromising tendency in his life. He was a very strong willed person who had certain stable values in life. I am indeed very proud to have been his friend.

He was a person with exceptional qualities. The exceptional feature in his character was a calm and cool temperament. He was a gentleman who took everything with a lovely smile, be it during situations of hard or jubilant times. He was never tremulous or ruffled during any situation or even under pressure. He used to chuckle and crack a joke making others smile.

Suren's heart was always at home, thus he possessed unshakeable love, devotion and care for his parents, his wife and his brothers. He was a devoted husband, and a loving and doting father, who gave his family the utmost of his nurturing care. He was truly a tower of strength to his wife and children, brothers and all other members of the family and to his relations, who always looked upon him for help and support in times of trials and tribulations.

He was deeply religious, but was ecumenical in perception and always accommodated all religions, as one. I have never known him to have failed in his duties; whatever he did for his family, friends, and colleagues, whether they were in the right or wrong, it was always with the best intentions. His word was his honour and his promises were his bond. In short, as a man he was endowed with a warm, genial, benevolent and magnanimous disposition. His compassion and kindness knew no bounds. He was completely free of pettiness in his attitude to others. These were the sterling qualities which endeared him to all those who had the good fortune to know him. He was the legend of an era, both as a lawyer, and as a human being.

He had a long and affectionate lasting tie with his childhood and school friends at Jaffna Central College, where he excelled in studies and extracurricular activities. At Sri Lanka Law College, he had high ambitions, as a law student, he accomplished all that was opened to the brightest law student to accomplish. His handsome looks, friendly and cordial behaviour was admired by everyone, in particular by the opposite sex (ladies). He was not only elegant in attire, but also equally elegant in appearance.

He was an unceasing source of advice and assistance to all who needed words of advice, care and affection.

Every judge before whom Mr A R Surendhran appeared, cannot have failed to be impressed with the fact that he studied his brief carefully in every case and placed before the court, every material of fact and law.

In his professional conduct, whatever he did, he accomplished successfully due to his commitment, hard work, diligence, dedication and devotion. He never demanded recognition but earned it through sheer display of professionalism. The dignity of silk was conferred upon him in 2004.

Above all, he had a deep sense of the dignity of his profession and as deep a sense of his responsibilities and obligations. To his clients he gave all that could be reasonably expected of a very learned, fearless and successful counsel; to his opponents, the courtesy, consideration and fair treatment to which they were entitled. Indeed, he seemed to regard the performance of his duty to others as a duty he owed to himself. He had a rich and rewarding life well spent in the service of fellow-men and God. As with all the worldly things, the end had to come, but unfortunately it came early for Suren on the sad day on 11th April 2016.

It is these great qualities, rather than success in his profession, which won for him the regard of men... During this phase of his life, under the shadow of a cruel malady, which ultimately cut his life short, he continued to the end with dauntless courage, with amazing cheerfulness, to do the work to which he had set his hand. It was in truth, a cruel end to a gentle life. His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to the entire world **"This was a man"**.

Having known him personally for more than four decades, what overwhelm me are his humanism and his simplicity. All this is reflected in his writings, his speeches.

I carry with me the fond and pleasant memories of late Mr Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendhran as a simple and humane person who was loved and respected by all. The passing away of late Mr Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendhran removed from our midst one of the most popular heroes of the Sri Lankan Legal fraternity.

Today, my friend Suren is no more but he has set an example to all of us, **"Don't be selfish, Care for others too"**. Let us also live up to his principles and ideals.

My wife Ariaranees and I share these heartfelt sentiments with his wife Renuka, his son Prashanthan and daughter Pavithra, and all those near and dear to them, with a sense of love, affection and gratitude for having known his family and having been greatly impacted by every member of it.

May his soul rest in peace!

My dearest friend Suren



R. Selvaskandan
Friend and room mate

Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendran or Suren to those who knew him well, was a man of many talents, a brilliant lawyer, a skilled orator, social worker, religious leader, but most of all an amazing human being. Suren, I keep picturing him in my mind, his kind face, genuine smile, and gentle walk; I am fortunate to have known him, indeed, we all are! As one of the shining lights of our legal fraternity, he has shone the way forward in the many spectres of commercial law, opening new vistas and avenues for the common practitioner of law. His keen mental faculty, his ability to answer on his feet and his quick thinking wit has won him many friends and admirers over the years.

It is with a heavy heart that I reminisce and recollect the past; it all seems like it happened yesterday, indelibly etched in my memory, like it or not, we are always vulnerable to the vivid memories of our early years. I met him for the very first time in December of 1973 at my Uncle's house in Jaffna. He was part of the Sai Street Bhajan troupe organized by his father, Ratnavadivel Ayya. I still remember those keen twinkling eyes of his as he was sitting there, and little did I know that one day this piecing young man would go on to become my roommate, and best friend! Thereafter, we met again in 1979, as we were moving into my Uncle's house at No. 12 Carlwil Place; I had just qualified for Law College and he was starting his first year of practice. After my oaths in 1982, we both used to go to Hulftsdorp in the morning hours, and I remember that the lawyers would very often fondly call us the "*Black & White Carlwil boys*", due to the striking contrasts of our appearances.

Even at school, (He was an old boy of Jaffna Central College) he excelled in his studies and extracurricular activities and it should be mentioned that he won the first prize in the College General Knowledge competition for six consecutive years. Some are born brilliant, and some achieve brilliance through hard work, and dedication; Suren was both. He made his mark at the Sri Lanka Law College and passed out with flying colours. As I ruminate, I realise that he never stopped his zeal for learning and even the heavy practice that he had cultivated could not

diminish his thirst for knowledge.

I must say that I have been really fortunate to have stayed with him, as we both had cultivated a habit of taking the opposing sides on any issue, each never willing to give in on his position. This immensely helped both of us develop a more in-depth analysis of the law. We were also in this manner, attuned to the finer points of any issue and had the opportunity to appreciate the perspectives of the other side. It was this jocular activity that we had begun as a way to amuse ourselves while at Law College that later on laid the foundations of our legal careers; more so, when we started our court craft in earnest. These debates and interactions continued and benefited us later on as we were doing our Masters. Suren was pursuing his Masters in International and Comparative Law at the University of Brussels, while I was at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

As a lawyer, he was committed and thorough in his law and brilliantly grasped the intricacies of any issue. He was able to articulate his arguments well and was able to move and create lasting impressions in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal; in fact, the judges of the Supreme Court cherished and valued his inputs on all matters. Suren has functioned as the Chairman of the Law Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. His contribution to the development of the Law in Sri Lanka is immeasurable particularly with respect to Company Law and Law of Intellectual Property. Therefore, I was warmly delighted when he was appointed as a President's Counsel in 2004.



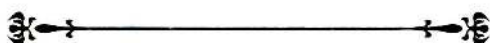
at Suren's 60th Birthday

As I recall, Suren has always been a very religious person and over the years, his dedication and commitment to welfare of the Hindu religion has grown stronger. Even while we were roommates, he was a very strong Sai Bhakthan and it was his habit to try to convince me that I should follow suit and become a Sai Bhaktha as well. I used to quip that if he came running with me every morning at 5 am, then I would acquiesce to his request and become a Sai devotee. It goes without saying that neither of us relented in our set ways. However, one thing that had continued to remain common between us was our shared interests in social work and wellbeing of our fellow human beings. We have both appreciated and admired each other's contributions in this sphere. His contribution to the Hindu religion as President of the Colombo Vivekananda Society and a Trustee of the All Ceylon Hindu Congress were immeasurable.

The enthusiasm and passion that he showed in his religious work, also made me engage and contribute towards the activities of the Colombo Vivekananda Society. It had given me great pleasure to witness his joyous reaction to my offer of sponsoring the Gold Medals for the Arumuga Navalar Oratory Competition and the Vivekananda Competition. The Society had discontinued the Gold medals for the want of sponsors and it came to my mind that I had had the good fortune of winning these medals while studying at Mahajana College, Tellippalai. Suren had stood by my side, for the past three years, as we jointly gave away the awards and medals. It pains me greatly to think that Suren will no longer be with me for the future awards ceremonies.

It is very difficult for me to accept his loss, for he has left a void that is impossible to fill. I must say that for Renuka, Prasanthan, and Pavithira, it will not be easy to be without his presence. He was more than a mere husband or a father; for he was a caring gentle soul, and may I justly say that he was everything a lawyer is usually not credited as being: kind, gentle, honest, faithful, loyal, and humble! As Martin Luther King Jr. so prophetically noted, "the quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important" and Suren has lived a blessed life. I am sure that all of you will agree that the best way to preserve his memory and be true to his legacy is to continue the work that he was committed to all throughout his life. May he attain eternal bliss at his lotus feet!

My Best Friend Suren...



A. Sriharan
Friend & Batchmate

I entered Sri Lanka Law College in 1975, and that is the first time I met Suren. From the very first day our chemistry worked instantly. We both started to sit on the second row at every lecture and within a few days we became very good friends. We found ourselves on the same wavelength in Political, Legal and Historical matters. Since that time Suren has been my best friend. We both passed the exams in Law College and also took Oaths at the same time.

During the enjoyable time we had at Law College, we happened to be in the same student group in Tamil Mandram Politics. I was forced to be in a group due to my political aspirations. Suren joined our group due to his analytical conclusions and due to the popular demand to be in the right group for the future of the students. The respect and affection I had for him made me to step down from for the post of Secretary and allow him to contest for the post of President. Suren commanded charm, charisma and was a good orator in Tamil and English. Moreover, I envied him on one important point, and that was the fact that he was more popular amongst the female students than me! It is clear that our friendship was a destined union. It so happened that both our wives also carried the same name as Renuka!

After being called to the Bar in Sri Lanka, I went to Jaffna, but Suren remained in Colombo.

I left the country in 1980 to the UK. Although we lived apart, we were in constant touch, exchanging political and professional views regularly. I had the privilege of meeting and socialising with him every year for 27 years in Colombo when I visited during the months of December/January up until 2015. I have not yet found anybody in my circle equal to Surendran in his professional standards, advocacy, instant thinking, command of both languages and wit. He was one of the few Lawyers who was rightfully awarded the Honour of President's Counsel in recent times.

Suren was a man full of humility. He was the most humble person I knew, especially given his achievements and talents. When I congratulated him on his appointment as President's Counsel and told him that I envy him because if I had been in Sri Lanka, I too could have aspired to receive a President's Counsel appointment, Suren's reply was, *"No Sri, you have been elected as a President of the Middlesex Law Society in UK and that is a higher honour than mine"*. I told him that my presidency will expire in one year but his honour will continue with him until his end and beyond. We both agreed to disagree.

Suren's up to date knowledge in Law and International decided cases has amazed me many times. After I conducted a case at the Court of Appeal in England which was reported in the All England Law Report in August 2013, I met him in December and the first thing Suren told me was *"Sri, you have a reported case this year on the principles of exceptional circumstances"*. I was amazed to see how he was up to date with decided cases so quickly. Even in England, many lawyers come to know of the reported cases much later and usually only when they have a case in the similar issue.

Suren was a philosophical and spiritual person. When I met him after he had lost one of his children, I hugged him and tried to console him. My attempt was futile because Suren looked in to my eyes and told me *"Sri, these souls come with a mission and when their missions finishes they are taken away by almighty. That is how I approach it"*. By saying this, Suren opened my spiritual eyes.

I wonder whether God had already decided in December 2015/January 2016 if it was the last time Suren and I were going to socialise and spend time together. We spent a lot of time on the phone and in person and it was extremely special as once again we shared our love for Politics and the Law at a high and excited level. During this time we felt similar to our good old days at Law College. It was the time of the Presidential Election on 8th January 2015, which changed and ended an era in Sri Lankan history. This feels all the more symbolic. I now feel Suren's passing away is another era in the legal profession which has ended in Sri Lanka.

Suren's loss is **not only to his family** but also to the **Tamil community, Sri Lanka and the legal profession**. I will miss him till my last breath.



We sang together



Shakthidasan
Friend

Om Sri Sai Ram!

The Sindi Centre for me is holy ground, ever since I first visited it in February 1980. I cherish the Sindi Centre for its spiritual knowledge gifted to me in meeting and making a human bond hard to replace. I met Rathnaradivel Iya at the Shivaratri festival on my first visit. I kept visiting the Sindi Centre ever since and kept meeting Rathnaradivel Iya too.

It was a Thursday I remember, I was introduced to Suren by Rathnaradivel Iya, his father. Suren was more than handsome. He was handsomely spiritual and devoted too. I was moved by his devotional voice when he sang Bajans. A fairly good singer myself, I couldn't avoid the devotional depth of his voice that made me learn a few



Bajans from Suren, the Bajans he loved to sing.

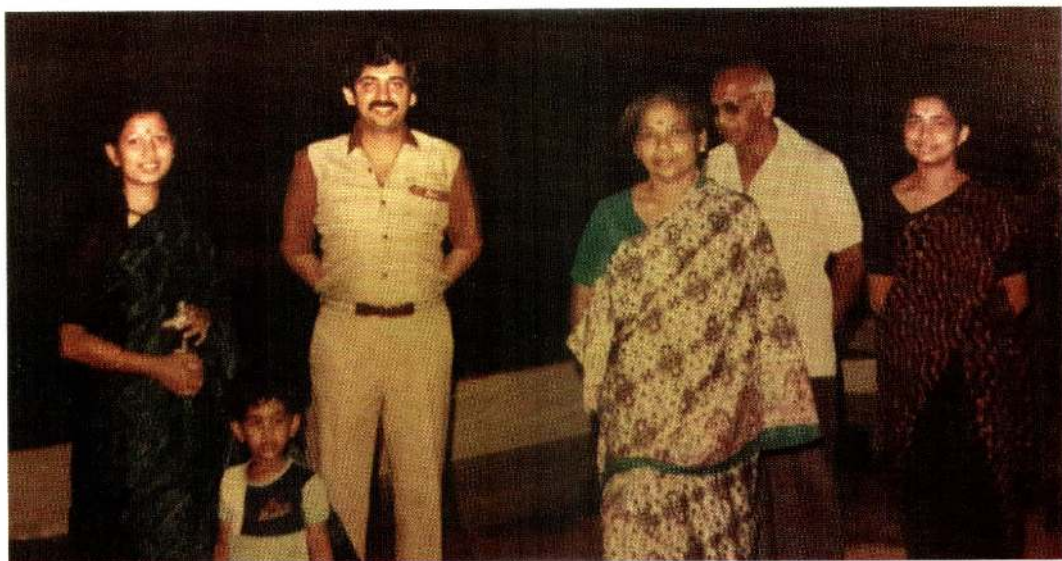
Singing Bajans was not the only attraction in Suren. He talks about Swamis, miracles and other devotees' experiences which we both enjoyed and was never exhausted talking.

He read law and became an Attorney with a piercing analytical mind. There were instances I consulted him on legal matters. He never sent me memos for his services. His was a heart of a truly gentle friend. His strong friendship went beyond consultancies without memos. His busy schedules never denied him time to call me to find out how I was.

Despite his busy life, we continued to meet often enough to share our spiritual experiences. I was lost in admiration over his devotion to Shridi Baba. His memory and knowledge of the book "Sai Sath Charithra" was magical from cover to cover.

His demise is irreplaceable for all around him. Yet I wish to see his demise as his opportunity to merge with Swami.

My most sincere condolences on the bereavement of Suren's family.



with Anusha, son Dhiwakaran, Yaso and Mr. & Mrs. Sivagnanalingam

Uncle's Eulogy



Anusha, Satha, Dhiwakaran and Sharanya
Family Friends

It is a difficult task to encapsulate the spirit of someone who has touched so many of us in so many different ways. Suren Uncle was a tremendous and complex person, who played multiple roles; a son to my grandparents, a brother



to my parents, an uncle to my brother and me, a friend, advocate and role model to all. Perhaps the best approach is simply to choose a few fond remembrances – since we could never hope to capture all of Uncle's many fine qualities.

It was only the very Grace of Baba that brought Suren Uncle into our lives. Back in the late sixties, my Grandfather and Suren uncle's father took it as their Sadhana to spread the word of Baba. As a result of their budding friendship, Suren Uncle became an indelible part of our family, living with us in our home whilst he trained to become lawyer. My Grandfather was fiercely proud of Suren uncle's achievements and some of his proudest moments were when he was able to attend a function celebrating Suren Uncle's incredible life and career.

To his parents Uncle was a filial and devoted son. He affectionately tended to their every need and fulfilled his duties in line with Baba's dictates of selflessness and devotion. Shortly before Uncle's father (Aiyaa as he was affectionately known) passed away, he expressed his desire to make a final trip to India in spite of his faltering health. And so Uncle made all the necessary arrangements so that Aiyaa could have safe and comfortable trip and Aiyaa was granted serenity and contentment as he breathed his last.

One of the most enduring images we have of Suren Uncle is his understated grace. He was self-confident and always presented a calm and supportive demeanour as exemplified by his characteristic gentle and soothing manner of speech. In our family, in times of true need, any want of opinion over a conundrum or stalemate was referred to Suren Uncle. What many would consider insignificant or an annoyance, Suren Uncle would never turn away. In many ways our family was granted a second lease at life due to his sincerity and dedication when solving and winning the cases. His words were precious and therapeutic as his advice took hold of our attention and gave us reassurance.

Suren Uncle approached everyone with the same equality and sincerity. He was turned off by anything crass, by anyone whom he felt was manipulative or insincere. In both his personal and professional life, he devoted his time to helping people with equal affection and sincerity that made us fully reciprocate the emotion. One memory was the year that my grandfather passed away and of course, Suren Uncle was there to make all the arrangements. Meticulously paying attention to countless details, Uncle swiftly and subtly provided us with the warmth and support we needed. Last year, my Grandmother had a fall and had to be admitted to the hospital. Uncle rushed to the hospital along with Renuka Aunt and Pavithra. He arranged for Aunt to stay the night with my Grandmother. To Uncle we were definitely an extended family.

No matter how busy his schedule was he would always make time for those who were close and dear to him. We never heard Uncle complain that he had too much to do. He would greet us cheerfully with a big warm smile and would always make us feel at home. Even if it meant a little inconvenience to him he would still go out of his way to make our stay in Sri Lanka comfortable. When we were children he would encourage us as he listened to our speeches. He remembered all our Birthdays. He would send a plate of sweets and food to my Grandmother without fail whenever the family celebrated something at their home. He always made it a point to visit my Grandmother on her Birthday every year.

How do we reconcile ourselves to the heart breaking reality that he is no longer physically with us? It was Suren Uncle himself, with his ever cheerful disposition, good humour, courage and absolute lack of self-pity, who made us believe that we might still have more time, that the void we have in our hearts today might be put off at least a little while longer. Throughout it all, Suren Uncle never lost his spark, his wit, his thoughtfulness for his family and friends. Until the last, he wanted to know about us, how we were doing, and what was new and exciting in our lives. The past few months further reflected Uncle's approach to life. It is perhaps worth mentioning here that his approach extended to all walks of life. Even during the last weeks he still worked in order to resolve the cases he had at hand. It was these guiding principles that made him an excellent lawyer and mentor and is

indubitably a part of his legacy.

It is said that those who have unshaken faith in God will never have any fear. Even though he knew the nature of his ailment, he was strong and positive. He did not want those who loved him to feel saddened and so he remained ever so calm. In January, he told my Grandmother that she need not hesitate to call him if she was in need. He was concerned as my Grandmother had a little swelling in one of her knees. My parents visited him on the 13th of February 2016. It was one of those beautiful warm evenings during which they spent moments that would remain very precious in their minds. Uncle called it a celebrative occasion as he shared news of Pavithra's wedding and the fact that he was meeting my father after a long spell. Again my mother was fortunate enough to spend another evening a week later. Not once did Uncle talk about his sickness or show any signs of anxiety. Instead he was humorous and entertaining, leaving my parents with memories of those special occasions of warmth and love. Baba says we must take the pleasure and pain with equanimity. Only those who have very strong faith in God are able to do that.

Uncle loved to talk about Baba and share his experiences. He also loved Tamil language and literature. Many of the poems he wrote had a sense of fun infused in them. The two books compiling experiences of some great devotees of Baba will no doubt be a source of inspiration.

There is much more to say, and we will have occasion to share our memories in the days, weeks and years to come. Suren Uncle, your spirituality and love has undoubtedly filled our world with light. And whilst the time you were with us was shortened beyond any of our expectations, we thank the Lord for your presence in our lives. God bless you and your wonderful family. We miss you dearly.



At Mr. & Mrs. Sivagnanalingam's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Uncle Suren - An Eternal Optimist



Vishnu

Nephew

Some talk of their mentors, people who inspired them to follow a particular passion or profession in life. Some talk of best friends, people who they've shared great memories with. For me I often keep track of people I should thank for who I've become in life, and above all Suren Uncle was one of them. He was like a father to me, and he was so much more than that for so many people.

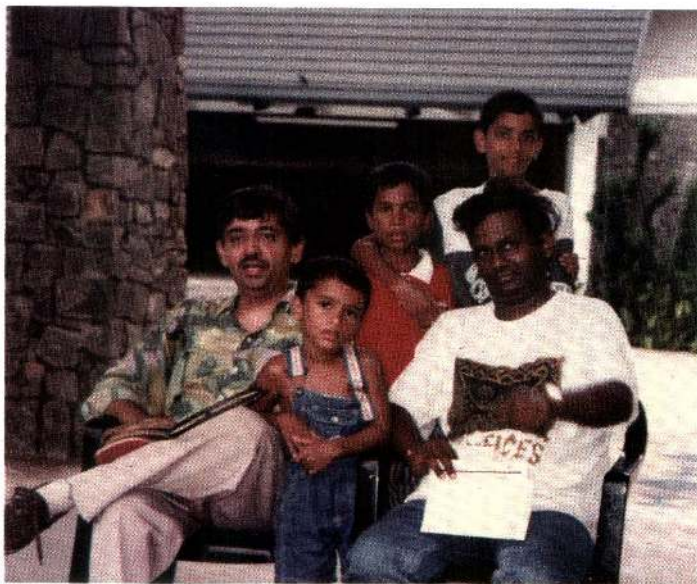
So what am I most thankful for from uncle? I think that boils down to three main things (among others). First he taught me the idea of being true to yourself. Uncle was never one to take the popular road for popularities sake - he was his own man, strong and resolute in his faith. He challenged convention, and always landed firmly on the side of morality and righteousness. That might sound easy on paper, but it stands for a lot more when you have to actually execute.

The second thing I learned from him was intellectual enthusiasm. I recall once sharing with him a book about American Presidents, and dismissively saying that



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it was “just some boring school stuff”. “Useless information of no value in the real world,” I said. What ensued was a 4 hour conversation about American politics and this man’s passion for democracy, political parties, and every man, woman and child who had ever considered running for the White House. Quite simply it was fascinating. His intellectual enthusiasm



taught me that there’s a lot to learn from education, a lot to learn from history, and there’s a lot to always learn, period. You can never know it all and you can only stand to benefit from more.

The final thing key thing I learnt from him was simply to be plain nice to people. The man had not a mean, ill spirited or hateful bone in his body. He simply wasn’t wired that way. He didn’t know how to be rude to people, and it’s not like he grew up in a different world than you or I. In fact some might argue he grew up in a tougher world. Despite the tough cards life may have dealt him from time to time he kept a good attitude, and more importantly he treated those around him with love and kindness. If I could even channel 10% of that in my lifetime, I’d consider myself successful.

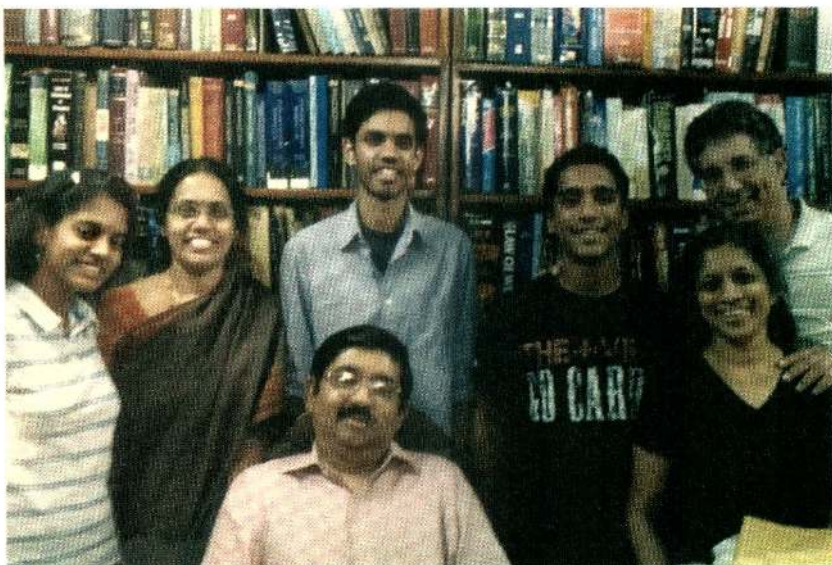
As an eternal optimist, as I’m sure he would agree, I prefer to dwell not on what has passed, but rather what he’s given us and left behind in this life. In him I got a second dad. In his family I got my family, and in his children I got a brother and a sister. There’s a lot to be learned from him, and I often find myself mulling over him and what he’d say as he’s watching me over my shoulder.

As a final word I would be remiss if I didn’t say on behalf of us young, handsome men if we didn’t all secretly wish we had his stunning head of hair. A little known truth is that as a young boy, I would use ample coconut oil in my hair and attempt to emulate his hairstyle, with only marginal success. Some secrets in life even he didn’t share with me, and to this day I don’t know how to get my hair to look that good; I guess some things are best left to the experts. Miss you very much Uncle, look forward to seeing you again ... Thanks for everything.

A Dedication from A Friend



His interests extended way beyond his love and passion for law. His discussions, with family and friends, spanned from economics and governance to literature and poetry to life and spirituality. To his memory and spirit I dedicate the following from his favourite poets:



with Yaso, Aadil and Dhiyanan (Dec. 2010)

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 of my fellowmen.

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 traded 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 which might have not
Existed had I toiled for gain;
That someone's cheery voice or smile
Shall prove that I had been worth-while
That I had paid with something fine
My debt to God – for Life Divine.

- Edgar A. Guest

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home:

- William Wordsworth

A Poem to my School Mate



S S Sivakumar

President, JCC OBA, Colombo Branch

The voice is stilled.
Menacing, a sentence!
His charisma is doused
We stand stunned
Desolate and punished
Woeful and weak.
The seeds were sown
From 1963 till 1974.
At our beloved Alma Mater
The Jaffna Central College.
An attentive Student
An ardent lover of Sports
A jack of all trades
Suren's facets were too many.
Friendship was his mainstay
He won hearts
With effortless ease
An effervescent smile was his symbol.
Poetry came to him naturally
In Tamil and English.
Speaker-par-Excellence
From the early days.
Entertainer plus
Comical yet convincing.
A singer to rise to the occasion
Darling of the Team.
A leader by nature.
Presided over many Association.
Won laurels in Studies and Speech
Like a prayer, every year.

A President's Counsel, in the making.
His heart beat
For Central
Year in, year out
Centralite, to the core.
Contributed limit-less
To the School
Through the Colombo Old Boys
Association, ever-ready, anytime.
Had his own dreams
To keep Central's flame aglow.
Upliftment of standards was his breath
And to create more years of excellence
To add to our Bi-Centenary.
We will miss you buddy.
So will be the corridors of Central.
And the classrooms and the grounds
There cannot be another Suren.
You waxed eloquent
You made a case for yourself
You were a flame
That shed light and warmth.
Good-bye brother.
We will meet in another life,
If there is one.
But you will be eternal
In our lives.
Your thoughts, deeds and dreams
To the betterment of our School
And our Society-at-Large!

A Message to my Dearest Friend



DESHAMANYA S ZAID O. MOWLANA

Client and Friend

It is with deep sense of sorrow I pen this message of my dearest friend. He was a symbol which transcended all petty differences, and he was symbolic of the power of his great qualities to go straight into the hearts of the people, for all this and the wide range of abilities and the varied roles be it law, cinema, politics etc, he filled so admirably.

I am bearing with me nostalgic memories of having associated with you so very closely on several matters of interest which sometimes take us past midnight. My good friends Ganesh, Kandeepan and Dinesh would bear testimony on this innumerable episodes.

I once again thank for this opportunity and feel privilege to have associated with you, for all the love, affection and regards shown to me by you and your family which will always be the guiding and motivating force in my life.

His loss would be strongly felt and his image will long endure in our hearts and minds, the people who loved him. The vacuum he left behind is hard to fill.

Remembering Surendran - Lawyer, Friend and Confidant



Dr. K. Puvanendran
Client, Friend and Confidant

May his aathma attain Moksha!

November 2015, Singapore.

It was five months to Moksha

Surendran fought many battles for me valiantly in the Supreme Court to victory. Now it was the battle of his life, he fought gallantly for five months to attain Moksha.

That morning in November 2015, Suren woke up, with a sick feeling. He dismissed his sore body as nothing more than a bad night. Facing his duty as a lawyer to his client he slipped into his lawyer's black coat & tie and he sped off to the Supreme Court in Huldstop to fight another Dharma Yudha.

He felt discomfort in the abdomen and got an aversion to food. He saw the doctor the following day.

'Gallbladder trouble', the physician pondered after a quick examination. However further tests seemed to reveal a more serious condition-cancer.

Suren decided to have a second opinion and came over to Singapore. A battery of tests revealed that he was suffering from a pancreatic tumor. He was concerned yet remained steadfast in his faith.

Why Me?

The doctors confirmed it was a carcinoma and that it had spread to many sites. Even though he knew it was serious

The shock to think without any warning or headway

To be chosen to face this struggle, the brunt of it was not in any way reduced by any previous knowledge of his ill condition.

Cancer is such a frightening word. He was young and vibrant. He was at the top of his career then. Yet, 'How could this be happening to me?' was a question that never came from his lips

He stood amidst his family, holding them together, giving them strength, "Don't fear"

He asked the doctor for his opinion. "Just try and live a normal life," the doctor told him.

How could I do that? he wondered.

"I was not going to give up and wait for the unknown to happen", Suren thought, while drawing the battle lines. His family and friends set about trying to find out everything they possibly could about cancer. He sought a few other doctors' opinions. Their jargon was the same, statistics and statistics. "The more physicians I consulted, the more I came to realize that statistics meant **everything to me, but nothing to god**. Finally, I realized that statics have outliers and cannot match the experience and the warmth of the doctor's smile".

Finally, he found an oncologist to his liking.

'It's important to make sure you're in the right hands. They can help you, or they can kill you. It's that simple.' He keeps his wits, at a time of such dire uncertainty of his body.

He decided to try chemotherapy. The first dose of chemotherapy went without any mishap. It was a breeze. He walked through fire and came out none the worse. The anguish of the unknown was washed down. I could not believe that this torturous process could be a cool breeze to him. This reminds me of a verse from Saint Thirunavakarasar. The King put the saint in a limekiln to be scorched to death, as a punishment. The sintering temperature calmed to a cool breeze when the saint sang this song invoking god.

"மாசில் வீணையும் மாலை மதியமும், வீசு தென்றலும் வீங்கிள வேனிலும்" - *Under the shade of his God's feet he is sublime, in ecstasy to the veena melody and the pleasant evening breeze.*

His appetite came back in a few days. It was voracious. His wife was with him to cook his favorite string hoppers and Sothy. His well-being bounced back from nowhere.

With further doses of chemotherapy, he looked his own self and decided to get back to his home in Colombo. This gave him hopes of getting back to work.

His conversation with me was very cheerful and full of humour and smiles. Now he was in a mood to look around Singapore.

One evening, when I visited him, he was seated on an easy chair in the hotel room in a pensive mood, looking down through the window at the immense human activity down Orchard road. I greeted him, "how are you today". "Oh I am fine," he said. "It is a good day to take stock of the situation. Events whisked so fast these weeks".

He told me that he was happier and healthier now.

Cancer patients just have more statistical data than others.

I think that life is just bitter sweet, though more often than not

நின்ற சொல்லர் நீடுதோறு இனியர்



— கலாநிதி ஸ்ரீ. ப்ரசாந்தன்

நண்பன்

நாட்டின் உயர்கல்வி நிறுவனங்களான பல்கலைக் கழகங்கள் பலவும் ஏனோ, பதவி நியமனங்களுக்கான நேர்முகத் தேர்வில் என்னைப் பாராமுகஞ் செய்து, நீதிக்கு அநீதி செய்தன. என்ன செய்ய இயலும், வசதி வாய்ப்புகளும், பின்புலமும் பின்பலமும் அற்றிருந்த ஒரு சராசரி மத்தியதர வர்க்கத்து தமிழ் இளைஞனால்? என் போன்ற சாமானியர்களுக்காக அடையாத வாயிலகம் ஒன்றிருப்பது அறிந்து, 'கார்வில் பிளேஸ்' சென்று நீதிக்காக வாதாடும்படி முறையிட்டேன், ஒருவரிடம்.

அவர் பெரிய சட்டத்தரணி, ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி. எல்லாவற்றுக்கும் மேலாக மனிதர், அதி மானுடர்.

ஒரு புன்சிரிப்பு மனிதர் அவர். புறத் தோற்றம் அத்துணை அழகு, அதைவிட அழகியது - இனியது - அவர் அகம் என்பது போகப் போகப் புரிந்தது. எவ்வித உபகாரமும் எதிர்பாராமல் என்னை முன்னிட்டு அவர் தொடுத்த வழக்கும், செய்த வாதமும், பெற்றுத் தந்த தீர்ப்பும், அசிங்கம் புரையோடிப் போயிருக்கும் பதவி நியமன அநீதிகளுக்கெதிரான ஒரு வரலாற்று சாதனை. நியமன மேசைகளில் காலாதி காலமாகப் படிந்துவிட்ட தகுதியாளர்களின் கண்ணீர்த் துளிகளைத் துடைத்தது அவரது ஆத்மார்த்த உழைப்பு. இனிமேலும் இந்த அதருமங்கள் தொடர்பில் ஆஜராகும் சட்ட அறிஞர்க்கு, இவர்தான் 'பால பாடம்.'

எனக்குப் புது வாழ்வளித்து, என் போன்ற பலருக்கும் கொழுக்கொம்பாய் நின்ற அவர், நின்ற சொல்லர் நீடுதோறு இனியர், ஆம் .. அவர் என்றும் எம் நெஞ்சில் பிரிவு அறியலர்.

Uncle, you've been my Inspiration all along

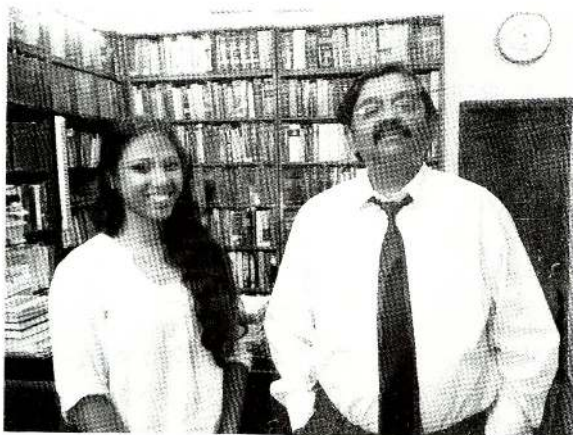


Kasturi Venkatesh
Daughter's friend

I would like to first disclose, I'm nowhere eligible to write this. It is truly my honour to do so, but I write with immense grief.

I've always wondered how journeys begin. How we cross paths. How we happen to make the acquaintance of a few. How few inspire us. How few make deep changes and leave an impression. How does it happen? I, an Indian, out of nowhere

became friends with Pavithra and eventually happened to meet, and bond with her lovely family. I would say it's a blessing from above that I cherish dearly.



Uncle, as I call him fondly, has inspired me in various stages of my life. During my early teens, he taught me how to follow and chase dreams. I aspired to become an advocate but when it eventually didn't happen, I looked up to him and learnt to do my best in anything I did. After all the conversations we have had, the last one in his chambers will remain special to me, which changed my perception on various things and most importantly on how things never remain the same, he spoke of his own childhood days memories. Yes Uncle, you've been my inspiration all along. I really wish you were there in many more phases of my life.

You'll always be remembered every time I recite,

சிற்றம் சிறுகாலே வந்துன்னைச் சேவித்துன்

பொற்றா மரையடியே போற்றும் பொருள் கேளாய்

Truly blessed and glad I could recite it with you. I really wish I could do so once again.

Uncle, whose presence will forever remain...



Niroshi Puvanedran
Daughter's friend

“HELLO! COME COME!” boomed a voice as I stepped inside the hall. I froze and took a few seconds to compose myself. Looking around for the source of the voice, I saw Uncle standing with his hands in his pockets and a big smile. I’ve only heard about Uncle and his exuberant voice and I was under the impression that it was only in courts that he was like that! Pavi never failed to remind me to be quiet and meek whenever Uncle was around because I have a tendency to be, well, myself. Hence, you can only imagine how surprised and unprepared I was to bump into Uncle so randomly! I realized I was silent and managed to stammer out a response, “H-hi Un-Uncle” I responded, before anyone thought I was rude! “You’ve come to study together with Pavithra, is it?” he continued in that voice. “Yes, Uncle” I replied, now getting used to Uncle and his voice. We made a few conversations and I was now at ease before I went up to Pavi and told her “Uncle is so nice!” and Pavi being Pavi, said “Yeah, but be quiet nevertheless” I rolled my eyes at her. After quite some time Uncle called Pavi to inquire about how I would be going home. He was very particular that I did not go home alone in the night and always suggested one of the juniors to drop me home, whatever the time. He was very thoughtful and considerate. I saw where Pavi got those qualities from; always concerned about others and ensuring they are very well taken care of. Even aunty is another gem of a soul. For this reason and many more, my parents always told me how lucky and blessed I am to have found a best friend and along with it, a great family, in my life. I couldn’t agree more.

Everything I know about Uncle, was mostly from Pavi and Aunty. I personally did not get the chance to associate with Uncle as much as I would like to have, but there have been a few moments where I’ve spoken to him, either during a car drive or whenever I came across Uncle in his chambers. I remember the day I was going home with Uncle during exam and was stressed out. Uncle was giving me advice and reassuring me that everything will be fine and that whatever happens, we have to always continue moving forward and everything else will fall into place. Those words of positivity, coming from such a great person, flooded me with

relief. I also got the chance to meet Anna (Prashanthan) and he also possesses the same positive attitude Uncle has. It's he who now reassures us every time we are stressed out.

Another incident that I will never forget and would always reminisce and laugh at is the day Pavi, Pulmini and I were studying in his chambers when he walked in and told us "Take your time darling. I'll wait". However, we were all clearing the table as fast as we could. At this point Uncle asked "Studying for the exams is it?" to which we nodded vigorously and Uncle continue in his normal tone "All of you hardly study and then study hard, isn't it?" I burst out laughing. No-one else could've phrased that sentence and what we do better than he had at that time! This is when I realised Uncle's sarcastic humour. Golden! I only wish I had more conversations with Uncle just to hear more sarcasm from him.

It broke my every being to see Uncle in the hospital being so quiet. I doubt anyone could imagine Uncle being like that. We were all hoping and praying that a miracle comes around just like it did after Uncle's chemotherapy in Singapore. We were told to pray that Uncle's transition to a higher place would be peaceful. I told Pavi, whether we pray or not, Uncle will transition into the highest possible place. He is a good man. A humble being. He is generous and full of spirituality. He has no room for any kind of negative thoughts or bad vibes; he is as pure as one could be and he exudes nothing but hope and faith. I used present tense because he still continues to be the same. It is his soul that has all these qualities and I believe that he is still present amongst us spiritually. Today, though Uncle is no more physically present, I will still continue to be as quiet as I possibly can, around the house. All of us will continue to make you proud, Uncle. I know you are enjoying your time with Swamy and continuing to have great conversations with Swamy.

Om Shanthi! Shanthi! Shanthi!

Central's Flag Must Never Be Lowered

One of the most memorable days that is still etched in my memory is the first day that I set foot on the portals of Jaffna Central College my cherished *Alma Mater*.

As I was entering that marvelous building reluctantly creeping like a snail, holding my mother's hand I was attracted by the college song that was being sung at that time. The lines "Central's flag must never be lowered" struck a sympathetic chord in my being.

These lines which I have repeated a thousand times week after week, month after month and year after year for more than eleven years have never failed to evoke in me a sense of pride, a sense of steadfast loyalty, and above all a sense of unwavering commitment to the cause of our *Alma mater*.

What is it that attracts all of us to rally round Jaffna Central's flag? It is the eternal values of everlasting validity that have been inculcated in us by a long line of dedicated



teachers, it is its inclusive and accommodative culture envisioned by the founding fathers and carefully nurtured by an unbroken chain of distinguished principals. It is the unique character of the level playing field provided by Jaffna Central offering equal opportunities to all students to flower out in their respective fields irrespective of race, religion, cast or creed. All these factors have combined to instill in us the collective sense of belonging to Jaffna Central.

As chief guest at Jaffna Central College prize giving

சாந்தி பெறும் அவர் ஆன்மா!

இ. சுரேந்திரன், 12 B (வகுப்பு)
யாழ்ப்ப. மத்திய கல்லூரி இந்து மாமன்ற வெளியீடு (1972)

திருமுறைகள் ஓதியென்ன தேவாரம் பாடியென்ன
அருமறைகள் போற்றியென்ன அறியாரைத் தூற்றியென்ன
பெரும்பறைகள் சாற்றியந்தப் பெரிவரை வாழ்த்தியென்ன
ஒருமுறையும் அவர்வழியில் ஒழுகிடநாம் நினையாமல்.

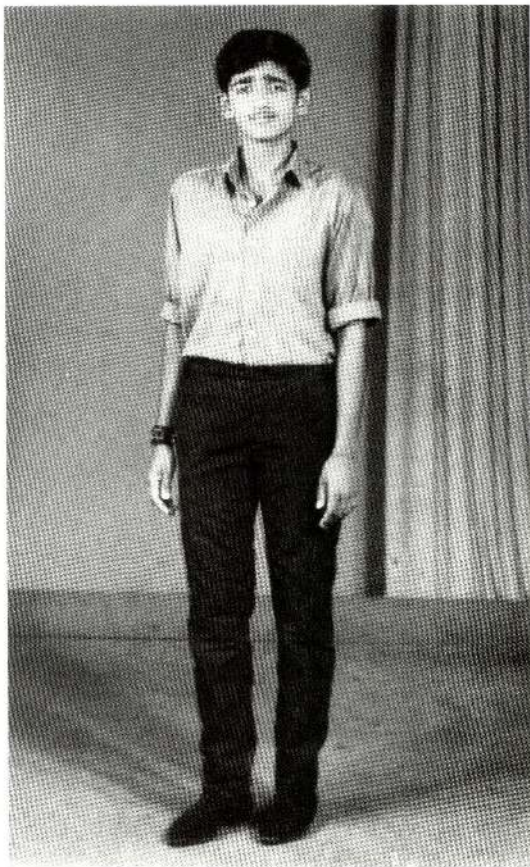
மாணிக்கர் குருபூசை மணிக்கணக்கில் நடத்துவதும்
வாணிக்கு விழாவென்று வரிசையிலே பேசுவதும்
வீணிற்கு இறைத்திட்ட வழநீராய் ஆகிவிடும்
காணிக்கை என்றேநாம் கணக்கிலதை எடுத்திட்டால்

பரமகம்ஸர் நாமமதைப் பகலிரவாய் பாடுகிறோம்
சிரமமதைப் பாராமல் சிலைகளை நாம் நாட்டுகிறோம்
உரமமைந்த உள்ளத்து உத்தமராம் அவர்களது
கிரமமான நெறிகளைக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து வாழாமல்.

ஆறுமுக நாவலரை அடிக்கடி நாம் இழுத்திடினும்
ஏறுகின்ற மேடைகளில் ஏற்றிவைத்துப் போற்றிடினும்
கூறுகின்ற நெறிகளைத் குழந்தைமுதல் கற்றிடினும்
மாறுபட்ட முறையினிலே மக்கள் நாம் வாழுகின்றோம்

முத்திரைகள் அடித்ததுடன் முடிந்தது நம் கடமையென்று
நித்திரை நாம் கொள்ளாமல் நித்தமுமே அவர் வழியில்
பத்திநெறி பரவுகின்ற பாதையிலே சென்று என்றும்
சத்தியமாய் வாழ்ந்துவரின் சாந்திபெறும் அவர் ஆன்மா.

Central College Days...



As a Prefect at Central College - Suren seated in the middle

Memorable moments with Family



Kamalanathan Aththan and Family (Feb. 2015)



Neice Dharani and Family (Mar. 2015)



Mama, Mami, Satkuru Aththan, Ravi Machan and Family (60th Birthday)



with Vatsala & Baby Sanjeev



with Manjula and Kuladevan (London 1987)



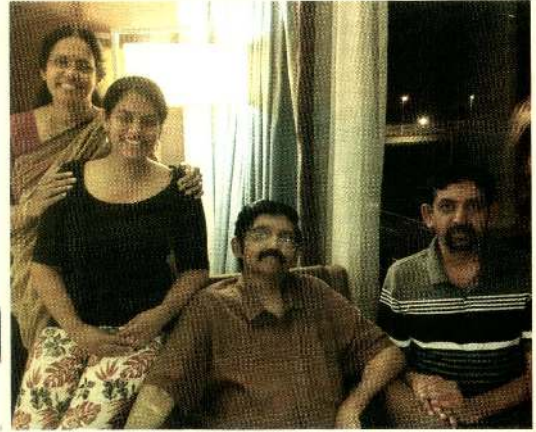
On cousin Vidya's Registration (1995)



with Nithi, Ashwini and children



Enjoying a game of caram with Naren (Feb. 2008)



During Tharan's visit to Singapore (Nov. 2015)



In Kandy with Children (1994)



at Marina Bay Sands - Singapore (Apr. 2015)



Happy Memories - Jan 2016

Suren's

LEGAL EDUCATION PRACTICE & CONTRIBUTION

at a Glance

- Called to the Bar on 6th September 1979
- Conferred Silk on 25th July 2004
- Junior Counsel in the Chambers of Mr. Mahes Kanagasudaram, P.C. and Mr.A.Mahendrarajah P.C.
- Worked with legal luminaries such as Mr.S. Nadesan, Q.C., Mr.H.W.Jayawardena, Q.C., Mr.C. Renganathan, Q.C. and Mr. A.C. Guneratne, Q.C
- Areas of practice included Commercial Law, Corporate law, Banking law, Administrative Law, Law of Property, Intellectual Property Law, Law of Admiralty, Public International Law, International Trade Law, Constitutional Law and Law of Delicts/Tort
- 1988 - Masters in International and Comparative Law LL.M. (*cum laude*) from University of Brussels, Belgium - Distinctions in International Economic Law, International Taxation and European Law
- Thesis-"The GATT Rules and their application by International and National adjudicatory organs" - Obtained "A" grading and was recommended for publication by the faculty of Law of the University of Brussels. Prof Slowh on the Thesis submitted:

"Rich presentation of a difficult subject the issues are very well presented and the paper shows that the author has a good command of GATT problems. A fine paper full of interesting issues well-presented and discussed with important bibliography

- Conducted research at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the London University and Bod Lear Library at University of Oxford
- Followed Training Course in European Economic Law at the Head Quarters of the European Economic Commission in Brussels

- Participated in workshops and seminars at the European Court of Justice at Luxemburg
- Participated in workshops and seminars at the European Human Rights Commission and European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, France
- Lectured (conducted seminars) at George Washington University, Washington D.C., U.S.A
- Participated in workshops at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York
- Followed training programme on International Trade Law conducted by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and Human Rights workshop organised by the International Bar Association.
- Appointed to the Board of Examiner to the Incorporated Council of Legal Education and served as examiner in Administrative Law, Law of Property and Law of Persons
- Lecturer in Commercial Law at the Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Business and Financial Administration conducted by University of Wageningen Holland, at the Institute of Chartered Accountant of Sri Lanka
- Presented paper on "The application of International Law Rules by National Courts" at the National Law Conference held by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in 1990 which was subsequently published in the Bar Association Law Journal 1990 Vol - III
- Presented paper on "Rights under International Conventions, can individuals enforce them through National Courts" published in the Millennium issue of the Bar Association Law Journal in 2000"
- Presented paper on "Enforcement of GATT Rules and the role of the National Courts" published in the Bar Association Law Journal in 1994 Vol -V
- Contribution to Law Students' Magazine - article on "Some recent trends in International Law"
- Radio talks on International law and Commercial Law at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation
- Member of the Bar Council, Member of the Law Committee, Publications Committee and the Overseas Relations Committee
- Functioned as Convenor of the Special Sub-Committee of the Bar Council on Law relating to Bills of Exchange

- Member of the Advisory Committee on Law relating to Hindu Religious Trusts appointed by the then Minister of Hindu Affairs under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Kanag-iswaran P.C.
- Participated in several Law Asia Conference and several conferences and seminars conducted by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka
- Lectured at workshops on pleadings organised by the Sethukavalar Foundation at Sri Lanka Law College
- Judge of numerous Oratorical/Debating contests held at Sri Lanka Law College and Colombo Law Faculty
- Conducted Orientation Workshops on the invitation of the Alumni Association of Colombo Law Faculty under the guidance of Hon. Justice Mark Fernando
- Served as an Arbitrator in Commercial Arbitration and member of the panel of Arbitrators of the ICLP
- Appeared as Counsel in the first ICC International Court of Arbitration held in Sri Lanka with eminent jurists drawn from ICC panel from USA, U.K and Italy functioning as Arbitrators
- Earned Doctorate in Law from a leading International Law School

A FEW ACCLAIMED CASES

1. Visuvalingam and others v Liyanage & Others 1984 (2) SLR 123

Mr. Surendran appeared as Junior Counsel to Mr.S. Nadesan, Q.C. The Supreme Court for the first time recognised the right to receive information as a necessary incident of the freedom of speech and held as follows:

“As the fundamental right to the freedom of speech and expression includes the freedom of the recipient the Petitioners as readers and contributors have a *locus standi* to seek relief under Article 126. But the fundamental right of the recipient also subject to the restrictions prescribed by law (including Emergency Regulation) in the interests of national security, public order and the protection of public health or morality or for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others ir of meeting the just requirement of the general welfare of a democratic society (Article 15(7)).

2. Ajith de Costa Vs ANZ Grindlays Bank 1996(1) SLR 306

The Supreme Court set aside the judgement of the Court of Appeal and stood as authority on the powers of the minister to make reference to arbitration under section 4(1) of the Industrial Disputes Act. The Supreme Court while affirming

the *ratio* in the celebrated case of **State Bank of India Vs Sundaralingam** held that the requirement of a 'live contract' at the time of dispute as a pre-condition to a reference under section 4(1) would not be applicable in the case of a dispute regarding terminal benefits which by its very nature arises after the cessation of the contract.

3. **Eksath Kamkaru Samithiya Vs Commissioner of Labour & Others, 2000 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 29**

The Court of Appeal upheld Mr. Surendran's submissions that:

- (a) It is one of the cardinal principles of law relating to the Writ of Mandamus that the Writ lies to compel the person to perform an act only where there is a duty cast on him to do so; and
- (b) Mandamus is only available to compel the doing of a duty not done and not on the ground that a duty has been done erroneously

4. **Gnansambandan Vs Rehabilitation of properties and Industries Authority, 1997 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 56**

The Supreme Court upheld Mr. Surendran's submissions that the REPPA had no jurisdiction to divest properties vested in it, in the name of any particular person and held that the order divesting the property in the name of a particular person is devoid of any legal effect.

5. **Brown and Company Vs The Commissioner of Labour, 2002 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 16**

The Court of Appeal held that the Commissioner of Labour had no jurisdiction to hold an inquiry under the Termination of Employment (Special Provision) Act on a complaint made by a probationer. This was the first case where the probationer's right to invoke the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Labour under the Termination of Employment (Special Provision) Act was successfully challenged.

6. **Ramalingam Vs Somasundaram, 1999 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 49**

The Court of Appeal, relying on the long line of authorities cited by Mr. Surendran held that cogent evidence would be required in order to revoke a probate by way of an order absolute in the first instance.

7. Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank Vs Minister of Labour & others, 2002 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 14

The Court of Appeal construed the provisions of section 16 of the Industrial Disputes Act pertaining to the scope of the Industrial Arbitrators Jurisdiction and held that the Act empowers the Arbitrator to adjudicate not only on the matters referred to Arbitration but also on disputes which arise out of such matters and were in existence at the time of the reference. The Court of Appeal pronounced the scope of section 16 of the Industrial Disputes Act relating to the powers of an Industrial Arbitrator to adjudicate upon matters in dispute which were not included in the reference for Arbitration by the Minister.

8. Nutrena (T.V.T.Pvt) Ltd Vs Quality Food Distributors Pvt Ltd, 2002 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 8

The Court of Appeal held that any objection to jurisdiction not taken up at the time of filing answer in the District Court cannot be raised at a subsequent stage.

9. Fernando Vs. Dr.Illukumbura 2001, Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 77

The Court of Appeal held that the order made in proceedings under section 66 of the Primary Courts Procedure Act are of a temporary nature and that Revision will not lie against orders made under section 66 of the Primary Courts Procedure Act as there is definite alternate remedy available in the civil court.

10. G.P. Nathaniels v A.L. Nathaniels and 3 Others 2008 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 349

The Court of Appeal held that where a Will is in proper form and duly executed, it gives rise to the presumption that the requirements to fulfil a valid Will have been fulfilled and that it is the duty of the person who produces the Will to prove that the said Will is the act and declaration of a free and capable testator and the testator was not only aware of it but also approved the contents thereof and the testator intended the document to be his last Will and the last Will had been duly executed according to law.

11. Indian Overseas Bank v N.N. Ratnayake 2010 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 5

The Court of Appeal held the following that the entire scheme of the Mortgage Act is designed to bring into the suit all necessary parties who have an interest in the land which is the subject of the mortgage either in the shape of plaintiffs or defendants and where there is a plurality of mortgagees, every mortgagee

who is not a plaintiff in the action should be joined as a defendant in one action and the matter could be resolved between or among them whether or not one of them is a plaintiff in the action and a defendant who has put forward a claim in reconvention he has a right to maintain and proceed with his claim in reconvention even where the Plaintiff's action is dismissed. Likewise as the added defendant who has a claim against another defendant should have the right to proceed against the defendant even if the Plaintiffs case is dismissed.

12. Shanmugaratnasarma Jegatheeswarasarma and Jessiammah Jegatheeswarasarma Vs. Dr. P. B. Jayasundera and Two others, CA Writ Application No 697/2010

This was a Writ of Mandamus Application filed by a father of a *missing* Tamil youth. The pivotal issue in question was that the right of a citizen to invoke the provisions of a ratified but unincorporated International treaty (the 1st optional protocol to the ICCPR) before a domestic court in Sri Lanka in the instance where the Government of Sri Lanka had failed to pay compensation recommended by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC), where the Government had agreed to accept the sum recommended by the National Human Rights Committee (HRC) which was Rupees Three Million."

13. Sri Bodhiraja Foundation Vs. Inspector General of Police and others (popularly known as Animal sacrifice case) 2013 Bar Association Law Reports Page219

This case particularly dealt with the freedom of Religion which is enshrined in Article 10 and 14(1)(e) of the Sri Lankan Constitution.

14. Weerakoon and another v Bandaragama Pradeshiya Sabawa(C.A) 2012 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 310

The Court of Appeal held that if a person has sufficient interest it may not be always sufficient to maintain a writ application although it may entitle a party to file a civil action. Sufficient interest in the intervenient petition cannot and will not legalise the illegal acts of the Respondent when those actions and decisions are challenged by the Petitioner as illegal. If a necessary party has not been added then the respondent could take up that objection which would be fatal to the main application without the assistance of an Intervenient to bolster up the case for the Respondent especially so in a situation where the Intervenient Petitioner has not even alleged that the Petitioners are acting in collusion or is conniving with the Respondents. Meddlesome busybody and meddlesome interloper are concepts relevant only in deciding the standing of the Petitioner in a fundamental rights application or in public interest litigation and should not be confused with an application for intervention in a writ application.

15. Singalanka Standard Chemicals Ltd Vs Thalangama Appuhamilage Sirisena and others 2012 Bar Association Law Journal Report, page 410

The Court of Appeal held that if there is a special remedy or special tribunal appointed for a specific purpose in order to justify the exclusion of the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts, those specific remedies must be exhaustive. If the specific remedy is inadequate, ineffective or not speedy enough then the ordinary courts, especially the Magistrate must have the jurisdiction to intervene and abate such nuisance

16. Asoka Sarath Amarasinghe Vs. The Commissioner CNH and others 2013 Bar Association Law Reports Page 390

The Supreme Court determined the applicability of sections 8, 9, 10, 11 of Ceiling of Housing Property Law to the given case. Importantly, the Supreme Court held that under section 8(2) that the female spouse can make a valid declaration even though the male spouse was living. In addition, the Supreme Court, relying on the submissions made by Mr. Surendran upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal that the vesting of the house was not valid as the Commissioner had failed to give a hearing to the new owner and therefore, as the Commissioner's order is a nullity, the Board of Review affirming that order is also a nullity.

17. Arpico Finance Co Ltd Vs. Richard Pieris Arpico Finance Co Ltd 2015 Bar Association Law Journal Report (Vol XXI) page 14

The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal, upholding the order of the Commercial Court that the injunction was properly granted and held “..the principle of law may be plainly stated that nobody has any right to represent his goods as the goods of somebody else. How far the use of particular words, signs or pictures does or does not come up to the proposition enunciated in each particular case must always be a question of evidence..” Mr. Surendran submissions included on legal principles relating to infringement of trade name, unfair competition, right to use one's name, customer sophistication, well-known name, concurrent name, assignment of Goodwill, Model Law and the applicability of section 123 of the IP Act.

18. M. Kanagaratnam and others v Sri Bodhiraja Foundation and others 2015 Bar Association Law Journal Report (Vol XXI) , page 3

The Supreme Court held dismissing the application that the Court of Appeal correctly interpreted the word ‘trade’ in the context of the Butcher's Ordinance.

A FEW NOTEWORTHY LEGAL OPINIONS

1. **Opinion regarding the legal status of accounting standards and their applicability to banking institution, in light of the Banking secrecy rules.**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar, M.P.P.C. Complex issues concerning Banking Law, Company Law, Securities and Exchange Commission Rules, Interpretation of Statutes, relevance of accounting practices prevailing in other jurisdictions, were dealt with by Counsel.

Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar described this opinion by saying "During my entire professional experience in Ceylon/Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United Nations I cannot recall any other legal opinion which required, on my part, more thought, time and effort than the opinion which is the subject matter of this settler."

He further added on Mr Surendran's contribution by saying "I say without the slightest hesitation that Mr Surendran's contribution to this opinion was the highest possible professional quality."

The Accounting Standards Act No.15 of 1995 was to a considerable extent influenced by this opinion.

2. **Opinion regarding the legal effect of certain provisions of the Banking Act and power of the Monetary Board**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr. H.L.de Silva, P.C. The opinion dealt with important issues regarding the power of the Monetary Board over certain banking transactions.

3. **Opinion regarding the status of certain Forward Exchange Contracts (FOREX) consequent upon the drastic devaluation of the Iranian Currency by the Government of Iran**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar M.P.P.C. Highly complex issues including the Central Bank instructions, the institutions issued by the Asian clearing Union, the doctrine of frustration/impossibility of performance, and the provisions of the Exchange Control Act were considered by Counsel. Certain specific issues Mr. Peter Scott Q.C. (UK), was consulted. Subsequently, the multimillion dollar suit was settled by both Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar M.P.P.C and Mr. Surendran.

4. **Opinion regarding the entitlement of Licensed Commercial Banks to invoke the parate execution powers conferred by the Recovery of Loans (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1996, in respect of properties mortgaged prior to the enactment of the statute**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar M.P.P.C. The powers conferred on licensed commercial banks by the cascade of debt recovery legislations in the early nineties, particularly in light of the rule against retrospective effect of statutes interfering with vested rights.

5. **Opinion on certain issues pertaining to the law relating to Passing Off**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar M.P.P.C. Counsels dealt with issues involved in the litigation, having done extensive law relating to passing-off with particular reference to whether goodwill was local in its character.

6. **Opinion on multi-storey building and the rights of a developer to convey absolute title to the prospective purchasers where the developer does not own the land on which the building stands**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.S. Sharvananda, retired Chief Justice. The position regarding this position under Roman Dutch Law and the sweeping changes brought about the Apartment Ownership Law No.11 of 1973.

7. **Opinion regarding the applicability of section 26 of the Inland Revenue Act, to income which is exempt by virtue of a Tax Holiday granted under section 22 D of the Act**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.H.L.de Silva P.C.

8. **Opinion regarding the applicability of the provision of Unfair Contract Terms Act to certain contracts for the sale and supply of goods by a multinational company**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.H.L.de Silva P.C.

9. **Opinion regarding the consequence of inadvertent non-disclosure of facts already known to the insurer, by the insured**

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.G.F. Sethukavalar P.C. considered many issues including the rule regarding material non-disclosure in insurance contracts, the Contract Properatum rule and the right of the insurer to avoid liability solely on the part of non-disclosure.

10. Opinion regarding the issue of unsecured Debentures

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.Sivarasa P.C. on the question whether an unsecured debenture could be treated as a Promissory Note for the purpose of the Stamp Duty Act.

11. Opinion regarding the Appointment of Trustees to a Hindu Kovil Trust

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.S. Sharvananda, former Chief Justice, to deal with the question of applicability of the Trust Ordinance to an instrument of Trust created prior to the enactment of the ordinance and the applicability in Sri Lanka of the Hindu Law regarding the legal personality of a deity

12. Opinion on the validity of the employees shares purchase scheme proposed by a major financial institution

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.Sivarasa P.C. and issues addressed included the prohibition against a company financing the purchase of its own shares, the exception embodied in section 55 of the Companies Act, with particular reference to the relevant English case law.

13. Opinion on the validity of restrictions contained in Articles of a listed company regarding maximum percentage of shareholding that could be held by an investor

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.Sivarasa P.C. and dealt with the issues of the rule of free transferability of shares postulated by the Rules of SEC, the overriding effect of these Rules, the effect of the ceiling placed in respect by the Banking Act and any redress available to the aggrieved shareholder when the company refuses to register the shares purchased by him

14. Opinion regarding the status of investment made by a foreign national in a venture capital company

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar P.C. Issues regarding the right of a foreign citizen to invest in securities and the implication of the Exchange Control Act were dealt with.

15. Opinion regarding merger of two major International Banks

Mr. Surendran was retained as Junior Counsel to Mr.K.N. Choksy P.C. dealing with the issue of assignment of securities granted in favour of one bank to another after the proposed amalgamation of the two banks.

16. Opinion regarding a non-notarial lease agreement for which a substantial deposit had been made

The effect of section 2 of the Prevention of Frauds Ordinance on deposits made pursuant to non-notarial lease, the validity of the forfeiture clause in the agreement and the applicability of PFO to a unit condominium property were considered

17. Opinion on issues arising from share Buy-Back agreement entered into by a leading venture venture capital company with another leading commercial house

Complex issues of Company Law particularly with reference to the prohibition against a company buying its own shares and the resultant position of the agreement in the said case were considered.

18. Opinion on dilectual liability of a hotel for the death of a tourist caused by drowning in the sea adjoining the hotel

The opinion dealt with dilectual liability of a hotel for death caused in the sea of a tourist, particularly where the hotel advertises that it provides facilities for sea baths. The opinion also considered the liability of the package tour operator who undertakes to meet all liabilities including accidental death in a foreign country and the effect of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act on the liability of the package tour operator which arises from a contract and not in tort.

19. Opinion regarding liability of hospitals on certain issues regarding their liability for statutory payments to full time medical consultants who are not employed as salaried employees

The opinion for a leading hospital chain dealt with the statutory framework for imposition of liability on the employer under various labour legislations, the concept of an employee being an integral part of the employer's institution, with reference to the special situation arising as a result of the medical consultants working full time basis though their earning were not confined to a fixed salary.

20. Opinion on private trust concerning tax liability for Capital Gain Tax for certain transaction where full consideration for the sale of trust property was paid by the buyer after a considerable lapse of time from the date of sale of the property

The opinion dealt with the juridical nature of a trust, the change of ownership of property occurring as a result of new trustees coming in place of retiring

trustees with particular reference to the principle that the legal title to a trust property vests in the trustees. The implication of such change in ownership taking place was considered in relation to the liability for Capital Gains Tax which arises upon change of ownership.

21. Opinion on the principle and applicability of ‘double jeopardy’

The opinion dealt with whether a person can be tried for the same offence in a different jurisdiction having already been convicted in another jurisdiction

22. Opinion on whether interest continued to be chargeable to the mortgage account of a deceased person by a bank

The opinion dealt with the status and liability of a party in a loan agreement with a bank following his death and whether any compound or simple interest could be continued to be charged to his account and be recovered by the bank. The law applicable in the UK was also considered.

23. Opinion for a leading International hotel chain on an internationally renowned mark registered in Sri Lanka and whether there was “use” of the mark as within the meaning provided under the IP Act

The opinion dealt with what comprised “use” of a registered trademark in Sri Lanka, within the meaning of the IP Act and the applicable law in other jurisdictions.

Recommendation Letters...

CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS,
SUPREME COURT,
COLOMBO 12,
SRI LANKA



අගරාජගාරයේ මැදිහැ,
විශේෂාධිපතිගාරය,
කොළඹ 12.

2nd October 1987

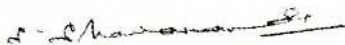
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Ratnavadivel Surendran

Mr. Surendran is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, having been enrolled on 6th September, 1979. He has been in active practice since then. He has also served as a Lecturer in Commercial Law for the Post Graduate Diploma Course on Business and Financial Administration conducted by the University of Wageningen, Holland at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, in 1984 and 1985. He has also served as the Tutor in Law of Property and the Law of Contracts at the Sri Lanka Law College, in 1984 and 1985. In 1981 he served as a Lecturer in Commercial and Business Law at the Ceylon Polytechnic for the Institute of Administrative Accountants (London) Course. He has also been a member of the Committees of the Bar Council, Law Committee, Overseas Relations Committee, Publication Committee and the Special Subcommittee on Law Reporting appointed by the Bar Council.

He is a junior of great promise. He is intelligent and industrious. He has a good grasp of legal principles. He takes a keen interest in legal studies.

He is a person of good character. His integrity is beyond question. I have no hesitation in recommending him for higher studies in Law.


(S. Shervananda)
Chief Justice

2nd October, 1987.

I have the greatest pleasure in testifying to the excellent character and conduct of MR. RATNAVADIVEL SURENDRAN, Attorney-at-Law. I have known him from the time he was a law student at the Sri Lanka Law College and more closely after he was called to the Bar in this country. He has on numerous occasions appeared as Junior to me in Court actions; he has also worked in my chambers. I had many opportunities of assessing his character, conduct and ability.

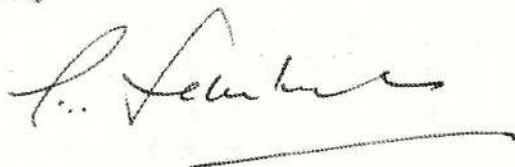
He is a very industrious and intelligent young man with a deep interest in the law. During the short period he has been at the Sri Lanka Bar, he has made rapid progress in the profession - particularly in field of commercial litigation.

He has shown interest in the law from early days. At the Sri Lanka Law College, he was a member of the College Debating Team and was highly placed in Oratorical Contests relating to addresses to the Jury. Prior to joining the Law College, he had a good record in High School. He won a number of prizes, particularly for general knowledge for consecutive years running. He was a College Prefect, and a member of the Scout troop, and represented his College in debates and drama contests conducted by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

At the Bar he has also taken interest in the activities of the Bar Council, serving as a member of the Publication Committee, Overseas Relations Committee and the Law Committee, and was also a member of the special sub-committee appointed by the Bar Council on Law Reporting.

He has been a Lecturer in Commercial Law at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka in the years 1984 and 1985, a Lecturer in Commercial and Business Law at the Ceylon Polytechnic for the Institute of Administrative Accountants (London) course in 1981. He has also been a Tutor in Law of Property and Law of Contracts at the Sri Lanka Law College for the years 1984 and 1985.

He is a very promising young man with a bright future, and I would encourage and strongly urge that he goes in for higher studies in the law. He is an honourable and trustworthy person and can be entrusted ^{with} ~~the~~ Responsibility.



GFS/n

DESMOND FERNANDO

Past
President,
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Deputy Secretary General,
International Bar Association

Member,
International Commission of Jurists

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President's Counsel
M.A. (Oxon)
of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law
Attorney-at-Law (Sri Lanka)
telex: 21727 1 atin
fax: 380330 1 SURIDES
cables: KINGFISHER Colombo

9th December, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Mr Ratnavadivel Surendran is personally known to me.

Mr Surendran has been in practice at The Sri Lanka Bar for a period of twelve years. He is an L.L.M. (Hons) in International and Comparative Law from the University of Brussels, Belgium. During this time he has functioned as an Examiner of The Council of Legal Education. The Council which is presided over by The Chief Justice conducts the Professional Examination for The Sri Lanka Bar and organises lectures for students taking these examinations.

Mr Surendran has also lectured in Commercial Law at The Post Graduate Diploma Course in Business Administration Conducted by The University of Weeganningen, Holland at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sri Lanka. He also lectures in Business Law at the Ceylon Polytechnic.

Mr Surendran has a deep interest in the study of The Law, specialising in International Law, Commercial Law and Human Rights Law. He presented a well researched paper on "Application of International Law rules by National Courts: Some Recent Trends" at the National Law Conference in 1990. This paper was published in the Law Journal of The Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

In addition to research he has also been active in the affairs of The Bar Association and has served as a member of The Law Committee, Overseas Relations Committee and the Publications Committee. He also functioned with great efficiency as the Convenor of The Special Sub-Committee of The Bar Association of Sri Lanka to consider the Bills of Exchange Amendment Act.

Mr Surendran has kept in touch with recent developments in the law having attended seminars at The Headquarters of The European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France; Workshops organised at The European Court of Justice, Luxembourg and a training course at The Headquarters of the European Economic Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

His thesis entitled "GATT Rules and their application by National and Regional Adjudicatory Organs" is presently being prepared for publication on the recommendation of The Faculty of Law of the University of Brussels.

Desmond Fernando



August 23, 1996.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Ratnavadivel Surendran was a student of mine at the Sri Lanka Law College when I was a lecturer in Administrative Law. He was an intelligent and a hard working student.

He was admitted and enrolled as an Attorney-at-law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka on 6th September, 1979. Subsequently he obtained an L.L.M.(Hons.) in International and Comparative Law from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

He has kept in touch with me ever since his student days. I can say with confidence that he has a deep and genuine interest in the study of law. He is capable of hard and sustained work. He has appeared before me as Counsel and I found that he has read his brief carefully and done all the required research on the relevant questions of law.

He is very keen on pursuing his studies in law and reading for a Ph.D. He undoubtedly has an academic bent of mind and the capacity to do intensive study and research. In my opinion he is in every way a fit and proper person to read for a Ph.D. I have great pleasure in recommending him for a postgraduate course in law which will ultimately enable him to secure a Ph.D.

G. P. S. de Silva
G.P.S. de Silva,
Chief Justice.

Memorable moments at the Bar



*Suren's Oaths taking with Parents, Aunts, Uncles
and Cousins Sumathi & Janani (06.09.1979)*





LL.M. days in Brussels





On the day he was conferred Silk (25.06.2004)

Message from Chief Justice

CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS,
SUPREME COURTS,
COLOMBO 12,
SRI LANKA.

FAX : ++ 94 (0) 11 2437534
TELE : ++ 94 (0) 11 2422142
e-Mail : sccj@sltnet.lk



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ෆැක්ස් : ++ 94 (0) 11 2437534
දුරකථනය : ++ 94 (0) 11 2422142

02nd May 2016

I received with sadness the news about the demise of Mr. A.R. Surendran, President's Counsel and a leading member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. I therefore pen this brief message to rekindle the memory of Mr. A.R. Surendran, P.C. who passed away after leading a full life with dignity.

My family and I have known Mr. Surendran from the time his family lived in Nallur, Jaffna and it has been a relatively long acquaintance. I have had the privilege of knowing him both on a professional and personal basis. During his many years in the Bar he distinguished himself amongst his colleagues by his pleasant, courteous and mild manner. He always maintained the highest traditions of the profession. Mr. Surendran had always been a man of noble presence, dignity and integrity. His humility was always respected and his firmness admired. His spiritual values, his gentle but fearless personality and his manifest integrity earned plenty of respect from those who knew him at close up.

Mr. Surendran was a deeply religious person and took an active interest in Hindu religious affairs. He was the President of the Colombo Vivekananda Society and a Trustee of All Ceylon Hindu Congress at the time of his demise.

I extend my condolences to his widowed wife and distraught family members. I hope that time and memories will help lessen the burden of their sorrow. In all humility I commend his soul to the Supreme.

K. Sripavan
Chief Justice

Message from BASL President



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இலங்கைச் சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கம்

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

No. 153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12, 01200, Sri Lanka.

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In keeping with the highest traditions of the Bar, in court, we of this legal fraternity refer to each other as learned friends.

A R Surendran, President's Counsel, to me, was not a mere learned friend but a friend indeed. My earliest recollections go back to the year 1979 when Suren (as I called him) and I happened to be in the same class at Wesley College preparing for the Attorneys – at- Law examination.

Suren struck me as a well-mannered and prim and proper person. Though he did appreciate and enjoy the company of those in his class and the pranks we indulged in, yet, he was serious about studies and hard work. These qualities developed and grew in the course of his professional career, as I have had the privilege to observe. He was dedicated to his work. He took the profession seriously through a sustained detailed approach and intense study in his work. Both in and out of court, he maintained decorum and the dignity of the profession in his conduct and manner of speaking especially in addressing both court and adversary. Rudeness, impoliteness or emotional wanton aggression was not seen in him though sometimes wrongly considered a necessary trait for success by many.

His departure is the loss of an individual who conducted himself as an example of what professionalism should be.

May he earn the bliss he deserve

Geoffrey Alagaratnam, PC
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

05th May 2016

Message from Justice Anil Goonaratne

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS,
SUPREME COURT OF SRI LANKA,
COLOMBO 12.



විනිශ්චයකාර මැදිරිය,
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The demise of Mr. Arumugam Ratnavadivel Surendran P.C reminds us of the axiomatic and painful truism that there is a vanishing of the old guard of genteel members of the legal fraternity and his passing away albeit untimely brings back to my mind those halcyon days of the seventies when I first had the pleasant encounter with him as a fellow law student at Sri Lanka Law College.

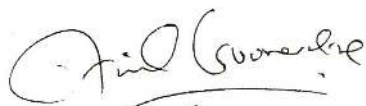
In that bygone era full of indelible memories one encountered a cherubic and amiable person in Surendran, an old boy of Jaffna Central College who looked as fresh as daisy and commanded behind him a well rounded education both scholastic and extra-curricular that was to stand him in good stead in later years. With his disarming smile and genial deportment he made friends quite easily and coalesced so well into the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural ambience of Sri Lanka Law College where he forged everlasting friendships and it was on the anvil of such harmony and unity that my friendship with Mr. Surendran P.C blossomed and it is no exaggeration that he remained cherubic and evergreen as ever as years rolled by.

Mr. Surendran P.C was a quintessential lawyer whose gentility towards his fellow members of the Bar and courtesy towards the Bench characterized his professional life to the end, The elements in him were so gentle that no one could ever be even remotely critical of him.

There was no area of the law that his practice did not traverse. Whether it be Commercial law, Banking law, Administrative law or Property law, a number of judicial precedents bear testimony to the range and breadth of his practice and his sedulous application to the brief at hand won him the confidence of senior legal luminaries such as Mr. S. Nadesan Q.C, Mr. H.W. Jayawardena, Q.C, Mr. C. Renganathan, Q.C and Mr. A.C. Guneratne, Q.C who readily took him on as a junior in their celebrated cases. He was fortunate in that he

also read in the chambers of his late uncle Mr. A. Mahendraraja, President's Counsel. The late Mr. Surendran P.C did not confine himself exclusively to the practice of law. His interest transcended beyond forensic forays in that his academic pursuits are amply borne out by the award of a Masters Degree in 1988 from the University of Brussels in International and Comparative Law. His academic proclivity is manifested in a number of papers that he later presented at conferences and symposia and one such paper - "The application of International Law Rules by national Courts - some recent trends" which was such an excellent disquisition was carried in the Bar Association Law Journal. So it could be said of him that he was such a consummate lawyer who left an indelible imprint on the legal landscape of this country. Hulftsdorp will never see the likes of such a genteel gentleman for whom the cause of his client was the uppermost goal to fight for and accomplish. Whilst personally sharing the anguish of his passing away with his immediate family, loved ones and juniors, I record with a pang of sorrow that the memory of the gentle giant Mr. Surendran P.C will reverberate in us for a long time to come and we do commemorate his life and times with nostalgia.

May he attain Moksha!

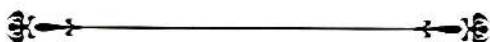


Justice Anil Gooneratne

Judge of the Supreme Court



Few words from a friend



Justice P. R. Walgama
Judge of the Court of Appeal

A.R.Surendran, President's Counsel, was meticulous, hardworking and a very clever lawyer. He maintained the highest standards of the profession. He appeared both in the original and in the Appellate Court before me. He impressed me with his clever well thought out legal arguments.

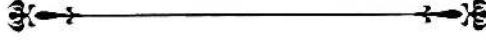
He was reserved and aloof from the company of judges. He had a religious background. His father was late Mr. Arumugam Ratnavadivel of the Sai Movement and father-in-law, late Mr Velupillai Murugesu was a solicitor, attorney-at-law founder of Sri Aurobindo Society.

Surendran came to my chambers only once. I was surprised to see him in chambers and I thought he came for some urgent legal requirement. But that was not to be. He told me that day was the 25th anniversary of his wedding. He wanted me to wish him well since he thought that a good wish from a friend who leads an exemplary married life, a blessing. I was so happy that he still took me as a friend though he was aloof from me since I was a judge. His love for his wife Renuka Devi was so deep. Renuka Devi was, indeed a Devi to him.

I was in Australia when I heard of his demise. I am so sad for his wife Renuka Devi, his son and daughter. His demise is a great loss to the legal community. He contributed largely by his articles published in legal publications, in his capacity as examiner to the Incorporated Council of Legal Education and Chairman of the Law Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

I am sure he is in the safe hands of God.

மாமனிதர்



அன்னலங்கம் ப்ரேமசங்கர்

மேல் நீதிமன்ற நீதிபதி

தோன்றின் புகழோடு தோன்றுக, அஃதினார்
தோன்றலின் தோன்றாமை நன்று.

செயற்கரிய செய்வார் பெரியர், சிறியா
செயற்கரிய செய்கலாதார்.

என்பன உலகப் பொதுமறை அருளிய விதியாகும்.

எம் பாசத்திற்குரிய அமரர் ஆறுமுகம் இரத்தினவடிவேல் சுரேந்திரன் அவர்களின் பிறப்பு, வாழ்வு, இறப்பு என்பன அகன்ற, பரந்த அழியாப் புகழுடன் கூடியது. ஆயிரத்து தொளாயிரத்து தொன்நூற்றி மூன்றாம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து அமரர் சுரேந்திரனுடனான தொடர்புள்ளது. ஒவ்வொன்றாக எண்ணிப் பார்க்கும் போது கண்கள் குளமாகின்றன. அன்னாரின் இழப்பினை மனம் ஏற்க மறுக்கின்றது.

அருமை அண்ணர் சுரேந்திரன்:

மகனாக:-

ஏ. ஆர் சுரேந்திரன் இலங்கையின் தலையென வர்ணிக்கப்படும் யாழ்குடாநாட்டின் நல்லூர்ப் பதியில் 1954ம் ஆண்டில் ஆறுமுகம் இரத்தினவடிவேல், இரத்தினேஸ்வரி தம்பதியரின் சிரேஷ்ட புத்திரராக அவதரித்தார். மூன்று ஆண் குஞ்சுகளைக் கொண்ட இரத்தினவடிவேல் குடும்பத்தின் அன்பு மகனாக வளர்ந்து வந்தார்.

மாணவனாக:-

இளமைக் காலத்தில் செல்வச் செழிப்பில் திளைத்த ஏ. ஆர் சுரேந்திரன் தமது கல்வியை யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியில் கற்றார். கல்லூரியில் கற்றலுடன் நிற்காது ஏனைய பல இதர செயற்பாடுகளிலும் ஈடுபட்டு கொடிக்கட்டிப்பறந்தார். பலவித கேடயங்களைத் தனதாக்கிக் கொண்டார்.

சட்டத்தரணியாக:-

அடிப்படைக் கல்வி முடிந்த பின் சுரேந்திரன் சட்டக்கல்வியை தொடர்ந்தார். 1979ம் ஆண்டில் இலங்கையின் உயர் நீதிமன்ற சட்டத்தரணியாக உள்வாங்கப்பட்டார். சட்டத்துறையில் முதுமாணிப் பட்டம் வரை தொடர்ந்தார். தன்னளவில் மிகச் சிறந்த பிரசித்த சட்டத்தரணியாக மிளர்ந்தார்.

கணவராக:-

மிகுந்த அழகான அறிவான சுரேந்திரன் தனது கட்டிளமைப்பருவத்தினை அடைந்தார். புகழ் பெற்ற சட்ட அறிஞர் வேலுப்பிள்ளை முருகேசுவரின் கனிஷ்ட புத்திரி ரேணுகாதேவியை 1984ம் ஆண்டில் கைதலம் பற்றினார்.

தந்தையாக:-

இருவரின் இல்லற வாழ்க்கை இனித்த வேளையில் பிரசாந்தன், பவித்திரா, பிரிதர்ஷினி ஆகிய புத்திர செல்வங்களைப் பெற்றெடுத்தார். அவர்களுக்கு தேவையான அத்திவாரங்களை மிகச் சிறப்பாக அமைத்து அவர்களது ஆதர்ஷ தந்தையாக வாழ்ந்து வந்தார். பிரிதர்ஷினி என்ற அன்பு மகளின் இழப்பு அன்புத் தந்தையான சுரேந்திரனை பெரிதும் பாதித்திருந்தது.

வழிகாட்டியாக:-

அமரர் சுரேந்திரன் மிகவும் பாசமுடையவர். பழகுவதற்கு இனிமையானவர். கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணிகளை தட்டிக்கொடுத்து உயர்த்தும் உள்ளம் கொண்டவர்.

சேவையாளராக:-

அமரர் சுரேந்திரன் கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபை, அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம் போன்ற அமைப்புக்களில் இணைந்து தம்மாலான சமய, சமூகப் பணிகளை செய்து வந்தார். தமிழ் மக்களுக்கான பல செயற்பாடுகளை முன்னெடுத்த பெருமைக்குரியவராக சுரேந்திரன் என்றும் நினைவு கூரப்படுகின்றார்.

ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியாக:-

உயர்நீதிமன்ற சட்டத்தரணியாக செயற்பட்டு வந்த ஏ. ஆர் சுரேந்திரன் 2004ம் ஆண்டில் ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டு கௌரவம் பெற்றார். ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி என்ற கோதாவில் சட்டத் துறையில் மிகச் சிறந்த பணியாற்றியுள்ளார்.

மனிதராக:-

ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி சுரேந்திரன் அவர்களின் நடவடிக்கைகளில் என்றும் மனிதம் காணப்பட்டது. இயல்பான சிறந்த போக்கினால் அவரது நடவடிக்கைகள் மனிதத் தன்மையுடன் காணப்பட்டன. அவருடன் இணைந்து பணியாற்றிய காலத்தில் இடம் பெற்றவைகளை எண்ணும் போது உளம் புளகாங்கிதமடைகின்றது.

இவ்வாறு பல முகங்களைக் கொண்டு அறுபதாண்டு இவ்வுலகில் வாழ்ந்துள்ளார். அன்னார் வையகத்தில் அமைதியான நிலையை அடைந்திருப்பார் என்பது திண்ணம். அன்னார் விட்டுச் சென்ற பணிகளை அவரது பாணியில் முன்னெடுப்பது நாம் அவருக்குச் செய்யும் அஞ்சலியாகும்.

அனைவருக்கும் எமது இதய அஞ்சலிகள்.

We have lost a great Lawyer and a respected Gentlemen



V. Ramakamalan
District Judge, Kalmunai

The passing of Mr. A. R. Surendhran, Presidents Counsel, has sent shock waves through all of us. We have lost a great lawyer and a respected gentlemen. He had the unique ability to command the respect of the seniors and the juniors of the Bar and cross section of the public.

I consider myself fortunate to have known Surendhran sir; meeting him on numerous occasions, when I was a professional assistant of a legal firm.

Among his many wonderful qualities, one that stood out to me most was his gift of understanding others. He had the kind heart for listening to people and respecting their views. These qualities had no bar whether age or status.

He would relate stories of past cases and incidents. We used to listen to those with eagerness. His expressions were indescribable.

His guidance and advice was readily available and those who worked under him had immense love and respect for him. He was not only their mentor but their godfather. I am grateful for the kindness and affection he has shown me. He has left with all of us, very valuable memories which will not fade away

Message from R. Sampanthan, MP



Leader of the Opposition of Parliament

I had known Mr A R Surendran President's Counsel for a long period of time. He was a reputed Lawyer who commanded respect from everyone. He was by nature a very gentle person, who was kind and helpful to all who came into contact with him.

There are many who will miss him very much.

He was closely involved in religious, social and cultural activities and rendered whatever service he could in these areas.

I consider it very unfortunate that he did not remain with us longer.

I wish to place on record. my utmost respect for Mr Surendran and to convey to Mrs Surendran, his children and all members of the family my deep sympathies and condolences.



Surendhran I remember



Kanaganayagam Kanag-Isvaran PC
Friend and colleague

My first memory of Surendhran goes back several years, to one evening at Saraswathy Hall.

In the glaring lights of the stage one young man very fair, in *verti* with a red/green border was seated on the stage cross legged with accompanying musical instruments of a typical carnatic recital, mirdangam, violin, tambura behind him, singing in a mellifluous voice one of my favourite carnatic kirthanam – ‘raguvamsa sudah’.

I asked Kaneshayogan, a lawyer friend, seated next to me “Yaar ada intha piramana podian ?” (who is this brahmin boy?). My friend replied “Ithu Neelakandanudaiya machaan – Surendran satta tharani” – (Neelakandan’s brother-in-law Surendran, Attorney-at-Law). Neelakandan of course was famous by then.

Then he vanished, before I could interact with him at the Bar.

Now I know that, that was during the period he was pursuing postgraduate studies in Belgium.

I remember meeting him upon his return. I greeted him “Vanakkam Bagavathar saukiyama?” He responded “Saukiyam, Saukiyam – Nandri” flashing his characteristic smile, a bit embarrassed perhaps, a blush lighting his rotund ever friendly face.

Even as I pen this tribute to his memory those events flash before my inward eye, bathing me with a warmth I always felt in his presence.

His friendly, reassuring face epitomized the Tamil saying ‘அகத்தின் அழகு முகத்தில் தெரியும்’ (*‘the beauty of the soul can be seen in one’s face’*), A characteristic which, in my mind defined him most.

Of his learning and professional accomplishments I do not need to mention here.

It is well acknowledged. Others will no doubt attest to it.

We have no doubt in our profession very learned people, great communicators and men of varied skills.

But who amongst them is a man worthy of remembrance?

I believe it is a true professional.

A true professional is he who subjugates his special skills and learning to that essential trust that he must establish between him and his client, between him and court, between him and his fellow lawyers, when one holds oneself as the willing provider of legal service to all members of the public who may need it.

In my eyes Surendhran was such a rare man.

This truth is known to many and does not bear recounting.

Many are the examples that I can speak of where he had established this trust to my personal knowledge. His last appearance in Court is one in which I was opposed to him.

In this current world of lies and deception, a world without honour, and without values, it behoves us to remember him as a man who arose above them, as would a lotus, and maintained all those sterling qualities that made a true professional.

He is worthy of remembrance for generations to come.

Death has not diminished him.

May he rest in peace.



A true gentlemanly Lawyer



Shibly Aziz PC

Former Attorney-General of Sri Lanka

The Bar lost a very committed and erudite man of the law with the recent demise of our colleague A. R. Surendran. A seemingly quiet but forceful personality, Surendran had qualities about him which identified him as a true gentlemanly lawyer, with a very pleasant and friendly disposition but beneath which he had formidable legal acumen and tenacity to fight his client's case. He did so with great perseverance and dedication, without any recrimination or other attitudes which often come between a lawyer and his presentation of a case.

Unfortunately, I did not have the fortune to be opposed by him, as we generally dealt with different areas of the law, but I wish we had opponents like him where we could dispassionately place our respective cases before the Bench and look forward to a fair hearing and decision.

In an age where less importance is placed on the orderly growth and development of the law and times dictate a more pragmatic and faster resolution of legal cases, with the latter approach contributing more to the situation which prevails today, the need to have more lawyers rooted in the old traditions of sound, fair and equitable arguments, based on time honoured legal principles, greater is the need for lawyers of Mr. Surendran's ilk to steady the course of the law.



He won the love and affection of all those around him



Palitha Fernando PC

Former Attorney-General of Sri Lanka

Mr. A.R. Surendran President's Counsel, was my friend for over 3 decades. I first met him at the Sri Lanka Law College in the year 1976. He was the President of the Tamil Mandram and a respected leader of the Tamil Community. He was a friend of all communities and won the love and affection of all those around him due to his pleasing manners and amiable disposition. He was a man of many virtues. He carried them undiminished up to the time of his demise.

Surendran, as I have heard, was very close to his family. The busy and lucrative practice he enjoyed did not affect the bond with his family in any way. He was a mentor to his juniors and guided them with fatherly affection. The sentiments expressed by many juniors at his funeral are ample testimony of what he meant to them. A quality in him that was apparent even during his Law College days was, his commitment to the task entrusted to him. He was extremely methodical and thorough with the subject he was handling. He held the post of President of the Tamil Mantram with admirable efficiency.

I have heard that he was always thorough with his briefs as practicing lawyer. He was one of the very first to be appointed President's Counsel amongst his contemporaries. His appointment was viewed as a deserving appointment by the members of the Bar. Surendran stood prominently in a galaxy of legal luminaries of his times.

Surendran served his fellowmen with unselfish generosity. He was a devoted Hindu, who lived a religious life whilst serving in the governing bodies of many religious institutions. His religious upbringing and discipline would have given him tremendous courage and strength to withstand life's bumps and spills. Even when afflicted with a terminal sickness the beautiful smile that adorned his equally beautiful face never diminished.

Surendran's comparatively early demise is a cruel blow and an irreparable loss to many. His juniors have lost a guiding light, his friends have lost a true friend, my

vocabulary is impotent to effectively express what it would mean to his immediate family. We all stand poorer with his demise.

I consider it would be appropriate to quote the following words of an unknown author I quoted when delivering my oration at his funeral:

“ Loved in life and- cherished in death
A beautiful memory – is all that is left”

May Mr. Surendran attain the eternal bliss of “Moksha”

My Close Friend



Harsha Soza PC
Friend and colleague

Mr. A.R. Surendran, President's Counsel has been my close friend for the last over thirty years, and his untimely demise at the early age of sixty one has created a void in my life which will never be filled. He and I were associated in several legal matters for clients who had retained our services, and I deeply valued his informative and educative input. His death is a great loss to the legal profession; he will be remembered as a lawyer who made a substantial contribution to the development of the law and legal tradition.

He was a gentleman par excellence



Sanjeeva Jayawardena

Friend and colleague

I was very saddened by the news of the premature passing of Mr. A.R.Surendran, President's Counsel.

He was a gentleman par excellence, to his very finger tips, and a very genteel and cultured person, with a markedly pleasing and endearing personality and disposition.

He was never rude or unnecessarily aggressive to his opponents during the course of any argument, but nevertheless conveyed his point across very effectively, both eloquently and with great clarity of thought and diction.

His submissions were always substantiated with a multitude of authorities, but also with an admirable understating of the vital first principles of the law, which he never lost sight of and the perspectives he presented were multifarious,

The meticulous research and preparation he had made, were always palpably manifest in his arguments.

He and I have had many a stimulating and thought provoking conversations and I had a lot of admiration for his varied interests and knowledge, on numerous subjects outside the purview of the law as well.

I empathise with the great loss that his family members have to endure and I wish them both the strength and the fortitude to deal with their personal loss.

May the late Mr.Surendran attain moksha.

அஞ்சலி



எம். ஏ. சுமந்தரன்
நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்

ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி ஏ.ஆர்.சுரேந்திரனின் மறைவு எமது சமூகத்திற்குப் பேரிழப்பு.

இளம் சட்டத்தரணியாக அறிமுகமான அவரின் பன்முகவளர்ச்சியைப் பல ஆண்டுகளாக அவதானிக்கும் வாய்ப்புக்கிடைத்தது.

நீதி மன்றங்களில் தன் கட்சிக்காரர்கள் சார்பில் வாதிடும் போதும் தடம் புரளாத நிறைகுடமாகக் விளங்கிய திரு.சுரேந்திரன் பொது வைபவங்களிலும் தன் கருத்துக்களைக் கேட்போர் மனதில் ஆழப்பதியும் வண்ணம் திறம்பட உறையாற்றியதையும் கண்டு அவரின் திறமையை மனதார மெச்சி இருக்கிறேன்.

இன்னும் பல ஆண்டுகள் வாழ்ந்து அவர் எங்களின் சமூகத்தின் ஒரு தூணாகத்திகழ்வார் என எதிர்பார்த்தோம். ஆனால் விதி விளையாடிவிட்டது. அவரின் இழப்பு தமிழ் மக்களுக்கு ஒரு பேரிழப்பு. அவரின் குடும்பத்தினருக்கு எங்களின் ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களைத் மீண்டும் தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

ஆத்மார்த்த நண்பனின் மிரிவால்மனதில் பொழியும் துயரப்பனி



கே.வீ. தவராசா

சிரேஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

மனிதநேயம் அருகிவரும் இந்நாளில் எல்லோர்மீதும் அன்பைச் சொரியும் மனமும், நிறைந்த அறிவும், ஆளுமையுடையவராக திகழ்ந்தவர். சுரேன் என நண்பர்களால் அழைக்கப்பட்ட A.R.சுரேந்திரன் குடியியல் வழக்குகளில் அதிக திறன்வாய்க்கப்பெற்றவர். 2004ம் ஆண்டு ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியாக இவர் நியமனம் பெற்றபொழுது நாம் பெற்ற மகிழ்ச்சியும், பெருமிதமும் இன்றும் மனதை விட்டு அகலவில்லை தமிழ் சமூகத்தின் மீது உண்மையான பரிவும் அக்கறையும் கொண்ட நண்பன் சுரேந்திரன் சட்டத்துறையில் தனது பாரிய பங்களிப்பை வழங்கியது மட்டுமின்றி சமய, சமூக செயல்பாடுகளிலும் தீவிர அக்கறை காட்டியவர்.

என் ஆத்ம நண்பன் சுரேன் கடந்த மூன்று தசாப்தங்களுக்கு மேலாக நான் அரசியல் கைதிகளுக்காக நீதிமன்றில் வாதாடிய போதெல்லாம் மிகவும் பெருமையோடு தட்டிக்கொடுத்து என்னை உற்சாகப்படுத்தியவர்

இளம் சட்டத்தரணிகளில் அதிகமானவர்கள் சுரேனிடம் பயிற்சி பெற்றவர்கள்தான். அவர்களுக்கான களத்தை ஏற்படுத்திக் கொடுத்த சுரேனின் மறைவு எதிர்வரும் காலங்களில் பயிற்சிபெற காத்திருந்த இளம் சட்டத்தரணிகளுக்கு ஒரு பாரிய பேரிழப்பாகும், அந்தளவிற்கு அவர்களுக்கான களத்தின் அச்சாக திகழ்ந்தவர்.

ஒருவன் வாழ்ந்த வாழ்க்கையே போதும், மறைந்த பின்னரும் அவன் வாழ்வதற்கு என்ற உண்மையை இப்போது நாங்கள் கண்முன்னே காண்கின்றோம். எமது மனங்களில் துயரம் ததும்பும் கண்ணீர் துளியாய் அமைதியாக துயில் கொண்ட நண்பர் உங்கள் ஆத்ம சாந்திக்காகவும் உங்கள் இழப்பால் துயருற்றிருக்கும் அனைவரின் மன அமைதிக்காகவும் நாமும் பிராத்திக்கின்றோம்.

உங்கள் இழப்பு ஈடுசெய்ய முடியாத பேரிழப்பாகும்.

சுரேந்திரன்



ஜி. இராஜகுலேந்திரா

சட்டத்தரணி

சுந்தர முகம் சந்தன நிறம்
சிந்தனையில் சிறுமை இன்மையால்
சீரிளமை அருள் பொழியும் கண்கள்
பால்வடியும் பாலகத் தோற்றம்
நூல்படிந்து நூல்படித்து
சட்டக் கோட்பாடுகளை
நூலிழையும் பிசகாமல் நுண்ணியதாய்
திண்ணிதாய் எடுத்தோதும் ஏற்றம்
நீதியிது நியாயமிது என நெஞ்சு கண்டால்
வாதிப்போர் வேந்தராயினும் வீறுகொள்ளும் சீற்றம்
சரியிது என நினைத்தால் சாயாத மனசுடன்
சாதிக்கும் உள்ள உரன் அவருக்குரிய வரம்
தனக்கென வாழா பிறர்க்குரியாளர் கருணை மறவர் என்றெல்லாம்
தமிழுக்காப்பியங்கள் போற்றும் ஆளுமைக்கு
என் காலத்து வாழ்ந்து மறையாத அவர் ஒரு சான்று
என் நினைவுப் பெட்டகத்தை திறந்து சட்டக்கல்லூரி
நாட்களின் தொடக்கத்தை பார்க்கிறேன்
பகிடிவதையை நான் பலவாறு செய்த போதும் அவரது
அசையாத மனத்தையும் எதையும் தாங்கும்
இதயத்தையும் கண்டேன்
அன்று நான் பார்த்த சுரேந்திரன் ஆண்டுகள் பலவாகியும்
அதே சாயாத உள்ளத்தோடு மாயாத புன்னகையோடு
மறையும் வரை வாழ்ந்ததை எண்ணிப்பார்க்கிறேன்
இதுதான் ஆன்றவிந்தடங்கிய கொள்கைச்சான்றோர்
என்று பிசிராந்தையார் கூறியது போலும்
சுரேந்திரன் தனக்கென ஒரு வரலாறு எழுதினார்
என்பதைவிட காலகாலமாய் வாழும் கற்சிலைபோல் வருமாறு
பலவற்றை தன் சட்டத்துறைக்கு படைத்தளித்தார் என்பதே உண்மை
காலத்தை வென்று காவியமான சுரேந்திரன்
காலகாலங்கள் வாழ்க ஞாலமுள்ள வரை அவர் நினைவுகள் வாழ்க

வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்பவன் வானுறையும் தெய்வத்துள் வைக்கப் படும்.



வீ. புவிதரன்

சட்டத்தரணி

குரு, வழிகாட்டி, சிரேஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி, ஆன்மீகவாதி, நண்பன் ஆகிய பல வடிவங்களில் நான் கண்ட ஒருவர் ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி சுரேந்திரன் ஐயா அவர்கள். (நான் Sir என அழைத்திருந்தாலும் ஐயா என தமிழில் விழிப்பதே இவ்விடத்தில் பொருத்தமானது என்பதால் அவ்வாறு விழிக்கின்றேன்)

சுரேந்திரன் ஐயா அவர்களுடன் கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணியாக பணியாற்றிய சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் அவர் வழக்குகளிற்கு தயாராகும் முறை, எந்தக் கேள்விகளுக்கும் பதில் சொல்ல தயாராக அவர் காட்டும் சிரத்தை, நீதிபதிகளின் கவனத்தை தன்னுடைய வாத்தாதுடன் ஒருங்கிணைத்துக் கொண்டு செல்லும் திறமை, அதற்காக அவர் காட்டும் சிரத்தை போன்றவற்றை எனக்கு வழிகாட்டியாகக் கொண்டு அவற்றை எனது வழக்குகளிலும் பிரயோகிக்க முயற்சிப்பதுண்டு.

அவரின் ஆழமான சட்ட அறிவையும், அவர் சட்டத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு ஆற்றிய பங்களையும் சட்ட அறிக்கைகள் பறைசாற்றி நிற்கின்றன.

அவருடன் வழக்குகளிற்கு தயாராகும் சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் பல விடயங்களையும் இடைக்கிடை அலசிக் கொள்வதுண்டு. அச்சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் அரசியல், கலை, கலாச்சார, பண்பாட்டு, சமய, சமூக விழுமியங்களைப் பற்றிக் கதைத்துள்ளோம். அவரின் பன்முகத் தன்மையையும், அவ்விடங்களில் அவருக்கு இருந்த ஆழமான அறிவையும், அவற்றை அலசும் திறமையையும் கண்டு நான் வியந்துள்ளேன்.

கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணிகளிடம் அவர்கள் கூறும் விடயங்களைக் கேட்டு எந்நேரமும், அவர்களைப் பாராட்டி உற்சாகப்படுத்தும் ஒரு சிறந்த மனிதர்.

நான் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு படிக்கும் போது எமக்கு சமூகக்கல்வி கற்பித்த ஆசிரியர் விநாயகமூர்த்தி அவர்கள் எனது சமூகப் பார்வைக்கான வழிகாட்டியாக அமைந்தது போல் வழக்குகளை தயார்படுத்துவதில் சுரேந்திரன் ஐயா வழிகாட்டியாக இருக்கின்றார்.

ஐயா பொறுமை இழந்து நான் கண்டதில்லை. ஒரு தடவை ஒரு கட்சிக்காரர் ஒரு சிறு விடயம் பற்றி சுமார் நாற்பத்தைந்து நிமிடங்கள் திரும்பத் திரும்பக் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்தார். ஐயா பொறுமை இழக்காது அவருக்கு பல வழிகளிலும் விளங்கப்படுத்த முயற்சித்தார். அக்கட்சிக்காரர் சென்றதும் நான் கேட்டேன் ஐயா! நீங்கள் இவ்வளவு பொறுமையாகக் கூறுகின்றீர்கள் நானாக இருந்தால் பத்து நிமிடத்தில் பொறுமை இழந்திருப்பேன் என்று. அதற்கு அவர் கூறினார் புவி! நாங்கள் கட்சிக்காரரின் இடத்தில் இருந்து பார்த்தால் கோபம் வராது என்று. நான் தற்போது அதனை மனதில் இருத்திக் கூடுமானவரை பொறுமையாக இருக்க முயற்சி எடுக்கின்றேன்.

சுரேந்திரன் ஐயாவுடன் பழகிய எவரும் அவருடைய செல்வாக்கிற்கு உட்படாது இருக்க முடியாது. இதனை நான் என்னில் மட்டுமல்ல சட்டத்தரணிகள் கணேசராஜா, காண்டிபன், டினைஸ் ஆகியோரினும் காண்கின்றேன்.

இவ்வாறு, எமக்கெல்லாம் அன்பான வழிகாட்டியாக இருந்த மாமனிதர் சுரேந்திரன் ஐயாவின் இழப்பு ஈடு செய்ய முடியாது.

Tribute to A.R.SURENDRAN



Prof. Dr. Em. B.De Schutter

Honorary Vice-Chancellor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

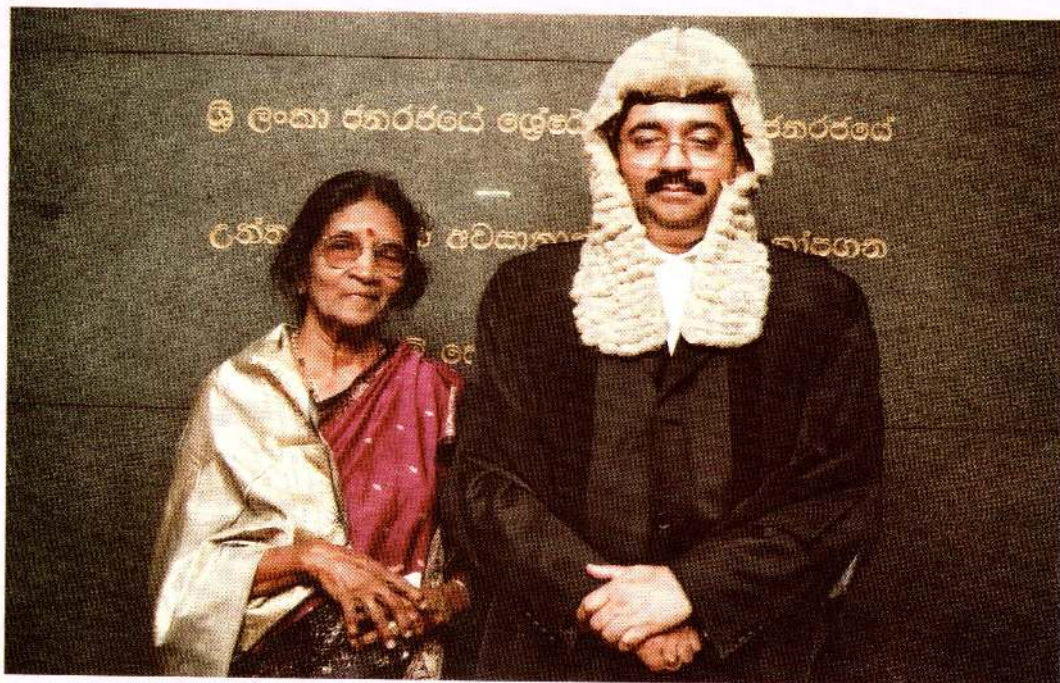
As former President of the Program on International legal Cooperation of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, a postgraduate in European and International Law, I have had the privilege to count Ratnavadivel Surendran as one of our students during the academic year 1987-88. He was one of the few South Asian students to be selected for admission because of his fine study-record at his home Law School. He remarkably adapted quickly to a new and challenging environment of some forty students coming from all over the globe. I remember him as a very lively student, always well prepared in class and outspoken during discussions. No wonder he graduated *cum laude* with nice grades in all courses of European and international law.

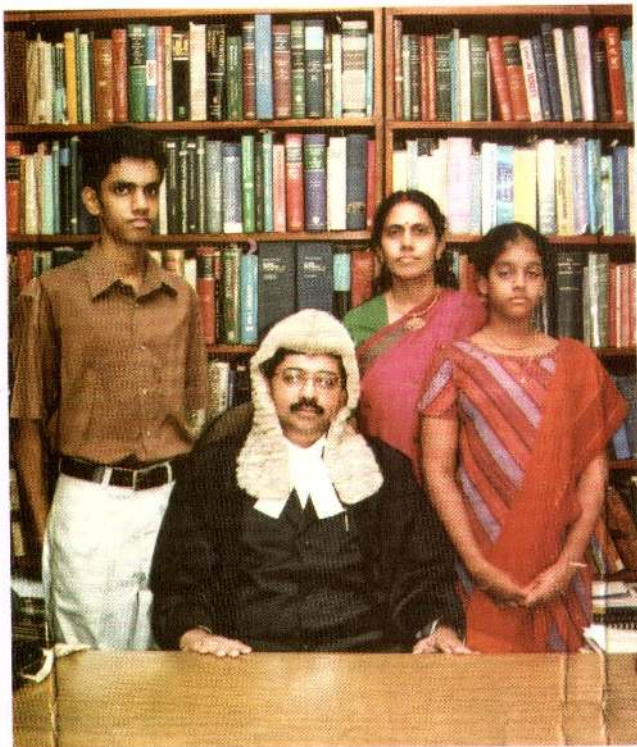
Memories are often fading out after decades of lost contact. Nevertheless I recall him as a fine gentleman, sociable and collegial towards his classmates.

I am very grateful he gave us the opportunity to contribute to his outstanding career.

On behalf of friends and colleagues of PILC, my sincere condolences to his family.

Appointment as President's Counsel - 25th June 2004





At his 35th Oaths taking Anniversary (06.09.2014)



மணிவிழா நாயகன்



எஸ். தர்ஷன்
கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

அகவை அறுபதைப் பூர்த்தி செய்த
மணிவிழா நாயகன் Sirக்கு Juniors ஆல் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்ட கவிதை மழை



நல்லூரின் மைந்தன் சாயி நாதனின் பக்தன்
சட்டத்தின் சூட்சுமம் பல அறிந்த வல்லாளர்
எங்களின் சுரேந்திரன் Sir
என்று சொல்வதில் தவறில்லை

சட்ட வல்லுனர் மத்தியில்
சரித்திரம் படைத்த சாகித்திய வீரர்
சாட்சியமாய் அலங்கரித்த நாமம்
ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி

வார்த்தையில் விற்பன்னன்
எழுதுவதிலோ மாமன்னன்
சமர்ப்பணம் செய்வதில் அவர் நிகரேது?
ஏழைந்து வருடங்கள் அவர்
பயணித்த பாதையிலே
நடந்து வரும் வரம் பெற்றோம்

கார்ல்வில் பிளேசில் கால் பதித்து
குருகுலம் போல் வாழ்ந்து
சட்டப் புத்தகங்களின் பக்கங்கள் பல புரட்டி
நீதி மன்றத்தில் பலர் வியக்க
வழக்காடும் வித்தை கற்பித்து
முகவரி எமக்களித்த உத்தமன்

Sir என்று நாம் அழைக்க
உரிமையுடன் உறவாடி
உயர்த்தி வைத்த எம் குரு
அகவை அறுபதில்
அடியெடுத்து வைக்கும் திருநாளில்
தரணியில் பல்லாண்டு வாழ
தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லாழ்த்துக்கள்



'Sir' – A Tribute

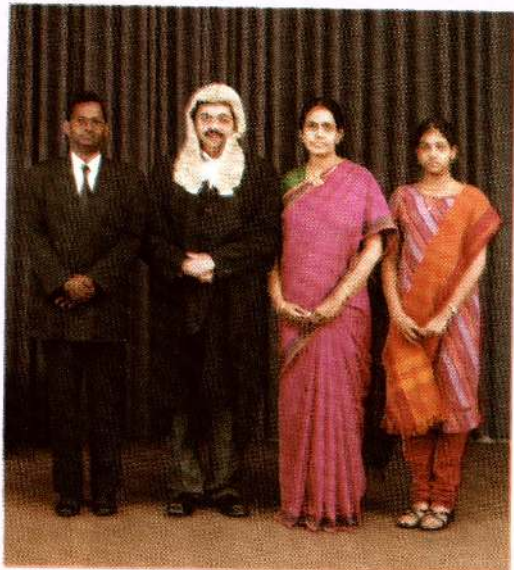


Arul Selvaretnam

Former Junior of Mr. A. R. Surendran P.C.

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

– Abraham Lincoln



Dr. Ratnavadivel Surendran; President's Counsel was simply "Sir" to me and all his juniors. Even though 'great' is used to describe many a person, there will be very few who will disagree that Sir was great in all aspects.

Sir was amazing in his extensive knowledge in the area of law which was not just limited to the laws of Sri Lanka. He was a very learned man with a Doctorate from Washington University and a Master's Degree from the University of Brussels. He had an international

reputation and his practice extended beyond our shores. He was much respected by the Courts and his colleagues.

Sir was a perfectionist when it comes to preparing for a trial, 'argument' or 'support'. His Written Submissions were thorough and a work of art perfected through numerous revisions. Any legal argument or Written Submissions of Sir were always supported by case law. He never failed to bring to the attention of Court, even case law not supporting his argument, but was clever enough to be able to distinguish the facts or applicable law!

He believed in hard work and 'burning the mid-night oil'. Many a junior is familiar with his riposte 'Law is a jealous mistress'! His honour and integrity are well known and the numerous Judges he has appeared before and his colleagues at the Bar will

testify to the great standards he set. He not only maintained the highest traditions of the Bar but instilled those qualities in his juniors. Hulftsdorp will never be the same without his imposing presence.

I am blessed in many ways and having the privilege of being Sir's junior is among the top. He was not just my senior but a Guru and mentor. His knowledge on religion, world affairs, politics, history, sports or on any topic was unbelievable. He was a brilliant speaker and could talk about any topic in a simple and interesting manner. He had an amazing ability to make anyone feel comfortable, relaxed and appreciated. He never failed to encourage and support his juniors. Sir's clients had immense faith and confidence in him. Sir treated his clients with respect and put his heart and soul in advocating their cause.

One day after we had finished our work for the day, we were discussing whether the American Presidency was the ultimate and most powerful job in the world. Sir smiled and said that he is aware of at least one person who did not think so and went on to describe that William Taft sought and became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the USA after he had served as the President of the USA. Such was his universal knowledge on any topic.

Sir was a great teacher. He took pleasure in teaching us and sharing his wealth of knowledge. He taught his juniors the importance of 'preparation, preparation





and preparation' He insisted that we never turn up before the Court even for a 'mention' without knowing the Brief fully and having full instructions. He instilled in us the importance of gaining the trust and confidence of the Court and our colleagues.

Sir was a devotee of Shridi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba and his life and work were greatly influenced by their teachings. Sir's life is a testament to his beliefs.

Sir managed to find time to serve the community by taking an active part in leadership roles in the Vivekananda Society, Hindu Society and many other community organisations. He used to say that '*There is only one race – the human race*' and worked tirelessly for the betterment of all communities.

Mrs. Surendran, Prashanthan and Pavithra continue to be in my prayers. May they have divine strength during these difficult times. Their home was a second home to me. Sir and his family are my extended family. I deeply share their pain and anguish of Sir's sudden departure. It has left a massive void in our lives.

I celebrate, salute and give humble tribute to a great life.

Whom we deeply love we can never lose, for all that we love deeply become part of us.
– Helen Keller

A Note From A Junior



K.V.S. Ganesharajan
Junior of Mr. A. R. Surendran P.C.

In this noble profession, it is accepted that a junior Counsel's career greatly depends on which Chamber or under which Senior he or she starts their practice as it is important to learn not only the law, procedure and ethics, but it is also equally important to learn how to maintain relationships with colleagues, members of the Bench and clients. Therefore it was a gift and blessing that I had an opening to join SIR's chambers and I was able to recommend my friends and colleagues including Nilakshan, Safana, Kandeepan, Dinesh and Pushparaj, who were also fortunate enough to join, and are all now part of SIR's family, our Chambers. SIR always gave a helping hand to all his Juniors who came through the partals of his Chambers regardless of where they were from, even if they be from the remotest parts of the country, or not be graduates from popular schools or members of established families

SIR was not only an eminent lawyer but most importantly a kind human being and perfectionist whose level of honesty, integrity, intellectuality and spirituality



is very rare to find, and even rarer still is to find another with all these virtues together. His warm smiles and cheerful manner in both professional and personal spheres of his life won everyone over and made whatever task at hand so easy to complete.

The manner in which SIR encouraged, supported and persuaded us his Juniors, to go beyond our limits which we perceived as barriers, to work and perform better whether it be preparing for cases, legal research or language articulation was remarkable. He helped build confidence in ourselves, for which we were blessed and provided us with our root identity in this noble profession, having always the privilege of calling ourselves 'Mr. Surendran's Junior', a true honour, given his incredible standing and achievements.

He always told us, that when a client comes to us, he or she is with some grievance and that it is our fundamental duty to lend a hand to them, with the license bestowed to us by the legal system, in order to provide any justiciable redress without any division or disparity whatsoever. His true commitment and dedication to his clients and his work was reflected in the eulogies and messages conveyed by colleagues, judges and clients at his funeral.

SIR, we will all miss you, not only as our senior, guru and teacher, but also grieve for your loss as we feel we have lost a close relation, having always been treated like a member of your family.

His wonderful and gentle soul will forever remain in our hearts. May he rest in Peace.

My Memories with 'Sir' are everlasting



Safana Gul Begum
Junior of Mr. A.R.Surendran P.C

To believe the loss of Sir and to console myself is no easy task. My heart and thoughts refuse to accept his loss, for his sense of words and kind deeds begin to reflect in my mind and thoughts.

My senior Sir, he is not only a senior to me but also to many others. To me, my husband as well as my son, he has been a source of parental guidance. He has been my mentor, role - model and philosopher.

To write all my memories with Sir which extends to the past 15 years this souvenir will not suffice. So, keeping all within myself, I share a very few of them in this souvenir.

Fortunately, I first saw Sir as one of the judges officiating for the Oratory Contest held for the memorial of Hon. Justice. T.W.Rajaratnam conducted by Law Students Tamil Mantram of Sri Lanka Law College and I won the first prize in that competition. That was when I was a Law College student.

My second meeting with Sir was at the Annual Debate between Lawyers and Law students conducted by Law Students Tamil Mantram of Sri Lanka Law College at Saraswathie Hall, Bambalapitiya in 1998 when I took part as a second year law student and Sir was in the opposition for Lawyers.

Thereafter, I took oaths in December, 2000. I was searching for seniors. Ganesh who is a good friend of mine and a direct senior to me in the Law College was working under Sir at his chambers at that time and I sought his help to join Sir's chambers. One night, on 13th February, 2001 Ganesh called me and told me "Safana I spoke to Sir; you call and speak to Sir now". Accordingly I called Sir and as soon I introduced myself to him, Sir told me, "yes Safana, just now I was discussing with Mr. Neelakandan regarding your arguments at the debate held day before yesterday" and Sir appreciated my part. This was another debate conducted by Sri Lanka Law College Law Students Tamil Mandram where I argued on behalf

of Lawyers. When I asked Sir, whether I can join his chambers as his junior, he told me "Yes I have other juniors, you too can join them". He always only had the intention to guide and bring up young Lawyers. After I became a junior to his chambers, No. 12, Carlwil Place, was like my own home. It was so not only for me, but for all of us - Sir's juniors. Sir treated all of us as his own children without any differences until his last breath.

Sir taught us that each and every minute matters, beginning from doing references and searching for authorities to making applications and submissions in the courts. Sir taught not only law to us, but humanity, love, kindness, equality and spirituality too.

A few days after I joined Sir's chambers, Sir told me that when we meet any person, we have to talk to them with the intention that it may be our last meeting with them. I am sure that these words consists an in - depth concept of love and humanity at its highest esteem. When I told this to my mother whom I lost 14 years ago in 2002 due to the same ailment by which we lost Sir today, she was lying on the bed in 2001, counting her days, told me "when you go to Sir, you do not learn only law, but also learn to emulate his humble was and humanitarian attitudes which are essential, for you to prosper in your future".

I cannot remember even a single day that Sir scolded me for any of my mistakes I made either in courts or in chambers. Not that I did not make any mistake, but Sir's attitude and way of approach was not to scold or find fault with his juniors, but to appreciate them first and correct them, advice them and direct them subsequently. We are fortunate and lucky to have had a senior like Sir, but inthe mean time we are unlucky and unfortunate that we lost Sir abruptly like this.

Once, I made submissions in the Board of Quazis, Mr. Nithi Murugesu, Attorney -at-Law, Sir's brother-in-law was observing me in courts whereas he had come there for some other matters related to him. As soon I came home, Sir called and appreciated and congratulated me that he heard through Mr. Nithi Murugesu that I had done a very good job in the courts that day.

Recently in October, 2015 while Sir was admitted in Lanka hospital I had to represent Sir in the Court of Appeal in a case to make oral submissions. Dinesh and Maithreyi assisted me. However before I arrived home, I got a message to my phone from Madam Renuka that "Safana, Sir says congratulations and well done to you and that he will speak to you later or tomorrow". Then I called madam and found that Maithreyi had called madam and told that I did a good job and madam conveyed this to Sir and as soon as Sir came to know, he had wanted madam to send a message immediately appreciating me even though Sir was sick at that time. This was his attitude. That was our Sir.

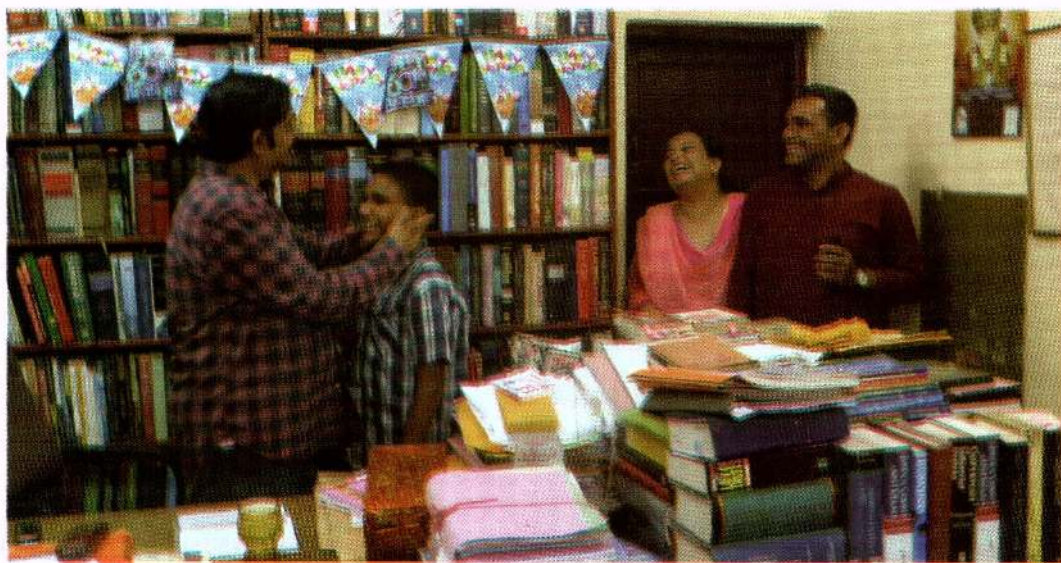
On the 13th of December, 2015, while Sir was in Singapore for treatment I received a SMS from madam saying that Sir is wishing me for my 15th year oaths taking anniversary. It is a very common and definite act of Sir that he always wishes me, my husband and my son for each and every event such as our birthdays, my oaths taking anniversary and my wedding anniversary without any lapses. But this time imagine for one, while he was sick and under going treatment, that too in a foreign land to wish me is really unforgettable, heart touching and my eyes full with tears.. This is the way that Sir has encouraged us until his last.

I have to also mention when I was expecting my son in 2003, Sir's house-help told me that Sir had adviced her to not to give any colour drink to me. What a parental care of my senior towards junior.

During our Ramazan fasting months, on several days I had to break fast at Sir's chambers. Everything would be arranged for me to break fast. I was feeling homely in breaking fast at Sir's place

When I had a miscarriage of my 2nd baby, myself and my husband visited Sir after I recovered. The words of consolation Sir gave me and to my husband infused with spiritual faith and parental love really consoled us. We still remember these stories and incidents. I really saw Sir on that day like a mother giving me guidance and advice. That was our Sir.

On the day of Sir's funeral, it was observed that my son Nimaath is the only one under 13 who participated in all the rituals of Sir's funeral from the morning to the end. Then Ganesh and Pushparaj told that Nimaath is duty bound to do that as he is Sir's pet. That is true. Nimaath is accustomed to Sir's chambers from the days he was in my belly. He called Sir as "Umma Sir Uncle". He is 'Sir' for his mother



and Uncle for Nimaath. He always received Sir's hugs and kisses with his words of blessing when entering into the chambers and before leaving the chambers.

Mostly on Friday nights are relaxing hours for Sir. My husband, I and my son used to visit Sir. It is certain that when we leave the chambers after having a discussion with Sir, we feel calm and spiritual satisfaction.

I remember it was in May, 2012, a day before my husband left to New Delhi for his official trip for 3 months, we visited Sir for my husband to say bye to Sir. While we entering Chambers Dinesh was reading a case document - a letter - to Sir, which was stated in Tamil that "Allah will protect you". Then Sir told my husband that "Siyath, when you entered, Dinesh is reading to me ' Allah will protect you'. I am wishing the same to you". We were happy and wondered how Sir blessed Siyath in the same way of our faith. That is Sir's spirituality.

I was in deep sorrow when I missed a very few marks in my advanced level to enter into the medical faculty. But now I am happy and grateful to the God that I missed those marks, least I would not have been able to meet Sir. I would not be able to be a Sir's junior. I am proud to say that I am the eldest daughter of Sir's chambers.

The advices, encouragements, guidance and assistance given by Sir to us at all times will be there with us forever. They will definitely help us to pave way for our upliftment now and in the years ahead.

The days spent with Sir as his junior in courts, at chambers and at his residence are unforgettable. The thought that Sir is no more is unbelievable. He is with us in all our deeds.

Sir, we are missing you. But the bond of the relationship built by myself, Siyath and Nimaath with you, and your family - Madam Renuka, Prashanthan and Pavithra will continue forever. Our prayers are always with you Sir.

With great difficulty I attempt to restrict the extent of my sorrow as Madam Renuka told me two days before the demise of Sir, at Lanka hospital that her father late Mr. V. Murugesu Attorney-at-Law' used to say that "we should not demand from God. But we have to surrender our self to God". Likewise we accept the will of God as human being. Therefore let us be contended with the words "From him we came and to him is our return". Sir, May we pray that Almighty grant you, eternal bliss.

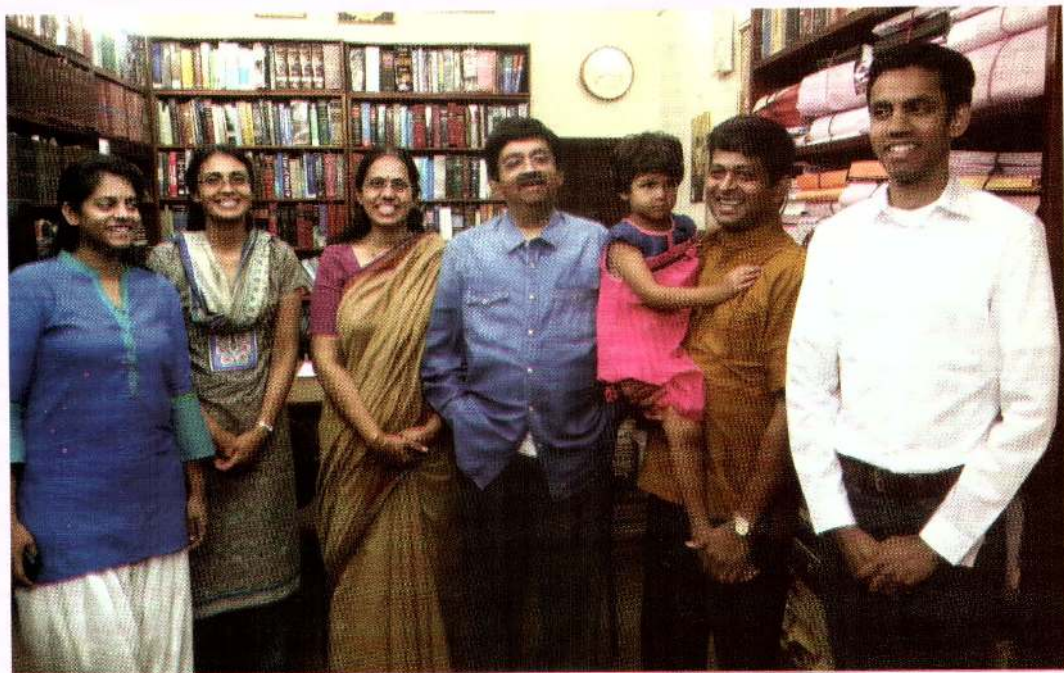
Tributes to an exemplary human being



Nilakshan Swarnarajah
Junior of Mr. A. R. Surendran P.C.

I sit down at my computer with a heavy heart, to write a few words about our beloved 'Sir' to share my own personal memories of him. While we have not yet come out of the shock from the sudden passing of Sir, slowly we are coming to terms with reality. Not a single day passes without the thought of Sir coming to mind when I drive to work or when I relax for a few minutes. We have, however, been trying to cope with the feeling of loss and sadness by remembering the good times we enjoyed with him. As it will become a complete book in itself if I tend to write all of my experiences with Sir, I only intend to share a few that are unique, and highlight Sir's fine qualities as a humble human being.

The first time I met Sir was probably at a meeting held at Saraswathi Hall around 1997, called by President's Counsel Sivarasa to discuss the issues facing the Tamil



community. Thereafter we attended a few follow up meetings together at Mr Sivarasa's chambers. Although I was only a first year student at Sri Lanka Law College then, Sir would ensure that I was given the opportunity at every point to share my thoughts, by inviting me to speak before he expressed his own views.

As soon as I passed out from Law College, I went into full time employment outside of the legal profession. However, I was keen to be in contact with the legal field by undertaking some meaningful work during my spare time. I was conscious that it was not of great benefit to any senior lawyer, to have a junior in their chambers, if they were not able to commit their time fully to be involved in the cases and work to their timelines.

When I contacted Sir to explore the possibility of joining his chambers, he readily agreed to my request without any hesitation. He remembered my participation in competitions and debates at Law College, and to my surprise, even narrated a few sentences from my first 'Address to the Jury' presentation where he was one of the judges. Sir suggested that I could undertake research, on specific legal points and work on written submissions, so that I could even work from home and present my findings when I was able to visit his chambers. Sir emphasised that my irregular visits to his chamber was not at all a problem, but in fact he made sure he treated me the same as any of his other full time juniors, and included me in all the get-togethers with his chamber and family.

I had never seen Sir getting annoyed if we were not able to get the right point that he was looking for. He would always say "that is a good point, and may be of help for another matter, you can make a note of it; but for the current purpose, let's try to get a judgment that squarely supports the proposition that we are trying to make in this submission". He would make sure that we left no stone unturned until we got the right legal precedence and developed the perfect product to his satisfaction. He had unlimited patience to sit with us and go through the submission re-writes to ensure that we had put our complete effort to achieve the best outcome for the client.

Despite his busy schedule and the volume of work involved, Sir always ensured that we spent time discussing topics of common interests and current affairs. Listening to the poems or articles written by his juniors was a favourite past time for Sir. He would ask us to share our work with everyone else in the chambers and showed his appreciation of those works. Sir encouraged us to write articles to Law journals, in particular, the Bar Association Law Journal. He would also take us along to key events and functions to introduce us to his network.

Once I was at Sir's chambers, working on a written submission that was to be completed urgently during the court vacation. It was around the April New Year times. We were in the middle of re-ordering paragraphs and it was not definitely

a good time to be disturbed, even for a valid reason. Sir received a telephone call, and having realised that it was not meant for him, he said "I am sorry, you should have called the wrong number". We started on the submission and it was the caller again. Although I was quite annoyed, Sir was still patient and answered "I am very sorry, but you have probably called the wrong number". No sooner we started working on the submission, it was the caller again, and Sir was still the same patient man he was, and answered "I am sorry, there is no one here by the name that you are looking for; I hope you find the right number soon, and most importantly, if you are celebrating the New Year, I would like to wish you a very happy new year". I asked Sir how he was able to be patient with everyone, and not get angry under any circumstances. He said that he always wanted to treat people with the assumption that it might be the last time he was meeting them, and wanted to ensure that every interaction was a pleasant one for everyone.

When I lost my father in 2006, Sir was away and could not attend the funeral. He called me immediately on hearing the news to express his condolences, and comforted me. When I returned to the chambers, despite the other urgent tasks he had to focus on, Sir sat with me and asked me to read through the Memoir we published for the 31st day remembrance ceremony. I was quite conscious that I was taking too much of Sir's time; and paused when I finished reading the article in English, as if that was all there in the book. Sir looked at me and asked "so, can you now read the article in Tamil as well". I was touched by Sir's gesture, where he wanted to spend the time in person with me to help me heal while I was grieving my father's death.

After we migrated to Australia in 2009, apart from our immediate families, Sir's place was one that we would never miss to visit during our holidays to Sri Lanka; and dine together with the chamber. After going on a pilgrimage to India early this year, my family and I visited Sir on the Thai Pongal Day (15 January 2016); and he spent a long time listening to our visits to temples and other places of interest. I gave some 'vibhoothi prashadam' to Sir, which was brought from the Shridi Baba temple in Mumbai by my brother. As usual we took pictures with Sir's family in the chambers, with all full of smiles. We were to travel back on 19 January, but Sir emphasised that we should all have dinner together and invited us to join in the family get-together planned for 18 January.

Sir's place has been so welcoming and kids friendly, that our children never got bored even if we had to spend several hours there. We always tell our children that we were going to spend about two hours, and initially they would say 'let's wait for an hour or so, and then get back home', so that they could get on to their ipads or watch movies. However, finally it would be the kids telling us even after three or four hours that they wouldn't mind waiting for a bit longer at Sir's place.

When we met on 18 January, Sir was very happy to see everyone together. All the juniors shared their memories and interesting events in their professional lives. Juniors read out the poems and articles they had written to mark Sir's 60th Birthday. Sir himself narrated a poem out of his memory that he had written several years ago. Sir's poem emphasised that it was not important to follow the rituals and practices if people were not able to live by the true meaning of those rituals. Sir watched a video of my son's Tamil speech and congratulated him on the good work, in particular, for the correct pronunciation of some difficult words. We had dinner together afterwards with all the juniors and Sir's family joining for photographs. We had no knowledge that that was going to be the last get-together with Sir; and we bade farewell saying we would meet again the next time we were on holidays.

After returning to Australia, I received a call from Sir on my birthday in February. He asked about our wellbeing and wished me for my birthday. After speaking for a while, he blessed me again. Every time I think of that last conversation I had with Sir, I feel the blessings from him; and struggle to come to terms that we are not going to see his pleasant and smiley face behind the table in his chamber next time. From a far-away place if we are missing Sir so much, it is quite understandable how much strength would be needed for Sir's family – Madam, young Prashanthan and Pavithra – to sail through this difficult time. We hope and pray that they have the divine blessings to continue to be guided by Sir's 'Athma', and work towards achieving the dreams and goals that Sir would have loved to see them reaching in their lives.

Of all the topics of general interest we would have discussed, from Asteroids to Zodiac signs, I enjoyed the time I was able to discuss, debate and clarify my doubts relating to religions and spirituality. As such, let me finish with some quotes from our ancient religions and philosophies, which help us to reflect on the purpose of life and accept the ultimate reality of death.

Verse 21 of the Buddhist Dhammapada

"Mindfulness is the way to the Deathless (Nibbana); unmindfulness is the way to Death. Those who are mindful do not die; those who are not mindful are as if already dead".

Isaiah 57:2

"Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death".

The Holy Quran, Surat Ali Imran 3:185

"Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion".

And finally, Chapter 2 Verse 20 of the Bhagavad Gita

*"na jayate mriyate va kadacin
nayam bhutva bhavita va na bhuyah
ajo nityah sasvato 'yam purano
na hanyate hanyamane sarire"*

"For the soul there is never birth nor death. Nor, having once been, does he ever cease to be. He is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, undying and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain".

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Sir's family. Given the fact that they come from a family with spiritual background aplenty, I am sure they gain the strength to accept the fact that death is only an inevitable process in human life. Let us all join together in praying for Sir's soul to rest in peace.

Om Shanti! Shanti!! Shanti!!!



என் முகவரி



ந.காண்டேவன்
கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

நான் சட்டக்கல்லூரிப் படிப்பை முடித்துக்கொண்டு வெளியேறும்போது எனக்கு சட்டத்துறை பற்றிய தெளிவு அவ்வளவு இருந்திருக்கவில்லை. எனது குடும்பமோ பரம்பரையோ சட்டப் பின்னணி எதையும் கொண்டிருக்கவில்லை. உண்மையில் சொல்லப்போனால் சட்டத்துறையில் எனக்கு முகம் இருக்கவில்லை. எனது மாமாவின் உதவியுடன் ஒரு சிரேஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணியை அணுகி, சுரேந்திரன் ஐயாவின் Chambers இல் சேர்வதற்காக அனுமதி கோரியிருந்தேன். ஒருசில நாட்களில் எனக்கு அனுமதி கிடைக்க, நான் இலக்கம் 12 கார்வில பிளேஸ், கொழும்பு - 03 என்ற முகவரிக்கு அந்த சிரேஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி அவர்களுடன் சென்றேன்.

சட்டத்தரணியாக உள்ள எங்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும் அவ்வளவு இலகுவாக ஒரு சிரேஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணிக்குக் கீழே பயிற்சி பெறுவதற்கு அனுமதி பெற்றுக்கொள்ள முடியாது என்பது. அதுவும் சுரேந்திரன் ஐயாவைப் போன்ற கண்ணியம், கட்டுப்பாடு, இறை நம்பிக்கையுள்ள இடத்தில் அனுமதி பெறுவது என்பது பிறவிப்பயனாகவே அமைய வேண்டும். நான் அவரை முதலில் சந்திக்கும் போது எனக்குள் சற்றுக் கலக்கமும் தயக்கமும் இருந்தது. யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் யுத்த சூழலில் படித்து முடித்து, கொழும்பு வந்து சேர்ந்த எனக்கு, எனது பின்னணியைக் கேட்டால், எனது குடும்பத்தைப்பற்றி மட்டுமே சொல்லக் கூடியதாக இருந்தது. ஆனால் ஐயாவோ எதைப்பற்றியும் கேட்கவில்லை. வந்த இடம் பற்றிப் பேசவில்லை. எனது இருப்பைப்பற்றி அறிய முனையவில்லை. சட்ட அறிவு, ஆங்கில அறிவு பற்றிச் சோதிக்கவில்லை. எடுத்த எடுப்பில் தன் சட்டக் குடும்பத்தில் ஒருவனாக என்னையும் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டார்.

எனக்கு அந்த உயர்ந்த மனிதரின் அகத்தின் அழகு முகத்தில் தெரிந்தது. வெள்ளை உள்ளமும் பிள்ளை மனமும் கொண்டவராக இருந்தார். பரந்த அறிவும் எதையும் சாதிக்கும் பேராற்றலும் பெற்றிருந்தார் அமைதியானவர் அடக்கமானவர் அன்பானவர் ஆழமானவர் என்று அதிசயிக்கத்தக்க குணங்களைக் கொண்டிருந்தார். நான் முன்னும் பின்னும் கண்டிராத எனக்குள் உருவகித்துக்கொண்டிருந்த ஒரு இலட்சிய மனிதராக என் குருநாதர் சுரேந்திரன் ஐயா அவர்களைக் கண்டேன்.

நான் அவருக்கு கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணியாக வழக்குகளில் தோன்றிய பொழுது, அவரது நிழலில் ஒதுங்கிக்கொள்வதற்குக் கிடைத்த அரிய சந்தர்ப்பங்கள் வாழ்வில் மறக்க முடியாதவை. இவை பற்றி தனியாக நான் இன்னொரு இடத்தில் கட்டாயம் சொல்லியாக வேண்டும். மேலும் கலை, இலக்கியம், தமிழ், அரசியல், ஆன்மீகம், அறிவியல் என்று ஐயாவிடம் இருந்த அறிவும் பரந்த தேடலும் என்னை வியக்க வைத்தவை.

எட்டாத உயரத்தில் எவரும் எட்ட முடியாதிருந்த அந்த உன்னத ஆளுமையோடு கிட்ட நெருங்கிப் பழகக் கிடைத்தமையை எனது பிறப்பின் பயனாக உணர்கிறேன். என் வாழ்வின் வசந்தத்தில் என்னைத் தென்றலாக என்றும் வருடிக்கொண்டே இருந்தார். நான் துவண்டு போகின்றபோது என்னைத் தூக்கி நிறுத்தியவர் சில சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் தீர்மானங்களை எடுக்கத் திண்டாடுகின்ற போது தீர்க்க தரிசனமாய் தீர்ப்புகளை

எனக்கு வழங்கியவர். உணர்ச்சிவசப்படுகின்றபோது என்னை ஆசுவாசப்படுத்தியவர் எங்களில் எவருக்கும் உடல்நிலை சரியில்லை என்று கண்டால் அந்த நோய்க்கான மருந்தாகவே இருந்தார். என்னுடைய சொந்த வாழ்க்கையில் என்னைவிடவும் கரிசனையாக இருந்தவர் தான் கையாளுகின்ற எந்தத் துறையாக இருந்தாலும் அதன் உண்மையான விமர்சகராக எப்போதும் திகழ்ந்தார். என்மீதான பாராட்டு என்பது அவரது ஆழ்மனதின் வெளிப்பாடாக இருந்தது. இந்தப் பாராட்டு எப்போதும் உச்சி குளிரும்படியாக எனது வளர்ச்சியின் ஏணிப்படியாக அமைந்தது.

மற்றையவர்கள் பொறாமைப்படும் வகையில் எனக்குக் கிடைத்த என் குருநாதரின் வழிகாட்டல் என் வாழ்வின் பேரெனவே உணர்கிறேன். எனக்குப் பிறவாமை வேண்டும்' மீண்டும் பிறப்பு உண்டேல் என் குருநாதர் பாதம் பற்றிப் பணிசெய்யும் வரம் வேண்டும்.



நினைவலை



எஸ். தர்ஷன்
கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

வைகாசி திங்களில் ஓர் மாலைப் பொழுது
கார்வில் பிளேசில் கால் பதித்து
Sir ன் ஜீனியராக வருடங்களும் நகர்ந்தன.
சிரித்த முகத்துடன் வரவேற்கும் அவரின்
சிம்மக்குரல் கேட்டு சிலிர்த்து நின்ற நாட்களும்
Madam ன் பாசத்தில் பாகாய் கரைந்த பொழுதுகளும்
என் வாழ்வில் பசுமரத்தாணியான நினைவுகள்.

குடியியலாகட்டும் குற்றவியலாகட்டும்
பிரிவுகளும் பக்கங்களும் தவறாது ஒப்புவிக்கும் புலமைத்துவம்
ஆசானிற்கு இறைவன் அளித்த வரம்.
பொருள்கோடல் என்ன கம்பனி என்ன
எந்த சட்டத்தின் சந்து பொந்துகளும் மனப்பாடம்.
தீர்க்கப்பட்ட வழக்குகளை தேடியெடுத்து
சமர்ப்பணம் செய்யும் சாமர்த்தியம் அவரின் கைவண்ணம்.
இளஞ்சட்டத்தரணிகளை தட்டிக்கொடுத்து
இடங்கொடுத்த கோமகன் எங்கள் ஆசான்.

நல்லூரின் மைந்தன் சாயி நாதனின் பக்தன்
நானும் கற்றறிந்த வல்லாளன்
அரசியலிருந்து அறிவியல் வரை
அத்தனையும் அவர் விரல் நுனியில்
ஆங்கிலப் புலமைக்கு ஓர் அகராதி
பகவத் கீதையிலிருந்து பைபிள் வரை ஒப்புவிக்கும் திறமையும்
திருவாசகத்தையும் திருப்புகழையும் ஒப்பிடும் வல்லமையும் அவருக்குண்டு
உண்மையில் கல்விக்கடல் அறிவியல் கலங்கரை விளக்கு
உள்ளத்தில் நல்ல உள்ளம் உறங்காது என்ற
கர்ணன் பட பாடல் வரிகளை பாடும் அழகு
அவர் தம் சங்கீத புலமைக்குச் சான்று

'Sir' என்று நாம் அழைக்க உரிமையுடன் உறவாடி
உயர்த்தி வைத்த எம் குரு
அகிலம் நீங்கிய இவ்வேளை விழிநிறைந்து
ஆத்ம சாந்தி வேண்டி பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன்

ஓம் சாந்தி! சாந்தி சாந்தி



எம் இதயம் கவர்ந்த ‘Sir’



ஜெட் தினேஷ்
கணிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

Sir ன் பிரிவை இதயம் ஏற்க மறுக்கிறது,
எம் இதயம் கவர்ந்த Sir ஐ கவர்வதற்கு — காலனிற்கு
எப்படித்தான் மனம் வந்ததோ?
இறந்தும் இறவாத Sir ஐ பற்றி
என் மனக்கதவைத் திறந்து எழுத விழைகின்றேன்...

2009ம் ஆண்டு மார்ச் மாதம் 17ம் திகதி என்னுடைய வாழ்விலே ஒரு மறக்கமுடியாத நாள். நான் சட்டத்தரணி பயிலுனர் ஆண்டிலே இருந்தபோது Sir உடைய Chambersக்கு முதன் முதலாக கணிக்ஷர் சட்டத்தரணியாக இணைவதற்காக சென்ற நாள். இதற்கு முன்னர் 2007ம் ஆண்டு நான் சட்டக்கல்லூரி தமிழ் மன்றத்தில் நீதிமுரசு நூலின் இதழாசிரியராக இருந்தபோது எமது வருடாந்த நீதிமுரசு நூலினை மீளாய்வு செய்வதற்காக Sir ஐ அழைத்திருந்தோம். சாந்தமான குணமும், சிந்தையிற் கல்வியும், சீரிய ஒழுக்கமும், அனைவரையும் கவர்ந்திழுக்கக்கூடிய சிறந்த பேச்சாற்றமும் கணீர் என்ற தொனியிலான குரல்வளமும் கொண்ட Sirன் அன்றைய புத்தக மீளாய்வு என்னை மட்டுமல்ல அங்கு வந்திருந்த நீதிபதிகள், சட்டத்தரணிகள், விருந்தினர்கள் உட்பட அனைத்து சட்ட மாணவர்களையும் கவர்ந்தது. அவருடைய அறிவாற்றலும், பன்முக ஆளுமையும், ஆங்கிலப் புலமையும், தாய்மொழிப் பற்றும், தமிழ் மக்களின் விடிவுக்கான உரிமைப் போராட்டத்தில் அவர் கொண்டிருந்த ஆவலும் நான் அவருடைய சட்ட பாசறையிலே இணைந்து சட்டத்தரணியாக வரவேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணத்தை என் மனதில் அன்றே பதித்தது. நான் Sir இடம் சென்றபோது Sir என்னைப் பற்றி அல்லது எனது பின்புலம் பற்றி எதுவும் கேட்கவில்லை. என்னை அன்பாக அழைத்து சட்டத் தொழிலின் அடிப்படை அம்சமான தொழில் தர்மத்தையும், ஒழுக்கத்தையும் மட்டும் அன்று சொல்லித்தந்தார். அந்த நாள் என் வாழ்வில் மிகவும் சந்தோசமான நாள். சட்டப் பாரம்பரியத்தில் பிறந்து, வளராத என்னைப் போன்ற ஒவ்வொரு சட்ட மாணவனுக்கும் தனது எதிர்காலம் என்ன, தான் யாரிடம் சென்று தொழிலை கற்பது, எவ்வாறு தொழிலை ஆரம்பிப்பது போன்ற ஏக்கங்கள் இருப்பது யாதார்த்தமானது என்பது இத்துறையில் உள்ள யாவருக்கும் நன்கு தெரியும். அவ்வாறு முகவரியற்றிருந்த எனக்கு ஒரு கலங்கரை விளக்காக திகழ்ந்தவர் தான் என் குரு சுரேந்திரன் Sir.

இன்றைக்கு ஏழு வருடங்களாக Sir உடன் அவருடைய சட்டப்பாசறையில் வளர்ந்து அவரோடு நீதிமன்றங்களில் வழக்குகளுக்கு ஆஜராவது என்பது எனக்கு மட்டுமல்ல Sir உடைய Juniors எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரு பெருமையான விடயம். அவ்வாறே Sir நீதிமன்றங்களில் சமர்ப்பணத்தை முடித்துவிட்டு வெற்றியாகையுடன் கூடிய கம்பீரமான நடையில் வெளியே வரும்போது அவருடன் அவரைத் தொடர்ந்து வருவதில் எனக்கு ஒரு தனிப் பெருமை. Sir தன்னுடைய வாழ்வின் அரைவாசிக்கும் மேற்பட்ட காலத்தை சட்டத்தொழிலிலே செலவழித்தார் என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது. ஆதனால் தான் Sir “Law is a jealous mistress” என்று அடிக்கடி கூறுவார். சட்டம் என்பது ஒரு பொறாமை கொண்ட வைப்பாட்டி என்பதால் தான் நான் இரவு வேளைகளிலே வேலைசெய்து

முடித்துவிட்டு மிகவும் நேரம் சென்று வீடு செல்லும்போது மேற்கூறிய வார்த்தைகளை என்னுடன் நினைவு கூர்வார். பல வேளைகளில் எழுத்து மூலமான சமர்ப்பணங்கள், நீதிமன்ற வழக்குரைகள் மற்றும் ஆவணங்களை தயார் செய்யும்போது நான் இரவிரவாக Sir உடன் இருந்து தயாரித்திருக்கிறேன். Sir உம் என்னுடன் இருந்து தயாரித்துவிட்டு அதனை நான் வெற்றியாக செய்து முடித்த பின் என்னை உடனடியாக உற்சாகமூட்ட மறப்பதுமில்லை தவறியதுமில்லை. Sir கூடுதலாக எனக்கு கூறும் அல்லது எமது வேலையை பாராட்டி அனுப்பும் குறுகு செய்திகள் இவை, “You have done a good job”, “You have done a tremendous job”, “You have done a splendid job. இவற்றை கேட்டதும் நான் அடையும் மகிழ்ச்சியும் சொல்லிலடங்கா. இவ்வாறு நாம் கடினமாக இரவிரவாக வேலை செய்த வழக்குகளின் தீர்ப்புகள் எமது சார்பில் வரும்போது Sir கூறும் வார்த்தைகள் “No pain No Gain, therefore you have to burn the midnight oil”

Sir ன் Chambers என்பது எனக்கு மட்டுமல்ல Sir உடைய Juniors ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் தமது சொந்த வீடுபோல. அந்தக்கதவு எமக்காக 24 மணிநேரமும் திறந்திருக்கும். கடந்த 7 வருடங்களாக சாதாரணமாக ஒரு நாளிலே அரைவாசிக்கும் மேற்பட்ட நேரத்தை நான் Chambers ல் Sir உடன் தான் கூடுதலாக கழித்திருக்கிறேன். அவ்வாறான கணப்பொழுதுகளை நினைக்கும்போது இப்பொழுது நடப்பவை கனவா என எண்ணத்தோன்றுகிறது. வேலையிலே கண்ணியமாக இருந்தாலும் Sir உம் நானும் பல்வேறு விடயங்களை எங்களுக்குள்ளே பகிர்ந்தும் இருக்கிறோம் சில வேளைகளில் விவாதித்தும் இருக்கிறோம். சட்டம் மட்டுமல்ல, சமயம், அரசியல், சரித்திரம், மானுடவியல், மெய்யியல், விளையாட்டு, சினிமா, இசை என அனைத்து துறைகளிலும் அவருடைய அறிவையும், ஆளுமையையும் கண்டு நான் வியந்ததுடன் அவருடைய நினைவாற்றலைக்கண்டு பிரமிக்காத நாட்களுமில்லை. அவர் ஒரு நடமாடிய நூலகம் போன்று வாழ்ந்தவர். சட்ட விடயங்களில் மட்டுமல்ல எமது தனிப்பட்ட வாழ்க்கை விடயங்களில் ஒரு சிறந்த வழிகாட்டியாக, பல விடயங்களை கற்றுக்கொடுத்தது மட்டுமல்லாது தன்னுடைய வாழ்க்கையிலே அதை திறம்பட வாழ்ந்து காட்டியவர்.

Sir சட்டத்தொழிலை எவ்வாறு நேசித்தாரோ அவ்வாறே புத்தகங்கள் மீதும் தீராத காதல் கொண்டிருந்தார் என்பதற்கு அவருடைய Chambers ல் உள்ள நூலகமே சான்று பகரும். அதேபோல் கொழும்பு சட்ட நூலகத்தை (Colombo Law Library) பெரிதும் பயன்படுத்தும் சொற்பளவிலான சட்டத்தரணிகளில் Sir தான் அதனை கூடுதலாக பயன்படுத்திய சட்டத்தரணியாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்பது எனது கணிப்பு. Sir உடைய Juniors எல்லோரையும் அங்கு பணிபுரியும் அனைவருக்கும் தெரியும். ஏனென்றால் சட்ட நூலகத்தில் உள்ள ஆங்கிலச் சட்ட அறிக்கைகள், தென்னாபிரிக்க சட்ட அறிக்கைகள், Halsbury's Laws of England, இந்திய சட்ட அறிக்கைகள் என, சட்டப் புத்தகங்களின் மூலை முடுக்கெல்லாம் சென்று நீதிமன்ற விவாதங்களின்போது அவற்றை சமர்ப்பித்து இலங்கைச் சட்டத்திற்கும் மற்றைய நியாயாதிக்கங்களில் காணப்படும் சட்டத்திற்குமான



வித்தியாசத்தை மிகவும் எளிமையாக விளங்கக்கூடிய முறையில் சமர்ப்பிப்பது அவருக்கே உரித்தான ஒரு கலை என்று சொல்லலாம். ஒரு நாள் மதிய வேளை உயர் நீதிமன்றத்திலே ஒரு வழக்கில் உரோம டச்சு சட்டம் சம்பந்தமான ஒரு சட்ட கோட்பாடு தொடர்பில் Sir தனது வாய்மூலமான சமர்ப்பணத்தை செய்து கொண்டிருந்த போது அன்று அவ்வழக்கை விசாரித்த நீதிபதிகள் குழுவில் இருந்த நீதியரசர் மாசூவ் அவர்கள் திறந்த நீதிமன்றத்திலே Sir ஐ புகழ்ந்து கூறிய வார்த்தைகளின் தமிழாக்கம்

“Surendran, உம்மைப் போன்று இலங்கைச் சட்டத்தை மட்டுமல்லாது மற்றைய நாடுகளில் காணப்படும் சட்டதிட்டங்களை ஒப்பிட்டு. வேறுபடுத்தியும் காட்டும் சட்டத்தரணிகள் இல்லாத இக்காலத்தில் நீங்கள் முன்னை நாள் இராணி சட்டத்தரணிகள் (Queen's Counsels) போல வேறுபடுத்தி காட்டியது மட்டுமல்லாது அவற்றிற்குரிய நீதிமன்ற சட்ட அறிக்கைகள் மற்றும் நூலாசிரியரின் ஆக்கங்களையும் சமர்ப்பித்தது தொடர்பில் நான் மிகவும் பெருமையடைகின்றேன்.”.

Sir இனுடைய ஆங்கிலப் புலமையும், ஆங்கில உச்சரிப்பும், அவர் பிரயோகிக்கும் வசன நடைகளையும், சொல்வளத்தையும், கண்டு வியக்காத சட்டத்தரணிகளுமில்லை, நீதிபதிகளும் இல்லை. ஒரு நாள் கல்கிள்சை மாவட்ட நீதிமன்றத்திலே ஒரு ஆதனம் தொடர்பான வழக்கில் Sir ஆஜராகி இருந்ததுடன் குறித்த வழக்கு கட்டளைக்காக நீதிபதியினாலே நியமிக்கப்பட வேண்டி இருந்ததால் தான் எழுத்து மூலமான சமர்ப்பணத்தை செய்வதற்காக நீதிபதியிடம் கோரியபோது மாவட்ட நீதிபதி “Mr. Surendran, why don't you make oral submissions, because I would like to hear your Queen's English” என்று திறந்த நீதிமன்றத்தில் கூறியது அவருடைய ஆங்கிலப் புலமையின் சிறந்த வெளிப்பாடு என்று கூறினால் மிகையாகாது.

Sir சட்டத்துறையிலே தன்னுடைய 37 வருட கால அனுபவத்தில் இலங்கைச் சட்டத்துறைக்கும் சட்ட இலக்கியத்திற்கும் அவர் அளித்த பங்களிப்பு பற்றி நான் கூறித்தெரியத் தேவையில்லை. கூடுதலாக சட்டத்தரணிகள் ஒரு குறித்த சட்டப்பரப்பில் மட்டுமே சிறப்புத் தேர்ச்சி பெற்றவர்களாக இருப்பர். ஆனால் Sir வர்த்தகச் சட்டமாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, புலமைச் சொத்துசட்ட விடயமாக இருந்தாலும் சரி, கம்பனிச் சட்டம், ஆதனச் சட்டம், நிர்வாகச் சட்டம், அரசியலமைப்புச் சட்டம் இவற்றுக்கு மேலாக சர்வதேச சட்டமாக இருந்தாலும் அவற்றின் ஆழ அகலங்களை அறிந்து, அவற்றை முறையாக படித்து, மூலைமுடுக்கெல்லாம் சென்று ஆராய்ந்து சமர்ப்பணம் செய்யும் ஒரு சிறந்த சட்டவாளர் என்பது வெள்ளிடைமலை. இது தொடர்பில் நான் இரண்டு பிரசித்தி பெற்ற இரு வழக்குகளை குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். உயர் நீதிமன்றத்தில் கம்பனியின் வர்த்தகப் பெயர் (Trade name) தொடர்பில் *Arpico Finance Co Ltd Vs. Richard Peris Arpico Finance Co Ltd* என்ற வழக்கில் Sir சமர்ப்பித்த வாய்மூலமான சமர்ப்பணமும், எழுத்து மூலமான சமர்ப்பணமும் அந்த வழக்கிலே அவர் கொண்ட வெற்றியும், புலமைச் சொத்துகள் விடயத்தில் சட்ட இலக்கியத்துக்கு கிடைத்த ஒரு பெரிய வரப்பிரசாதமாகும். அதே போல் மேன்முறையீட்டு நீதிமன்றத்தில் *Shanmugaratnasarma Jegatheeswarasarma and Jessiammah Jegatheeswarasarma Vs. Dr. P.B.Jayasundera and Two others* என்ற வழக்கில் குடியியல் மற்றும் அரசியல் உரிமைகளுக்கான சர்வதேச சமவாயத்தின் கீழ் (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights-ICCPR) 1990ஆம் ஆண்டு திருகோணமலை மாவட்டத்தில் இராணுவ சுற்றிவளைப்பின் போது கடத்தப்பட்டு காணாமல் போன தேவராஜ சர்மாவின்னுடைய பெற்றோரான ஜெகதீஸ்வரசர்மா மற்றும் ஜெசியம்மா ஜெகதீஸ்வரசர்மா குருக்களினால் தம்முடைய மகன் கடத்தப்பட்டு காணாமல் போன விடயம் தொடர்பில் ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் மனித உரிமைகள் குழுவிற்கு சென்ற பின்னர் நகூட்டிடு பெறுவதற்காக ஆணையீட்டு எழுத்தாணை கோரி தாக்கல் செய்யப்பட்ட Writ வழக்கில் சர்வதேச சட்டத்தையும், இலங்கைச் சட்டத்தையும் அக்குவேறு ஆணிவேறாக சமர்ப்பித்து நீதிமன்றில் ஆற்றிய சமர்ப்பணம் மற்றும் தீர்ப்புகள் அவர் எந்தச் சட்டப்பரப்பிலும் தேர்ச்சி பெற்ற ஒரு ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி என்பதற்கு மிகச் சிறந்த உதாரணங்கள். சிலாபம் முன்னேஸ்வர கோவில் வேள்வி வழக்கு, அக்லன்ட் இன்சூரன்ஸ் வழக்கு, போன்றவை Sir, இலங்கை சட்டத்துறைக்கும், சட்ட இலக்கியத்துக்கும் அவர் வழங்கிய பாரிய பங்களிப்புகளுக்குச் சான்று பகரும்.

Sir உடன் நான் பழகிய 7 வருட காலமும் என்னுடைய வாழ்விலே ஒரு பொற்காலம். Sir க்கும் எனக்கும் இடையில் ஒரு கருவியாக தொழில் ரீதியான உறவுமுறை இருந்தாலும் அதற்கும் மேலாக தனிப்பட்ட ரீதியில் அவர் எனமீது கொண்டிருந்த அன்பையும், பாசத்தையும் நான் பல முறை உணர்ந்திருக்கிறேன் அதை அனுபவித்துமிருக்கிறேன். Sir என்னை மட்டுமல்லாது என்னுடைய குடும்ப அங்கத்தவர்களின் நலன்களிலும், குடும்பத்தில் நடைபெறும் மகிழ்ச்சியான நிகழ்வுகளிலும் கூட கூடுதலான அக்கறை செலுத்தி பங்கெடுத்திருப்பதை நான் இவ் நினைவு மலரில் நினைவு கூர கடமைப்பட்டவனாக இருக்கிறேன். என்னுடைய தங்கையின் திருமணவிழா அன்று காலை 6.00 மணிக்கு எனது தங்கைக்கு Kapruka பொதிகள் சேவையிடமிருந்து எனது தங்கைக்கு ஒரு Gift தருவதற்காக வர இருக்கிறார்கள் என ஒரு தொலைபேசி

அழைப்பு ஒன்று வந்தது. காலை 6.30 மணிக்கு யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் உள்ள எமது வீட்டுக்கதவின் அழைப்பு மணி அடித்ததும் எனது தங்கை கதவைத்திறந்த போது மிகவும் அழகான இயற்கை மலர்களால் செய்யப்பட்ட மலர்ச்செண்டு ஒன்றை Sir உம் Madam உம் அனுப்பியிருந்தார்கள். Sir குடும்பமாக அப்போது இந்தியாவிலே இருக்கின்றார் என்று எனக்கு தெரியும் ஆனால் Sir அந்த நாளை மறக்காமல் எனது தங்கைக்கு முதல் திருமண பரிசை அனுப்பியது மட்டுமல்ல Sir இந்தியாவில் இருந்து வந்ததும் Sir ன் Juniors எல்லோருடனும் எனது தங்கையையும் கணவரையும் அழைத்து Taj Samudra Hotel ல் இரவுணவு ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்ததுடன் இரவுணவின் பின்னர் ஒரு சொற்பொழிவும் நிகழ்த்தி சந்தோசப்படுத்தியது எனக்கு பெரியதொரு மகிழ்ச்சியைக் கொடுத்தது. இப்படியான ஒரு உயர்ந்த மனிதனை, ஒரு கனவானை நான் எனது குருவாக பெற்றது எனக்கு கிடைத்த பெரிய பாக்கியம் என்று தான் கருதுகின்றேன்.

ஒரு சிறந்த தந்தையாக, குருவாக, ஆன்மீக ஆலோசகராக, வாழ்க்கை வழிகாட்டியாக என்னுடைய பல்வேறு தேவைகளில் என்னை வழிநடத்திய ஒரு சிறந்த குருவை, சிறந்த மனிதனை, இழந்து அவருடைய 31ம் நாள் நினைவு மலருக்கு ஒரு நினைவு செய்தியை எழுதுவேன் எனக் கனவில் கூட நினைத்திருக்கவில்லை.

Sir உடைய ஆன்மா அமைதியில் இளைப்பாறுவதாக.



A Guru like no other



Maithreyi Rajasingam

Junior of Mr. A.R.Surendran P.C

I still remember that late evening almost two and a half years ago when I walked in to Sir's Chambers feeling really nervous. Pranavan was to introduce me to his Chithappa (Uncle) and request a place for me as an apprentice in Sir's Chambers. I remember that day so vividly as if it was only yesterday because of Sir's warm welcome and kind words putting me at ease at once. I knew I was very lucky to get this place, but only later did I realise the real extent of my fortune.

It is hard for me to describe Sir in mere words and I am sure that all his juniors face a similar predicament. He was so kind and caring. When we worked together during the first month of my apprenticeship, one would think he had all the time and patience in the world just for me, asking me about my university days, the areas of law that interested me and just simply discussing the law applicable for the relevant subject at hand or practiced in different jurisdictions around the



world purely for the enjoyment of the subject. One had to be on their toes around Sir. Even though I was given tasks related to cases such as research and drafting, when I walk in to Chambers the first thing Sir will ask me is not whether I have completed my work but what new subject I had learnt or what book I was reading at that point. He was a voracious reader himself, a man who simply didn't know how to put a book down when he started reading, even if it meant staying up all night. We couldn't in any way limit our discussions to just law, he was simply an all rounder. We discussed about national and world history, politics, music, films, philosophy, literature and so much more! Stories from luminaries of his time especially his favourite Justice Krishna Iyer will never fail to be told at least once a day. Even when I read a book related to law, he will not just stop with explaining the law to me, but go in to the history of how the law came in to being or even give me a detailed background on the author! He was a walking encyclopaedia! Anyone who knows him well cannot miss his incredible memory. During my years of practice with him I never got used to his amazing capacity to simply remember everything. After a client-conference, Sir will turn to me and ask "Now Maithri, what do you think of this case?" and easily with no strain or hesitation tell me to bring me a book and ask me to turn to the exact page where I will always, and I mean *always* find an authority or legal opinion that supports our case. Even at times when I read aloud a judgement or book and made an error by skipping a few words, he will immediately interject and ask me to read it again knowing fully every single word inked on that page.

I cannot, in words, describe the pride we juniors have in Court when Sir makes his legal submissions. His booming voice with the eloquence of a gentleman and amazing vocabulary will have anyone's attention. Preparing for a case the next day was no easy task and no time was too late for him to stay up. I believe he was the epitome of what I learnt in law school, of doing your very best for your client. He literally lived this to the very last letter. Research for authorities will never cease and no book remains unturned. Prepared notes, all the documents in the brief, precedents in favour and any precedents not in favour were all looked at. He was a perfectionist and was always thoroughly prepared, even on days when there was more than a good chance that the case will be postponed.

It was always fun working with him. Even the most difficult and daunting cases did not deter him. He was always positive and ready for the challenge. At times when I felt like giving up, thinking our client had no case; Sir will simply smile and tell me "Don't give up now. Tell me there is a case and we will be able to find it together". I always felt like doing a victory dance within every time a judgement was in our favour, and fall in to despair when it was the other way around. But Sir would always take both victory and failure in his own stride. If we had won, he will take the time to congratulate all his juniors on their hard work, discuss the key points of that case and the judgement and smile. If we lost a case, he would still



nevertheless praise all of us for our hard work, discuss the case, smile (that smile was always there) and if we could appeal to a higher court, then say let's work harder for that. Written submissions and drafting will be corrected again and again and again. Even though he could easily draft on his own even the most complicated opinions, submissions and complaints, when I am there, he will ask me to write it, encouraging me (even

when I thought what I had written was not good enough) and taking the time to teach me the nuances of it.

His words of encouragement never ceased. Sometimes I felt he was ever so generously kind with his compliments, but nevertheless so grateful. He took great interest in all that we Juniors did. He and Chithi (his wife) were like our second family and our Chambers rightfully earned the name "gurukulam" (guru-teacher, kula-extended family). He took great interest not just in us but in our families sharing in our joys and sorrows. I will forever be grateful for him for making my oaths taking ceremony possible just before my wedding so that all my family (including those from abroad) could be there. My colleague later joked that I must be the only apprentice he knew of who had the privilege of having an honorary mention of both my late grandfathers who were a Barrister and Attorney during the ceremony. I will also never forget the kindness with which Sir comforted me when I lost my mother a year later. During this hard time, during work he will ask me to read books of Shiridi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba (being an ardent devotee himself), of the miracles that people have encountered simply to provide me that strength and hope in life. After my marriage to Pranavan even though I was part of his family, he was always "Sir" to me. The reverence with which we juniors worshiped him when we called him "Sir" seemed more suitable to me at the time. I was moved when Sir always told inquiring lawyers, that even though I was not his daughter that I was like his daughter and he always treated me thus.

In addition to all his talents and kindness another virtue of Sir was that money was never important to him. Not just the times when he didn't demand any fees from clients who could not afford it but also in his general outlook on life, he never gave money much importance. He believed in greater things such as faith and happiness.

Sir was a true Guru to me in all sense of the word. Not only did he impart knowledge but shared his life experiences with me, always providing a moral in the end from which I can learn from. I travelled with him to Singapore when he went for treatment having discovered worrying reports in Colombo. He was really not well or fit then, and what the doctors had to say made it no easier. He was diagnosed with an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer which had spread to secondary sites. A cancer for which doctors told us they knew of no cure. I wonder how many people reading this will believe me when I say that with all this, sitting in the hotel room waiting for our next appointment, he and I worked on two written submissions that had to be filed in Sri Lanka. He didn't slump back and wait or give in. He was passionate and committed about his work and would do nothing less than the very best for his client.

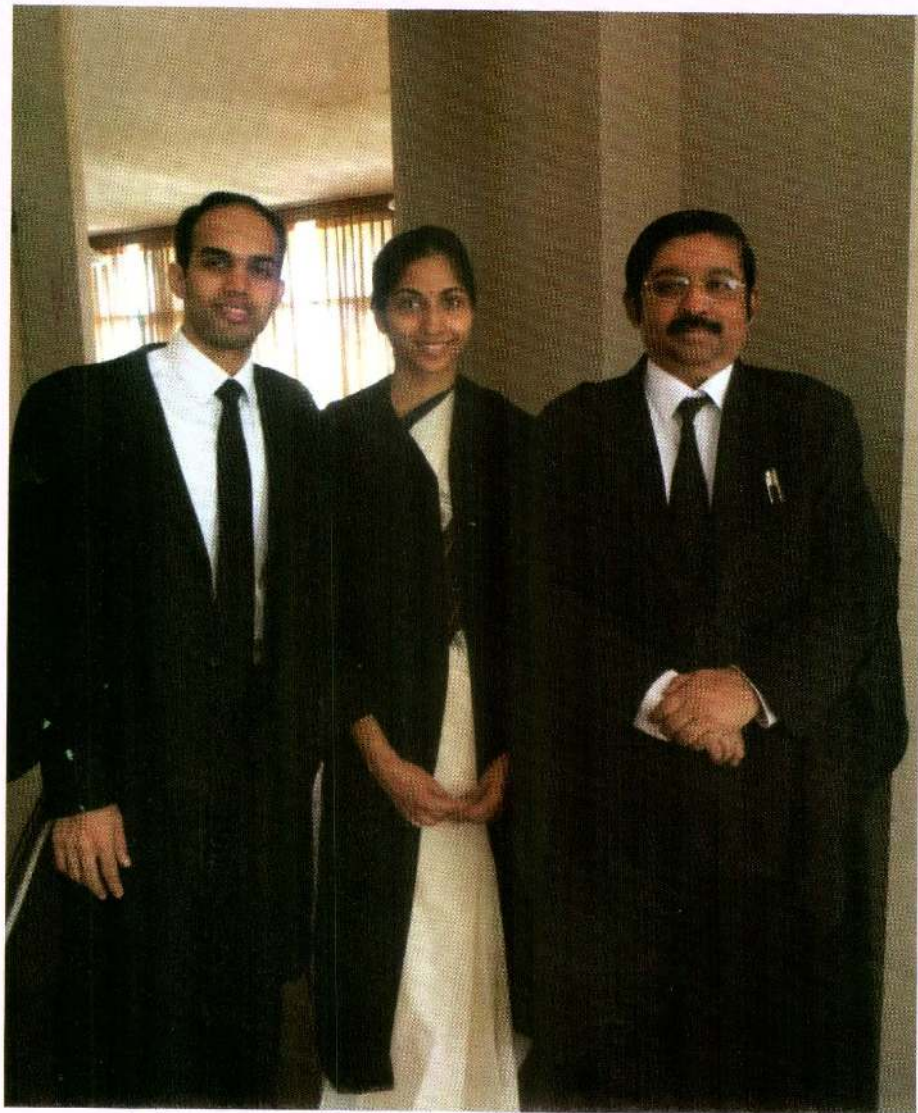
I believe the day the doctors told us of the diagnosis will be forever etched in my memory. I remember standing there feeling all hope drained from my very being and he on the other hand stood with conviction and faith that Bagavan was with him. I can only amaze at his conviction and the way Chithi stood by him in his unwavering faith or the devotion in which she cared for him. I know it is only something I can wonder about but never even attempt to achieve.

Even in those dire circumstances I cannot finish without sharing the moments of faith we experienced. I know if it were anyone else's experience Sir would readily share it with all of us so that we draw hope from it. The suggested treatment was chemotherapy and with it we were warned of all the side effects. Having seen my mother go through it, I could only imagine the worst. But miracle of miracles, while we were there in Singapore taking treatment Sir showed no major signs of discomfort or pain as we feared. In fact, a shock not only to us his family but even to all his doctors, he rapidly improved well enough to travel back to Colombo and start work. There were moments in Singapore where I did share with Sir's sentiment that there was some divine light guiding us. Small miracles of accidentally meeting a taxi driver who happened to be a Sai Baba devotee who in turn introduced us to a Sai congregation there in Singapore where Sir was fortunate to listen to Bajans sung by devotees to his heart's content and the moment before finding out from doctors of his unbelievable improvement in his condition of having another family member of a patient hand to Chithi *Vibhuthi* which had been materialised by the very hands of Sathya Sai Baba himself, all strengthened Sir's conviction in his faith and mine in that there are some things beyond our limited understanding.

He was always positive and held by his faith. Even when he was admitted in hospital for the last time, I cannot forget the last proper conversation I had with him. I addressed him saying "hello Sir, how are you today?" He was already fatigued by the illness and pain and was lying in bed. He gave me a big smile and said in a booming voice "I am fine. Tell everyone that..." "you are fine" I completed the

sentence for him and he chuckled. He would never tell me otherwise than the word 'fine' in all my time with him.

I stand lost today. Not only have I lost a great teacher and friend but the legal fraternity has lost a great legal luminary of our time.



கண்ணீர்த் தரணிக்னை

ஐனாதிபத் சப்தத்தரணியாய் சபவாளர்கள் மத்தியில்
சரித்தரம் படைத்த சாகத்திய வீரன், அமரர் இரத்தனவழிவேல் சுரேந்திரன்,

“Sir” என்று நம் அழைக்க உரிமையுடன் உறவாடி உயர்த்த வைத்த எம் குரு
சப்தத்திறையின் துரோணராய் கப்சமம் பல அறிந்த வல்லாளன்...

அன்புடன் எமை அரவணைத்து, கர்னல் ரிளேசில் குருகுலம் போல் வடிந்த, நீதிமன்றில் பலர் வியக்க
வழக்காரும் வீரகை கற்பித்து முகவர் எமக்களித்த உத்தமர்,

அவர் பயனிட்ட யாதைதனில் நுந்து வரும் வரம் பெற்ற ஜானியர்கள் நாம்

எங்கள் ஆசான் அமரர் சுரேந்திரன் “Sir”ற்கு அவர் அக்லம் நீங்கிய இவ்வேளை
ஆதம் சாந்த ப்ரணத்தனையாய் விழந்திறைந்து சமர்ப்பிக்கும் இதயக் காணிக்கை

ஓம் சாந்தி! சாந்தி! சாந்தி!

Juniors of Mr. A.R.Surendran PC



Mr. A.R. Surendran
President's Counsel

Speech at Funeral



by **Maithreyi Rajasingam**

On behalf of all of Sir's juniors- Gehan Ranawakke (District Judge Mount-Lavinia), Arul Selvaratnam (Australia), K.V.S. Ganesharajan, Safana Gul Bagam Unideen, Swarnarajah Nilakshan (Australia), Nadarajah Kandeepan, Jayarooban, Tharshini Kanagasabapathi, Pushparaj, Jude Dinesh, Maithreyi Rajasingam and Madusoothan

"Sir" as he is fondly called by all of his juniors was not only our Senior but also a father, good friend and confidant, *Guru* and spiritual guide to us all. What is exceptional and amazing about Sir, is that he knew that there was always something to be learnt from every situation and therefore he would never limit himself just to law but always shared his experiences extensively, providing us with every story a new perspective, a lesson to learn from and guided us every step of the way. Another amazing quality of Sir is that rain or shine we can be certain that Sir will always have a positive attitude and a desire to do what is right. He had a deep understanding about life which enabled him to always see the silver lining and never waiver. Even when he was ill, he continued working with complete dedication, never for once giving up.

Our chambers was our second home and we were all like one big family with Sir and Madam at the helm, always looking after us and encouraging us in everything that we did, regardless of whether it concerned our work in Sir's Chambers or otherwise, motivating us to improve and develop as better individuals, concerned and caring not only of us but our families, winning all our hearts and minds. His warm welcome "come, come" will forever resonate in our hearts.

He would never scold us, even if we ever made a mistake but ensured that we are aware of the mistake so that we won't make it again. In fact on many an occasion he has gone to the extent of taking full responsibility for our errors even in open court, taking the brunt of its consequences. We always knew that Sir will not abandon us and will stand by us in our times of trouble. If he ever wanted to rebuke us his silence was sufficient. At the same time, he never shied from saying words of encouragement and being always generous with his compliments. All his juniors will be familiar with his words telling them you have done a "tremendous job".

He was a remarkable teacher and had all the patience and time in the world when it came to teaching us. There is no doubt that all consider him as a legal legend and luminary. He was a perfectionist in all that he did. His written drafts were never complete without numerous revisions and no book remained unturned when in search for authorities. He was completely immersed in his work and enjoyed every bit of it. There has been many a time our Chambers has stayed up till the wee hours in the morning, characteristically termed by him as “we must burn the mid night oil”. When reprimanded by any well meaning friend, he would reply with his mischievous smile “the Law is a jealous mistress”.

Sir had a remarkable talent for building a cogent argument. “Inextricably interwoven with the earlier issue, your honour” you would hear him say often in Hultsdorf. He had excellent diction and a flare for idioms and collocations to the extent that once a Judge requested him to make oral submissions saying “I would like to hear your Queen’s English Mr. Surendran”. We have been awestruck numerous times by his level of intelligence, knowledge and memory. His advocacy and articulation were best we had seen in Hultsdorf.

An avid reader himself, he encouraged all of us to read and expand our minds. He could start a conversation with anyone on any subject whether it be politics, spirituality, sports, music, films or history. As an ardent devotee of Shiridi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba, his devotion and faith influenced his life a great deal. At times when we despaired, he spoke words of comfort allowing love to guide us forward.

We cannot imagine our lives without Sir’s presence and guidance. We are deeply indebted to him for everything he has done for us.

Our hearts go out to his family. Love and strength to you all in this difficult time. He leaves a void that cannot be filled not only in our lives but in the legal fraternity.

I thank Sir’s family for giving us this opportunity to speak.

யார்க்கெடுத்துரைப்பேனோ?



ந. காண்டபன்
கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

நல்லை நகரின் ஒளியே
சொல்லை ஆளும் சுடரே - எங்கள்
வாழ்வில் படரும் நிழலே
வாசல் பூட்டி ஏனோ
வானம் பார்க்கப் போனீர்

தென்றலாய் வருடும் காற்றே
தேனிலும் தெளிந்த ஊற்றே - எங்கள்
தேடலில் தொடரும் கனவே
தேசம் நீங்கி ஏனோ
தேகம் விடுத்துப் போனீர்

நிலவை மிஞ்சும் வடிவில்
இருந்தீர் அழகாய் நேற்று
அறிவை விஞ்சும் வகையில்
நெய்தீர் ஆயிரம் கனவு
போற்றற் கரிய உறவை
தந்தீர் பிறவிப் பயனாய்
நேற்றை வரைக்கும் உயர்வாய்
நிறையப் பணிகள் கண்டீர்

பின்னிய வழக்குகளில் பீறிடும் உங்கள் வாதத்தை
செதுக்கிய அறைகள் இன்று பூட்டிக் கிடக்கிறது
கண்விழித்து நீங்கள் கச்சிதமாய் கருமமியற்ற
கைகொடுத்த கதிரையுமோ வெறிதாய்க் கிடக்கிறது
சற்றே ஓய்வெடுக்க நீங்கள் ஒதுங்கிய
கட்டிலும் தான் பற்றே இல்லாமல் பரிதவித்துக்கிடக்கிறது
உற்றாளை இழந்தவனாய் ஊர் உலகம்
கூடி அழுகிறது
எழுந்து நீங்கள் எப்போ வருவீர்கள் என்றே
ஏங்கித் தவிக்கிறது

அன்பின் உறைவிடம் நீங்கள்
 அறிவில் சிகரம் நீங்கள்
 பண்பில் பாசறை நீங்கள்
 பக்தியின் நிறையிடம் நீங்கள்
 பரிவினில் எங்கள் பாரி நீங்கள்
 பிரிவினில் எங்கள் பிணைப்பு நீங்கள்
 கொடையில் குன்றம் நீங்கள்

எங்களின் அரசன் நீங்கள்
 என்றுமே ஆசான் நீங்கள்
 எங்களின் ஆற்றல் நீங்கள்
 என்றுமே ஏற்றம் நீங்கள்
 எங்களின் உயிரும் நீங்கள்
 எங்களின் உலகும் நீங்கள்
 எங்களுக்கு எல்லாமும் நீங்கள்
 இத்தனைக்கும் இருவிழி நீங்கள்
 அத்தனைக்கும் அருந்துணை நீங்கள்

வானோடு முகிலிறங்கி ஊரெங்கும் நீர் தெளிக்கும் - நாளை
 காற்றோடு கலந்துங்கள் பேச்செங்கும் பயன் விளைக்கும்
 நேற்றோடு நினைவுஎழுந்து பாரெங்கும் உங்கள் பணியுரைக்கும்
 எங்கள் நெஞ்சத்து அறைகளிலே உங்கள் எழில் எழுந்து கொலுவிருக்கும்
 காணும் பொருளில் எல்லாம் உங்கள் முகம் மட்டுமே தெரியும்

எங்கும் நிறைந்தவராய் எதிலும் உறைந்தவராய்
 எல்லாம் அறிந்தவராய் எல்லாம் கடந்தவராய்
 எம்மை வழிநடத்தும் கடவுள் ஆனதனால்
 நிலையாமை என்றும் தோற்றே போகும்
 நினைவுகள் என்றும் எம் நினைவில் சேரும்

ஓம் சாந்தி சாந்தி சாந்தி !!!

பனிக்கும் விளிகளுடன் ஆசானுக்கு பிரியவிடை



சுபானா குல் பேகம்
கனிஷ்ட சட்டத்தரணி

அன்பில் இமயம்;
பண்பில் சிகரம்;
பாசத்தின் பொக்கிஷம்;
அறிவின் ஒளி
உறங்கிப் போனது.
மீளாத துயிலில்
முழுகிப் போனது.

ஹலோ.... கம்.... கம் என்ற
கம்பீர ஒலி....
இனிமேல்....
இந்த குருகுலத்தில் ஒலிக்காது.
இந்தச் சட்டப் பாசறையின் நூல்கள் அனைத்தும்
தலை சாய்ந்துவிட்டன.
இந்தப் பாசறையின்
உட்கள் ஆசனம் தள்ளாடுகின்றது
தூணை இழந்த துயரில்.

நீதி தேவதை.... கண்ணீர்விடுகின்றாள்.
தன்னைத் தலை வணங்கும்
உத்தமதனயன் ஒருவரை
பிரிந்ததை எண்ணி
நீதிமன்ற சட்டமேசைகள்
சோர்ந்து கிடக்கின்றன.
தங்கள் கணீரென்ற
விவாதத்தைக்
கேட்கும் பாக்கியம்
இனிமேல் கிடையாது
என்ற வேதனையில்.

நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் கற்றது சட்டம்
மாத்திரமல்ல - சேர்.

வாழ்க்கையின் தத்துவத்தையே எங்களுக்குப்
போதித்துத் தந்த
போதகர் நீங்கள்...
உங்களை சீனியராய் பெற்ற
நாங்கள்...
வாழ்க்கையில் வரப்பிரசாதம் பெற்றவர்கள்.
இளையவடிகள் - கற்று
பின்பற்ற வேண்டியதொரு
வரலாற்றுப் புத்தகம். சேர்
நீங்கள்...
வரலாறு கண்ட சரித்திர நாயகன்.
சந்திக்கும் வாய்ப்பை
பெற்றிருக்க வேண்டும்... சேர்.
வாழ்க்கையில் ஒரு முறையாவது
நீங்கள் போன்ற மனிதர்களை சந்திக்கும் வாய்ப்பை
பெற்றிருக்க வேண்டும் சேர்.
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மக்களுக்குப் புரியும்.

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எம் பிறந்த நாட்களை
மறக்காத உங்கள்
வாழ்த்துக்கள் இனிமேல்
கேட்காது சேர்

நிச்சயமாய் நம்புகின்றோம்.
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என்றென்றும் சரணாகதி சேர்

எங்கள் பலமே
 நீங்கள் தான் சேர்
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 நிச்சயமாய் நம்புகின்றோம் சேர்.
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 மண்ணில் பிறந்தால்
 மரணித்துத்தான் ஆக வேண்டும்
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 பொருந்திக் கொள்

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 ஆத்மா..
 அமைதியாய் சாந்தியடையட்டும்.



செ.இ.க.க.

அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம்

(இலங்கை இந்துமன்ற அமைப்புகளினதும் ஆலய நம்பிக்கை பொறுப்புகளினதும் ஒன்றியம்)

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08/05/2016

சமய சமூகப் பணிகளையும் தன் முக்கிய பணிகளாகக் கொண்டு வாழ்ந்த ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி அமரர் ஏ.ஆர். சுரேந்திரனுக்கு மாமன்றத்தின் அஞ்சல்

சமய, சமூகப் பணிகளில் - குறிப்பாக சைவசமய விழிப்புணர்வை சமூகத்தில் ஏற்படுத்தவும், கல்லூரி மாணவர்களிடையே சைவசமய அறிவைப்புகட்டி, பரீட்சைகளை நடாத்தி பரிசில்கள், சான்றிதழ்களை வழங்குவதன் மூலம் சமய நடவடிக்கைகளில் சகலரையும் பல ஆண்டுகளாக ஈடுபடுத்திவரும் நிறுவனம். எமது மாமன்றத்தின் ஆரம்பகால அங்கத்துவ சங்கங்களில் ஒன்றான கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையாகும். விவேகானந்த சபையை பத்து ஆண்டுகட்கு மேலாக தலைமைதாங்கி வழிநடாத்திய பெருமை ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி அமரர் ஏ.ஆர்.சுரேந்திரனையே சேரும்.

அத்துடன் அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்ற நம்பிக்கைப் பொறுப்பாளர் சபையிலும் அங்கத்துவம் வகித்து, நிதிகளை முறையாகப் பயன்படுத்துவதன் மூலம் உச்சப் பயன்பாடுகளை அடையத்தக்கதாக ஆலோசனைகளை வழங்கி, செயற்பாடுகளையும் கண்காணித்தவர்.

அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்ற நடுத்தீர்ப்பு மையம் நிறுவுவதற்கும், அம் மையத்தின் விலகளைத் தயாரிப்பதற்கும் அளப்பரிய பணியாற்றியதுடன், இந்து அறக்கட்டளைச் சட்டத்தினை ஆக்கித் தருமாறு அன்றைய இந்து கலாசார அமைச்சர் அமரர் தி.மகேஸ்வரன் நியமித்த சட்டத்தரணிகள் குழுவிலும் பணியாற்றி, அச்சட்டத்தினை ஆக்கித்தந்த சிறப்புக்குரியவர்.

பொதுவாகவே சட்டத்தரணிகள் சிலர் அறிவுரைகள், ஆலோசனைகள் வழங்குவதில் தயங்கும் அதேவேளை, அதிக கட்டணம் அறவிடுவதும் வழக்கம். ஆனால் அமரர் சுரேந்திரன் தன்னை நாடிவருபவர்களுக்கு இருபக்க நியாயங்களையும் விரிவாக எடுத்துரைத்து - சட்ட நடவடிக்கைகளில் ஏற்படக்கூடிய இலாப நடடங்ககளையும் தெளிவாக விளக்கி, செய்யும் சேவைகளுக்கு மாத்திரம் மனச்சாட்சிக்கு ஏற்ப, மற்றவர் மனம் நோகாமல் சிறுதொகையையும் பெற்று வந்ததை எல்லோரும் நன்கு அறிவர்.

இவரைக் குருவாக வழிகாட்டியாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்ட இளம் சட்டத்தரணிகளுக்கும், சட்டம் பயிலுனர்களுக்கும் மனிதாபிமானத்துடன் நல்லறிவையும் எல்லாச் சந்தர்ப்பங்களிலும் அவதானமாகவும், நிதானமாகவும், விவேகமாகவும் நடக்க வழிகாட்டியதை அவர்கள் அடிக்கடி நினைவுகூர்வதை அறிவோம்.

ஆற்றல்-ஆளுமைமிக்க ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணி இளவயதிலேயே எங்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்தது ஆறாத்துயரமும், ஈடுசெய்யமுடியாத இழப்புமாகும். அன்னாரின் ஆத்மா சாந்தியடையவும், அவரின் குடும்பத்தினர் நல்வாழ்வு பெறவும் இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றோம்.

S. Thillanadarajah

சி.தில்லைநடராஜா
பொதுச் செயலாளர்

தலைமையகம்: இல.91/5, சேர். சிறும்பலம் ஏ. கார்டினர் மாவத்தை, கொழும்பு - 02, இலங்கை.
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நீத்தார் பெருமை

நிலையில்லாத இவ்வுலக வாழ்க்கையில் வாழுகின்ற ஒவ்வொரு மனிதனும் தாம் வாழாங்காலத்தே நிலையான நல்வாங்களைச் செய்து வாழ்வதுதான் அவன் வாழ்ந்த வாழ்க்கைக்குக் கிடைக்கும் உண்மையான அர்த்தமாகும்.

நெருநல் உளனொருவன் இன்றில்லை என்னும்

பெருமை உடைத் திவ்வலகு

என்கிறார் வள்ளுவர்

வாழ்க்கையென்பது வந்தோம் வாழ்ந்தோம் செல்வோம் என்றிருக்கக்கூடாது. வாழாங்காலத்தில் நாம் எப்படி வாழ்ந்தோம்? எதைச் செய்தோம்? என்ன சாதித்தோம் என்று மற்றவர்கள் நினைத்துப்பார்க்குமளவுக்கு உயர்வான செயல்களைச் செய்துவிட்டுச் செல்ல வேண்டும். அதுதான் உண்மையான வாழ்க்கையாகும்.

அப்படியொரு உன்னதமான வாழ்க்கையை நம்முன்னே வாழ்ந்து காட்டிவிட்டு அமரத்துவம் அடைந்தவர் தான் நம் அருமைத் தலைவர் திரு.சுரேந்திரன் ஐயா அவர்கள்.

1992 ஆம் ஆண்டுமுதல் கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையின் சீவியகால அதாவது ஆயுட்கால உறுப்பினராக இணைந்து பணியாற்றிய இவர் தம் அரும் பணிகளின்பயனாக 1992 ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் 2004 ஆம் ஆண்டுவரை எமது சபையின் உபதலைவராகப் பொறுப்பேற்றுக் கொண்டார். அக்காலகட்டத்தில் அவர் சேவையின் சிறப்பு 2005 ஆம் ஆண்டுமுதல் 2016 ஆம் ஆண்டுவரை தலைமைப்பதவியை வகிக்கும் பாரியபொறுப்பை அவருக்கு ஈட்டிக்கொடுத்தது.

அன்புக்கும் பண்புக்கும் அறிவாற்றல், அடக்கத்துக்கும் எடுத்துக்காட்டாக விளங்கிய அன்னார் செய்த அளப்பெரும் சேவைகளை நாம் என்றுமே மறந்து விடமுடியாது.

விவேகானந்த சபையினர் அகில இலங்கை ரீதியில் பல்லாண்டு காலங்களாக நடாத்தி வரும் அகில இலங்கை சைவ சமய பாடப் பரீட்சை, பேச்சுப் போட்டி, பண்ணிசைப் போட்டி, சுவாமி விவேகானந்தர் தினம்

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மற்றும் ஸ்தாபகர்தினம் போன்ற முக்கிய நிகழ்வுகள் நடைபெறும் காலகட்டங்களில் அவை சிறப்புற நடைபெறுவதற்கான பூரண ஒத்துழைப்பையும் வழிகாட்டல்களையும் வழங்க அவர் என்றுமே பின் நின்றதில்லை.

சுவாமி விவேகானந்தரின் 150 ஆவது ஜனன தினத்தைமுன்னிட்டு அவரின் பெயரால் நிர்மாணிக்கப்பட்டுவரும் புதிய கட்டிடம் முற்றும் தருணத்தில் அதன் மேம்பாட்டுக்காக முன்னின்றுழைத்த எமது தலைவர் சுரேந்திரன் அவர்களின் இழப்பு ஈடு செய்ய முடியாத துயரத்தை அளிக்கிறது.

சபை தொடர்பான விடயங்களை மேற்கொள்ளும்போது அவற்றை அலசி ஆராய்ந்து ஆக்க பூர்வமான ஆலோசனைகளை வழங்குவதில் அவருக்கு நிகர் அவராகவே விளங்கினார். மிகுந்த இறை நம்பிக்கையுடைய இவரது பணிகள் எமது சபையோடு மட்டும் நின்று விடாது, அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம், பகவான் சத்திய சாயி நிறுவனம் என்பவற்றினூடாகவும் விரிந்து செல்கின்றதென்றால் மிகையாகாது. தீவிர சாயி பக்தரான இவர் சாயி சேவைகளிலும் தம்மை அர்ப்பணித்துள்ளமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்க விடயமாகும். அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றத்தின் நம்பிக்கை பொறுப்பாளர் சபையில் அங்கத்தவராகக் கடமைபுரிந்ததோடு அளப்பரிய ஆன்மீகத் தொண்டாற்றியுள்ளார்.

இலங்கையின் மிகச் சிறந்த சட்டவல்லுனர்களில் ஒருவரான திரு.சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள் தமது சட்ட அறிவுப்புலமையின் பயனாக ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியாகவும் பதவிகித்த பெருமைக்குரியவராகிறார். இத்தகைய சிறப்புக்களையுடைய பெருந்தகையாளனை சடுதியில் காலன் அழைத்துக் கொண்டமை சொல்லமுடியாத பேரிழப்பேயாகும்.

இத்தருணத்தில் அவரை இழந்து தவிக்கும் அவர் மனைவி, பிள்ளைகள், உற்றார், உறவினர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எமது சபையின் சார்பில் ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களைத் தெரிவிப்பதோடு, அவரது ஆன்மா சாந்தியடைய வேண்டுமென்ப பிரார்த்திக்கின்றோம்.

க.விவேகானந்தன்

பிரார்த்தனையுரை



செஞ்சொற்செல்வர் சைவஞானபானு கலாந்தி ஆறு. திருமுருகன்.

தலைவர் - ஸ்ரீ துர்க்காதேவி தேவஸ்தானம் தெல்லிப்பழை. தலைவர் - சிவபுமி
அறக்கட்டளை, இலங்கை, உப தலைவர் - அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம், கௌரவ
இயக்குனர் - யாழ். இந்துமன்ற ஆராய்ச்சி நிலையம்

ஆன்மீக ஆர்வமும், சமூக உணர்வும், கல்வி ஆளுமையும், அன்பும், இரக்கமும் மிக்க பெருமகன் உயர்திரு. இ. சுரேந்திரன் அவர்களின் பிரிவு குறித்து மிகுந்த வேதனையடைகிறேன். எழுபதுகளின் பிற்பகுதியில் அவரை நல்லூரில் சந்திக்கும் வாய்ப்பு எனக்கு ஏற்பட்டது. திருநீற்றுக்கோலத்தோடு இவரைத் தினமும் காணலாம். சட்டத்துறையில் வல்லவராக விளங்கிய இவருடன் கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபை பேச்சுப்போட்டியில் நடுவராகப் பங்குபற்றும் சந்தர்ப்பம் 1994 இல் எதிர்பாராமல் கிடைத்தது. அன்று முதல் அவரோடு பழகும் சந்தர்ப்பம் கிட்டியது. அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றத்தில் யான் இணைந்த பின் அன்னாருடன் கூடுதலாகப் பழகும் வாய்ப்பு திரு.கந்தையா நீலகண்டன் ஐயா அவர்களால் மேலும் ஏற்பட்டது. கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையில் அமரரின் தலைமையில் பல நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் கலந்து கொண்ட நாட்கள் பசுமையாகவுள்ளது. திருக்குறளில் நன்கு பரீட்சயமுள்ள அமரர் அவர்கள் கம்பீரமாக உரையாற்றும் ஆற்றல் மிக்கவர். இவரது வாதத்திறமையை பல சட்டத்தரணிகள் புகழ்ந்துரைப்பர்.

எவரும் எதிர்பாராத நிலையில் இறைவன் இவரை அழைத்துவிட்டான். கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபை புதியபரிமாணம் பெற்று, புதிய கட்டடம் முடிவுற்ற நிலையில் அதனை நிர்வகித்த தலைமகனின் பிரிவு சைவ மக்களுக்கு பேரிழப்பாகக் கருதப்படுகிறது. தமிழ் மக்களின் பெருமைக்குரிய புகழ்பெற்ற ஜனாதிபதி சட்டத்தரணியாக விளங்கிய இவரது மறைவு பல வழிகளிலும் எமது சமூகத்துக்கு பாதிப்பு என்பதை அனைவரும் ஒத்துக்கொள்வர். என் செய்வோம். விதியை வெல்ல யாரால் முடியும்? வகுத்தான் வகுத்தவழி. நல்லூரான் வீதியில் செல்வச்சிறப்பு மிக்க குடும்பத்தில் பிறந்து, செல்வச்சிறப்பு மிக்க முருகேசு ஐயாவின் புத்திரியை மணந்து எல்லாச் செல்வத்துடன் தன் வாழ்நாள் முழுவதும் மகிழ்வாக வாழும் பேறு பெற்ற இப்பெருந்தகை விண்ணுலகிலும் இறையருளால் நல்லாறுதல் பெற இறைவனை வேண்டிப் பிரார்த்தனை செய்கிறேன்.

இனியொரு தலைவனை

எங்கு தேடுவோம்?



அருள்மொழியரசு, வித்துவான்

வசந்தா வைத்தியநாதன்

உபதலைவி, கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபை

சுரேந்திரன்... எத்துனை பொருத்தமான பெயர். பெற்றோர் நினைத்து இட்ட பெயரோ... அல்லது நினையாது இட்டபெயரோ. அறியோம் - ஆனால் தான் வகித்த பதவிகளுக்கெல்லாம் பெருமை சேர்த்து இந்திராதி போகம் அளித்தவர்.

“காட்சிக்கு எளியன் கடுஞ்சொல்லன் அல்லனேன்
மீக்கூறும் மன்னன் நிலம்” - (இறைமாட்சி)

கொழும்பு விவேகானந்த சபையின் தலைமையையேற்று பத்து ஆண்டுகளுக்கும் மேலாக சிறிதும் கண்ணியம் குறையாமல் கொண்டு நடத்தியவர். தனது மேலான ஆளுமையால் விவேகானந்த சபையின் புகழை குன்றிலிட்ட தீபமாக ஒளியேற்றியவர். தனது பண்பால், பேச்சால், இனிய நடத்தையால், அனைவரையும் கவரும் தன்மையால் அனைவர் இதயங்களிலும் சிம்மாசனமிட்டு அமர்ந்தவர். இனி ஒரு தலைவர் இப்படி எமக்குக் கிடைப்பாரா? காலம் தான் விடையளிக்க வேண்டும்.

நற்குணங்களின் உறைவிடம் அமரர் திரு.ஆ.இ.சுரேந்திரன் என்றால் அது மிகையான கூற்று அல்ல.

சிறந்த வழக்கறிஞர் - இலக்கியத் தோய்வு உடையவர். ஆன்மீக நெறியாளர் - சாயி பகவானிடம் பக்திமை பூண்டவர் - சுவாமி விவேகானந்தரின் தேச பக்தியில் தன்னை கரைத்துக் கொண்டவர். அவரது அலுவலக அலுவலர்களில் சுவாமிகள் நித்தியவாசம் செய்வதை நேரில் கண்டவர்கள் உணர்வார்கள். ஆங்கிலப் புலமை மிக்கவர். ஆற்றொழுக்கான சொற்பொழிவாளர் - இருமொழிகளிலும் வல்லவர் - அவரது அறிவின் ஆழமும், அகலமும், நுண்மையும் கேட்டார் பிணிக்கும் தகைமையது.

“மகனறிவு தந்தையறிவு” என்ற பொருள் மொழிக்கேற்ப சான்றாண்மை மிக்க பெரியார் இரத்தினவடிவேலருக்கும், அன்னை இரத்தினேஸ்வரிக்கும் உதித்த ஒப்பற்ற இரத்தினமே திரு.சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள்.

கிடைத்தற்கரிய கணவரையும், தந்தையையும் இழந்து தவிக்கும் குடும்பத்தினருக்கு வெறும் வார்த்தைகள் ஆறுதலளிக்காது. இறைவனின் அளவற்ற கருணையொன்றே அவர்களை இத் துன்பக் கடலினின்று மீட்டெடுத்து சாந்திபெறச் செய்ய முடியும்.

A MAN OF PRINCIPLES A GENTLEMAN PAR EXCELLENCE



Dr.V.Jeganathan

National President,

Sathya Sai International Organization Sri Lanka

The untimely demise of Mr.R.Surendran PC, came as a shock to everyone who knew him. Although my acquaintances with Suren are few, yet I know his family for a long time, as an Ideal Sai Family. Their contributions to the Sai Organization in Sri Lanka has helped the Organization to grow and render many selfless services to the needy, through Sociocare, Medicare and Educare Programs. Suren's father, lovingly addressed by all as Ratnavadivel Aiyah is known to all Sai families in Sri Lanka. He has been performing, with utmost *Bhakthi*, all the rituals in the Sindhi Sai Center, and in particular, at the Colombo Samithy which functions at the premises of the Hindu Ladies College down Rudra Mawatha, Colombo-6, in addition to the main centre at the Sai Mandir at 22, Barnes Place, Colombo-7. His contributions at these two Sai Centres had helped immensely to the spiritual growth of all the devotees who patronised there centres.

Suren's children, Pavithra and Prashanthan had gone through the full course of 'Sai Spiritual Education (*Balvikas*) Program, which aims at character building and the blossoming of Human Excellence, through attaining self-confidence which leads to self-satisfaction, self-sacrifice and finally self-realisation. Suren's children are more or less role models in the Balvikas program. They are also examples of how the Balvikas Program helps the children to excel in their school and college education.

Suren being a PC was a man of principles, a lawyer who always fought for the truth, a sincere legal advisor to all who sought his advice, a good Sai Devotee, soft spoken, calm, never in agitation, methodical in his professional approaches, a good husband to Sis. Renuka, a loving father to Pavithra and Prashanthan, and a good friend to all those who knew him. These are the words which arise in my mind when I think of Suren. In short, to me Suren was a gentleman par excellence. His passing away is difficult to accept, and is an irreparable loss to all of us. Many of us even did not know that he was ailing for quite some time. He never showed any symptoms of his illness or signs of suffering until the time he sought serious

medical intervention. In spite of the best of medical attention given to him by his family in Sri Lanka and abroad he finally succumbed to his disease.

Many a times when someone, who is dear to us, and accepted by everyone as a good person, passes away we used to wonder why God takes the lives of good people much earlier than we desired them to live, but at the same time allowed the wicked to live much longer than what the society wished them to live. For want of better understanding we say it is their destiny or *Karma*. Does this mean that people who earn good Karma leave early? However, with all the scientific, technological and medical advancements available to us, date and time of death are unpredictable by us, neither we are in a position to at least postpone the event. Nothing is in our hands. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba In one of His Divine Discourses delivered to an assembly of eminent doctors from a number of countries who met in Puttaparthi, said, **"Giving life and taking life is God's business.** Your job is to give comfort to all who come to you". What a bold and true declaration! In this journey of the creations to the Creator, of the *Jivathma* to the *Paramathma* those who have lived a life of virtue, of morals and values may be purifying their souls faster and complete their cycles of births and deaths quicker than the others. God takes such lives early from their physical bodies which is subjected to time and space, and to which we give a name and claim ownership.

When an incense stick is burned it emanates an aroma of fragrance into the environment around. Even after the stick has burnt itself out, the fragrance which emanated from it continues to linger in the surrounding environment for quite some time. Similarly although Suren's physical body has burnt out into ashes the sweet fragrance of his loving associations with all of us will linger forever.

Let us pray to the Almighty to negate whatever little Karma that may, if at all, be still lingering with Suren's Athma and allow it to merge with Eternity.

'Samastha Loka Sukino Bhavanthu'

LOSS OF A UNIQUE PERSONALITY



M. WANNI- WANNIYASEKARAM

Advisor- Prashanthi Council

International Governance, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation

A Unique Personality, a devoted Son, a loving husband, a Loving Father and Brother, a legal luminary and a law abiding citizen is no more in his mortal body. He is none other than RATNAVADIVEL SURENDRAN *PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL*. His sudden departure was a shock to every one specially to his dear family. He excelled not only in law but also in social service and spirituality. He was a different caliber in his legal profession. While he was sought after to handle various types of complicated legal cases by client who went to his chambers, his continuous generosity was unmatched, and many were grateful for his helping heart and hands. He was a person of great integrity in his professional and public life.

His pleasing personality won the hearts of every one. In his spiritual field he spent a great deal of time and energy with The Vivekananda Society Colombo. So much so that he functioned as its President for a continuous period of ten years. He was an ardent follower of Bhagavan Shiridi Baba of Shiridi, and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba of Puttaparthi. He filled his life with their teachings, this turned the pattern of his life with LOVE in Thought, Word, and Action. He used to quote their teachings for attainment of peace, development of Character of each individual is very important and this type of approach made him a unique personality.

On one occasion Suren accepted an invitation to be the Chief Guest of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithy Colombo at HIS Birthday celebrations at Ramakrishna Mission Hall. Unfortunately, a few days prior to the 23rd of November the day of the function he was hospitalized. He was determined to attend the celebrations he prepared his speech while in hospital, he obtained permission from the compassionate doctor who was taking care of him, attended the function delivered a forty five minutes oration in "Queen's English" and got back to the hospital to continue his treatment. Looking at him at the podium no one ever mentioned that he was under treatment. He looked like an ever shining "Star". This depicts his unshakeable Faith, Surrender, and Dedication to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the Sai Organization.

Members of his family also were guided by the teachings of Bhagavan Baba. His wife Renuka, and children participated in all activities of the Sai Organization. His daughter Pavithra was a member of the Bal Vikas, Young Adults, graduating as a youth wing member and participating in all cultural programs. His son proceeded overseas to pursue his higher studies.

Suren was the Son-In- Law of the Late V Murugesu a Senior Attorney-At-Law, who founded the law firm Murugesu and Neelakandan five decades ago. He was also founder member of Sri Aurobindo Centre Sri Lanka.

A huge wave in the mighty ocean which has reached the shores and gone back into the ocean, the ocean of SATCHITHANANDA SATH- CHITH AND ANANDA. What we have lost is the physical body of Suren. Not his ATMA. In keeping with his pattern of life which is full of LOVE, let us mould our lives into one filled with LOVE, the only path we can show our respect to the UNIQUE PERSONALITY of Suren.

We sincerely pray and wish Suren "GOD-SPEED" towards Almighty Lord's LOTUS FEET

Reflections



Mala Sabaratnam
Baba Devotee and Friend

The wise say that “life is a curve, not a straight line.”

In this short sojourn we meet, greet, cross and pass so many – who often leave us unimpacted.

I knew Mr. Surendran P.C to be an eminent legal luminary who was much sought after by clients, held in high regard both by his colleagues and members of the judiciary. They appreciated the deep sense of duty he displayed, which was lavishly mixed with spiritual and ethical practices.

He was a devout follower of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and he endeavoured to live by Baba’s teachings. The thought in the mind, the word on the tongue, the deeds by the hands were all made in to one, by him - as taught by Baba.

Suren harmonized well with his family, friends, colleagues and associates. Lord Sri Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita “he is a true devotee , he by whom the world is not agitated and who is not agitated by the world ” – this reflected in his actions.

The untimely loss of such a person is hard to be borne by those, who were enriched by his association. The perennial question re sounds, why? why does it happen?

Once a seeker asked Gurudev Swami Chinmayanada **“how do you explain when a very good person dies tragically at an inopportune time?”**

Swamiji looked at him thoughtfully and replied with another question - **“inopportune for whom ? ”**

Om Shanthi ! Shanthi ! Shanthi !

சாயி பக்தர்களில், ஒரு சாயி செம்மல்!!



எஸ். என். உதய நாயகம்

தலைவர், பகவான் ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயி பாபா மத்திய நிலையம், கொழும்பு.

ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயி பாபா அறக்கட்டளை- ஸ்ரீ லங்கா

சீரடி சாயி பாபா மத்திய நிலையம்- ஸ்ரீ லங்கா

‘எவன் என்னுடைய திருவடிகளை அடைகின்றானோ, அவனுடைய அத்தனை எண்ணங்களையும் ஈடேற்றுவேன். என்னை எந்த உருவத்தில் பக்தன் பார்க்க விரும்புகிறானோ, அதே உருவத்தில் அவனுக்கு காட்சியளிப்பேன். எவன் என்னை அடைக்கலம் அடைகின்றானோ, அவன் பாரத்தை நான் சுமக்கின்றேன். அவன் தன் உடல், மனம், தனம், செய்கைகளை எனக்கே அர்ப்பணித்து என்னை தியானம் செய்து, தன் துன்பங்களை என்னிடம் ஒப்புவிக்கின்றானோ, சாயி நாமத்தை தினமும் ஜெபிக்கின்றானோ, அவன் பேத, பாவங்களில் இருந்து விடுபட்டு என்னையே அடைகின்றான்.’ என்பது சீரடி சாயியின் உறுதிமொழி. இந்த சத்தியவார்த்தையை இறுதிவரை கடைப்பிடித்த ஒரு மகத்தான சாயி பக்தர் அமரர் ஏ.ஆர். சுரேந்திரன் ஆவார்.

மனிதன் வாழும்வரை தனக்காக மட்டும் வாழாது, பிறருக்காகவும் வாழவேண்டும். முடிந்தவரை அவன் சேவையில் ஈடுபடவேண்டும். உடலால், உள்ளத்தால், பொருளால் மட்டுமல்ல, தன்னால் முடிந்தவளவு இன்னலுற்றோருக்கு சேவை செய்யவேண்டும். அதற்கு அமைவாக, அமரர் சுரேந்திரன் அவர்கள் பிறருக்குச் செய்து வந்த உதவிகளும், சேவைகளும் பலவுண்டு. ஆனால் சத்தமில்லாமல் செய்து வந்ததுதான் அவரது சிறப்பு.

கொழும்பு ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயி மத்திய நிலையத்தினுடாக, 2012 ஆண்டு, பகவானின் 86வது பிறந்தநாளை முன்னிட்டு, அமரர் ஏ.ஆர். சுரேந்திரன் தொகுத்து வழங்கிய, “சத்ய சாயி சகாப்தம்” என்ற நூலொன்று, சாயி மார்க்கத்துக்கு கிடைத்த ஒரு பொக்கிஷமாகும். அவரது படைப்பு, பல அறிஞர்களினதும், சான்றோர்களினதும் வாழ்க்கையில் ஏற்பட்ட அதிசயங்களையும், அதிர்வுகளையும், அனைத்து சாயி பக்தர்களும் அறிந்துகொள்வதற்காக விட்டுச்சென்ற ஒரு சாயியின் அறிவுக்களஞ்சியம். இவர் தனது வாழ்நாள் முழுவதும், ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயியின் போதனைகளை கடைப்பிடித்த ஒரு உத்தமர்.

சட்டத்துறையில் மகா பாண்டித்துவம் பெற்றிருந்தாலும், ஆன்மீகத்துறையில் ஒருபடிமேல் ஈடுபாடுகொண்டவர். அதிலும் சாயி மார்க்கத்தில் தன்னை முழுவதுமாக அர்ப்பணித்துக்கொண்டவர். தனது சட்டத்துறை வேலைகளுக்கு மத்தியில், பல ஆன்மீக ஸ்தாபனங்களில் தலைமைத்துவம் வகித்து, தொண்டாற்றிய ஒரு செம்மல். ஆன்மீகத்தில் ஈடுபடவேண்டும் என்பதற்காக, குடும்ப வாழ்க்கையை உதறிவிட்டு சந்நியாசியாக மாறிவிடவேண்டும் என்ற வழிமுறையை பகவான் ஸ்ரீ சத்ய சாயி பாபா ஊக்குவிப்பதில்லை. இல்லறவாசியாக இருந்துகொண்டே, இறைவனை நாளும் மார்க்கத்தை அவர் வரவேற்றார். அதனையே அமரர் சுரேந்திரன், ஒரு நல்ல குடும்பத்தலைவனாக இருந்துகொண்டு, அமைதியாக ஆன்மீக வாழ்க்கையில் வாழ்ந்துகாட்டினார்.

மனிதப் பிறவியின் இறுதி இலட்சியம், பரமாத்மாவுடன் ஐக்கியப்பேறு பெறுவது தான். மனிதப் பிறவி புதிதாகத் தோன்றும் ஒன்றல்ல. ஏற்கனவே உள்ளதான ஒன்று. பரந்து, விரிந்து பரிணமிப்பதுதான் பிறவி ஆகும். ஒரு பிறவியானது புதுவாழ்வொன்றை ஆரம்பித்து, அது ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட காலத்துக்கு நீடிக்கிறது. அதன் பின் மரணம் அல்லது மறைவை நாடுகிறது. மரணத்தின் பின் மீண்டும் பிறவி எடுப்பதுதான் இயற்கையின் நியதி. ஆனால் இங்கு சாயி பக்தானாகிய இவரது ஆத்மா, சாயி பரமாத்மாவுடன் ஒருமித்து சங்கமித்துள்ளது. சாயி பக்தர்களாகிய நாம், அவரது ஆத்மா பூரண சாந்தியடையப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றோம்.

வரும் பணியாளர்

திரு. A. R. சுரேந்திரன்

❧ ————— ❧

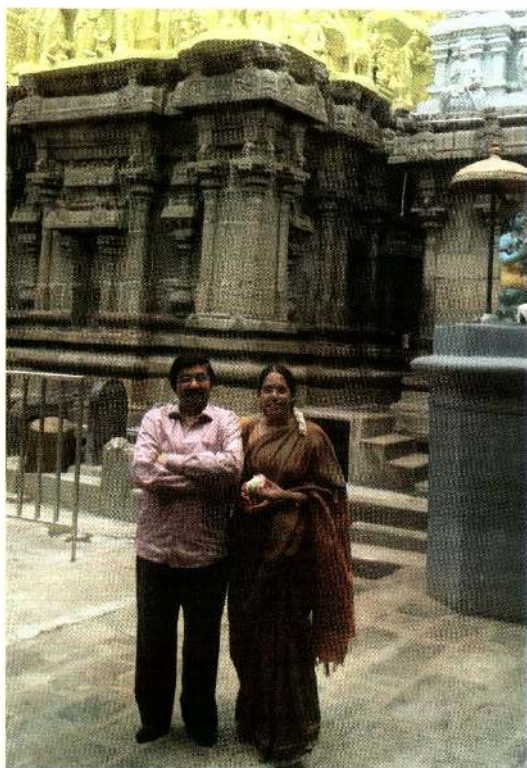
ஏழாலை சீ.கந்தசாம்

முன்னை நாள் பரீட்சைச் செயலாளர் - விவேகானந்த சபை

சமய நெறியில் நிற்கும் மனிதர் அரிது வரும் காலம். இந்நிலையில் சமயத்திற்காகவும், சமூகத்திற்காகவும் பற்றுக் கோட்டுடன் உழைத்து வந்த பெரும் பணியாளர் திரு. A. R. சுரேந்திரன் ஆவார். அன்னார் சமய, சமூகத்திற்காக பொதுவாக உழைத்ததுடன் விவேகானந்த சபை, அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம் போன்ற ஸ்தாபனங்களின் உயர்வுக்காகத் தன் நேரத்தை விருப்பத்தோடு செலவழித்து வந்த ஒரு பெரியார். அன்னாரை இறைவன் காலத்தால் முற்றிப் பழுத்த பழமாக்கித் தன் அடி சேர்த்துக் கொண்டமை மிக்க கவலையைச் சமய சமூகத்திற்கு ஏற்படுத்தியுள்ளது.

இப்படியாக நிகழும் வேதனைக்குரிய நிகழ்வுகளினால் எங்கள் சமய சமூகத்தில் பெரும் மக்கள் அருகிக் கொண்டு வருவதனால் அடுத்தடுத்து அவர்கள் வகித்து வந்த சமூகப் பணிகளை நேராக மேலும் மேலும் உயர்த்தும் நிலைக்கு யார் வருவார்கள் என்பது கேள்விக்குரியதாக உள்ளது. இந்நிலையில் தன்னோடு சேர்த்துக் கொண்ட பெரியாரின் இடத்தை நிரப்பப் பொருத்தமானவரைப் பெருமானே தந்தருள வேண்டுமெனப் பிரார்த்தித்து இப் பேரிழப்புக்கு அவரது குடும்பத்தினருக்கு எனது ஆழ்ந்த துயரத்தைத் தெரிவித்து அவரது ஆத்மா நன்னிலை அடைய வேண்டுமெனப் பிரார்த்தித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

Spiritual Endeavours



Parthasarathi temple (Aug. 2015)



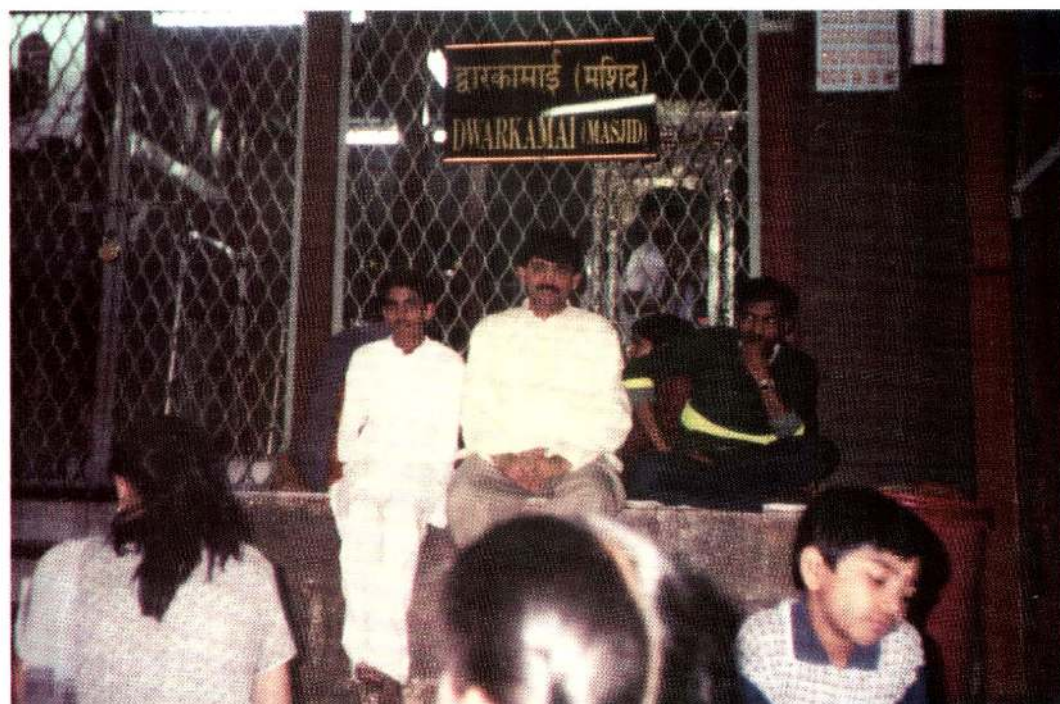
*Sriranga Pattinam-
received Baba's Amirtham (Aug 2015)*



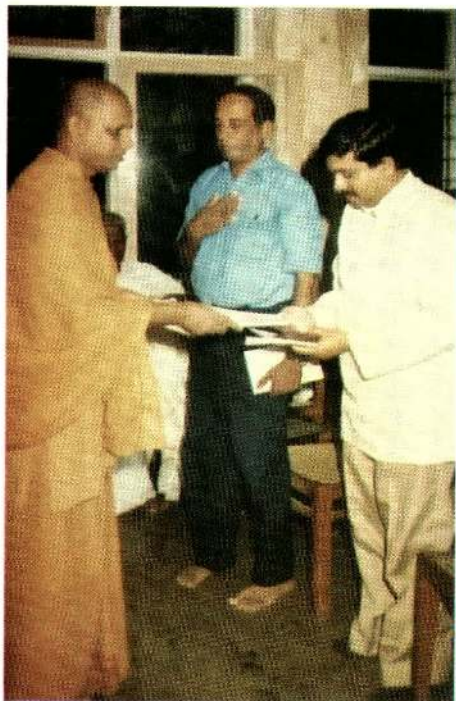
An encounter with Samy who gave Sai Satcharitham at Puttapparathi (1989)



Opening of Sri Aurobindo Centre (Feb. 2000)



At Shirdi Sai Temple - Shirdi (Aug. 2001)



with Swami Atmaghanananda



at Mylapore Shiridi Temple



At Nallur Kandasamy kovil - Jaffna (Aug. 2013)



Homam arranged by Aiyah before Suren's wedding (1984)



Homam arranged by Aiyah for Pavithra's 2nd Birthday (1991)

Oratory Moments...









Face to Face with Bhagavan

**On the occasion of
Bhagavan Sathya Sai Baba's
83rd Birthday Celebration
at Ramakrishna Hall on 23.11.2008**

Sathyam Dharmam Sai

Shanthi Premai Sai

Saranam Saranam Sai

Shashtanga Saranam Sai

My humble Pranams at the Lotus feet of Bhagavan Baba, Mr. Chairman, the members of the Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Distinguished guests and brothers sisters of the Sai Fraternity,

Today when I heard Swamy's mellifluous voice, singing, bajans and chanting slogans. I was able to walk down memory lane, taking me back 40 years ago. In 1967, when my father took me for Dharshan of Swamy it had a lasting impact on my personality and even today when I hear those old Bajan songs like Ayodhyavasi Ram and Patachitha chora my mind travels back to those years, which I must say are the formative years of ones life.

Today we have gathered here to celebrate the 83rd B'day of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, on the 23rd of November 1926, as you all know the formless, the limitless, the attributeless took upon itself the human form for the sake of humanity and the birth that took place in Puttaparthi was able to catch the hearts and souls of great seers and saints. The Great Maha Yorgi Sri Aurobindo, on the 24th of November 1926, proclaimed to the world, Krishna has descended upon earth. Sri Aurobindo, who had been continuing with his tapas to bring down Divine force on planet earth, thereafter declared that day as a Sidhi day. Even today that is observed in the Aurobindo Ashram at Ponchicherry.

It was 1918 that Shiridi Sai, that is Swamy's previous Avatar, declared that I will be back in 8 years as a boy and to fulfill that promise Swamy came and started his Avatharic mission. How Swamy was able to spread his message to all parts of

the country and thereafter to the world at large is part of history and needs no repetition.

I must say that in Swamy's advent we find a unique difference when compared to the Avatars of early years. This kali yuga, has taken and shaken the very roots of humanity. Man knows the price of everything, value of nothing, when there are guided missiles and misguided men, Swamy has chosen to spread His message with a volcanic force. Today when you go to a Sai centre, the vibration that you feel there is not akin to whatever you feel in many other spiritual organizations, because here is a living proof of Divinity, which has touched the hearts and souls of millions of Devotees all over the world, from all walks of life, all Faiths and all with full dedication to Swamy's teachings.

On the 23rd of May 1940 when young Sathya declared that I am Sai Baba and he was asked for proof, he showed by throwing some jasmine flowers which formed the Thelugu saint **Sai Baba**. Thereafter, on the 20th of October 1940, Swamy started the second phase of His avataric mission. He started with a chant Manasa Bajare Guru Charanam, and what he started on that day was only confined to a very few village urchins, but today His Bajan's are being sung all over the world. How did it happen? People who heard about Swamy mainly came to scoff, but those who came to scoff remained to pray, and those who prayed remained to listen to Him, and those who listened started following His path. This gradual step of converting a human beings life style is something unique in Swamy's Avatar. In the recorded history of mankind very few avatars, if any, have done such a tremendous soul stirring, life searching change and brought about a transformation in the human heart.

Swamy says --

"Education is not for living but for a life", Swamy echoes the words of Swamy Vivekananda who at the New York Ethnic Society 100 years ago, declared that (Tell your children) "Religion is not a negative nothing but it is a positive something".

Swamy has put that into practice today. The educational, the Educare the EHV programme and all other service activities, we are doing on in all parts of this country, in all parts of the world, that is the only way you can test whether Swamy's mission has been fulfilled. Of course Swamy doesn't want anything back from us. All what he wants is love, and service towards humanity.

We have seen in the past that, many have advanced, progressed spiritually. Their

extension was on the vertical level, but Swamy, has come and made us expand this love on a horizontal level to our fellow human beings. This is something which really makes the Sai wonder work. Swamy operates in many dimensions. One dimension is cosmic. He can avert natural disasters. There are recorded instances of His averting calamities, so, Swamy acts in a universal level, where Swamy is able to be a universal master preaching the teaching of all religions.

Then you get Swamy acting on the personal level, the individual level. You ask every one, or each member of this audience, they will have something to say, how Swamy's life has touched them, how Swamy has come into their lives and Swamy gives guidance not merely by giving upadesha. There are so many dimensions in which Swamy gives His guidance to his devotees.

I know of one incident where I was following the summer course in 1979 and there was a young boy who had come from a part of India and he was telling us one afternoon, I have come to Swamy to ask His permission to go to Rishikesh and do tapas, We tried to tell him well you have family commitments, all can't go to Rishikesh, life is something that is not felt only in Rishikesh, but he would not listen to us. That evening when Swamy was giving His discourse Swamy tells, almost out of the blue, "some people think that if they go to Rishikesh they can renounce the world", then he says "well, even if you go to Rishikesh, even if you have a spark of your selflove left in you, you will not be able to attain the Nirvisapda samathi which you are seeking". After the discourse was over that boy came to us and said well, Swamy has given me the reply, and I need not go to Rishikesh. In this multivarious ways Swamy sometimes comes in His full manifest form.

Not only in his form, he comes sometimes as Shiridi Sai- I know once when I was studying in a western country my university batch mate was a follower of Islam from a foreign country. He, one night had a dream vision and that morning he told me "yesterday that Swamy, the old Swamy you have kept there in your shrine, walked out of His picture and came and stood by my side and told me "you follow your religion I will always be by your side". He asked me what is the significance of this Swamy coming to me, "I am not a hindu. I am not a follower, but How did it happen"? Then I told him (I remembered) that today is Ramazan day and he had forgotten and in fact when he remembered he immediately went for his prayers and when he came back lo! and behold he had got another scholarship to go for higher studies, a letter had come that morning. This affirms the faith of that young man in his own religion. So, Swamy when he says "There is only one Religion the Religion of love" he means it. Whatever religion you belong to, whatever part of the world you come from, you are not alien to Swamy. "from the time we were in school, we have studied of the omnipotent, omnipresent and

omniscient presence,” why they say God is all powerful. Swamy is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient but in Swamys case, it is manifest in day to day life. When people go to Swamy he only shows certain glimpses of his personality, and it is for them to follow Swamy’s path and to realize the truth in this way.

At this stage I must tell you an interesting incident that took place, when I was their at Swamy’s 65th Birthday, I was going around Puttaparthi looking for Sai Satcharitham, a story of Shiridi Sai Baba written by Hemadpant and I couldn’t get that book. I had walked in and out of many of the bookstalls, (there were not many book stalls at that time) and just two days before Swamy’s Birthday, an old sadhu dressed like Shiridi Sai Baba with a turban, standing outside a tea boutique, with a book in His hand, I looked at that book, it said Sai Satcharitham, I could not believe my eyes. I went near that Swamy and asked Him, whether this book is for sale. I asked Him “how much?” He said the price is printed inside, you can give me that price.

Then I bought the book and took a photograph with him and a few other devotees. We do not know how he came, and he told that he was going to Shiridi the next day. In this way Swamy is somehow inexplicably interwoven with the lives of many devotees. One cannot measure the depth of the ocean like an ant trying to measure the depth of the ocean. But, one can only say, if you understand, one unique facet of Swamys life is the love that transcends all other consideration If you translate that love into service, then you are always there with Swamy and Swamy is always there with you.

I must conclude my brief address with an interesting episode that took place to a devotee. He was praying inside the Prasanthi Mandir seeking Swamy’s interview, when Swamy used to come and sit there for Bajan’s and Dharshana, this devotee used to seek, of course mentally praying for an interview. One night Swamy came in the dream of this devotee and said interview is for athyathmic purposes meaning it is not for any mundane or materialistic purposes. Within a week when he got the interview and he walked into Swamy’s chambers, Swamy turned to him and said “any athyathmic questions?” It is something which one has to experience, because Swamy’s grace is inexplicable. It is difficult to say in a few words, what Swamy means for this world. Today when the whole world is gripped in a vortex of cruelty, hatred and jealousy we have only the light of hope that is Swamy. Today, where Swamy walks is Hallowed ground, where Swamy sits is a shrine and it is up to us devotees to make it a reality for years to come, so that Swamy’s avatharic mission will expand and expand and encompass the whole of Humanity.

Swamy says:

*Sathya is my Prachar
Dharma is my Archar
Shanthi is my Swabha
Prema is my Swaroopa*

You follow one of these and you are mine and I am yours. With those words of Swamy let me conclude this brief, sharing of thoughts which I am so grateful for the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi for giving me this opportunity on this most auspicious and holy day.



Garlanding Sir Pon. Ramanthan's statue

On the occasion of Sir Ramanathan's Memorial at Old Parliament

Political career

Ramanathan was nominated as an unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Ceylon from 1879 to 1892 representing the Tamil-speaking people. He positioned himself as a representative of all communities in the island. Around 1890, Ramanathan had several conferences with the American Theosophist Col. Henry Steel Olcott about the feasibility of founding a Hindu-Buddhist College for the benefit of the Sinhalese Buddhists and Tamil Hindus.⁽¹⁾ He was then appointed by the Governor of Ceylon as Solicitor-General in 1892 and functioned as such until 1906, and acted as Attorney-General on several occasions during this period.

Ramanathan was steeped in Hindu and Christian mysticism, and became active in the revival of Buddhism in Ceylon. He was closely associated with Col. Henry Olcott, the co-founder of the Theosophical Society, in promoting Buddhist education in schools. He was also responsible for the Government declaring Vesak a public holiday.

Ramanathan was nominated by the Government (along with JWC de Soysa) to represent Ceylon as a delegate to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria IN 1897 at London. He was described by Lord Salisbury as the most accomplished speaker in the British Empire and Queen Victoria awarded him a gold medal on the occasion.

Ramanathan was elected representing the educated Ceylonese to the Legislative Council of Ceylon by a sweeping majority in 1911.⁽²⁾ it was an historic event, as he was the very first candidate to be elected to the Legislature of the country by an all-Ceylon electorate, prior to the introduction of universal franchise in 1931. He was re-elected to this seat in the Legislative Council in 1916 and held it until 1921.

He was the founder of Uduvil Ramanathan Girls College and Parameshwara College of Jaffna which later became the University of Jaffna.⁽³⁾

Riots of 1915

During the widespread and prolonged Sinhalese-Muslim Riots of 1915 (from May 28-June 5, 1915) the British Governor came down with a heavy hand on the Sinhalese community. The Governor declared Martial Law (June 2-August 30, 1915)⁽⁴⁾ and ordered the Police and the Army to arrest and imprison several prominent Sinhalese leaders. Among those imprisoned were D.S. Senanayake, D.R. Wijewardena, Dr. Cassius Pereira, E.T. De Silva, F.R. Dias Bandaranaike, H. Amarasuriya, A.H. Molamure and several others. It was reported that other leaders were shot without trial. On the request of Anagarika Dharmapala, Ramanathan came to the rescue of the Sinhalese community.

He and Sir James Peiris led the campaign for a Royal Commission of Inquiry (for the vindication of the reputations of those who had been falsely accused). He travelled to England under great threat to his own life (as World War I was on) and argued the case of the imprisoned Sinhalese. So articulate were his arguments that he succeeded in having the governor transferred and the head of Military recalled from Ceylon. He eventually managed to get all the leaders released from prison. When he came back to Ceylon victoriously, there were thousands to welcome him. Sir John Kotalawala and A.C. Seneviratne, a prominent businessman, said that the Sinhalese owe Sir Ponnambalam a debt that could never be repaid. They insisted that his horse carriage be drawn by Sinhalese. Sir Ponnambalam was driven through the streets of Colombo to his residence at Ward Place and some of the top families, of Sinhalese aristocracy, had no qualms about drawing his carriage through the streets of Colombo virtually carrying him on their backs. Sinhala leaders took turns to pull the carriage.

D.S. Senanayake, the first Sri Lankan prime minister, called Ramanathan 'the greatest Ceylonese of all times', while Sir Baron Jayatilaka, the Head of the Cabinet in the State Council, referred to him as 'the greatest man Ceylon has produced during the past 50 years.'⁽⁵⁾

Family

Ponnambalam Ramanathan married Miss Sellachchi Ammal, daughter of Mudliyar E.Nannithamby of Manipay. Later, when his first wife died, he was remarried to Leelawathy Ramanathan, nee R.L. Harrison in 1906.⁽⁶⁾ He was considered a very stubborn man of western ideals, and this identity was changed by Mr. Ilakanam Ramaswami Pillai, the Tamil teacher for the Tanjavur Raja, whom he considered his guru. After his meeting with Mr. Ramaswami Pillai he gave up liquor, smoking and became a vegetarian. He became a Spiritual man and wrote great books on Hinduism, some translated by his wife Mrs. Leelawathy Ramanathan). In return for Mr. Ramaswami Pillai's help, he decided to take his great grand son Mr. S Nateson

to Ceylon, and gave him a job as a teacher in Parameswara College, Jaffna which was founded by him. (Mr. S. Natesan was a Lawyer by profession, but followed Mr. Ponnambalam Ramanathan to become a political leader in Ceylon). He also got his only daughter (Through Leelawathy Ramanathan) Sivagamisundhari married to him. His direct descendants end with Sivagamisundhari. Because Mr. S. Natesan and Sivagamisundhari did not have any children, they adopted Mr. S. Natesan's niece Devi (Padmini).

Through the Theosophical Society Ponnambalam Ramanathan had met Florence Farr, who was greatly impressed by his plans for the education of young women in his native country, and she committed herself to helping him when he was ready.

In 1912, Farr learned that Ramanathan had established his Uduvil Ramanathan Girls College, and at the age of fifty-two, she sold all her possessions and moved to Ceylon, returning to her first vocation, that of a teacher. Farr was appointed Lady Principal by Ramanathan and the administration of the school was turned over to her. Certainly the organizational skills she learned as the Praemonstratrix of the Golden Dawn served Farr in her new position, and due to her tolerance and respect for the Tamil traditions, the school thrived under her administration.

Then in 1916, a lump in her breast was diagnosed as cancer, and she underwent a mastectomy. But the cancer had spread, and Florence Farr died a few months later at the age of 56 in a hospital in Colombo, in April 1917. In accordance with her wishes, her body was cremated and the ashes scattered by Ramanathan in the sacred Kalyaani River. ⁽⁷⁾

Current Chief Minister of Northern Province, Sri Lanka, C.V. Vigneswaran's grandfather was a cousin of P. Ramanathan and P. Arunachalam. ⁽⁸⁾

Selected writings

Ramanathan availed himself of this period of service as a senior Law Officer of the Crown to introspect and produce very illuminating writings on Christian and Hindu spiritual themes.

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1. An Eastern Exposition of the Gospel of Jesus According to St. Matthes (1898)
 2. An Eastern Exposition of the Gospel of Jesus According to St. John (1902)
 3. The Culture of the Soul Among Western Nationals (1907)
 4. The Spirit of the East Contrasted with the Spirit of the West (1905)
 5. On Faith or Love of God (1897)
 6. Tamil translation of Bhagavat Gheetha (1914)
 7. Tirukkural (1919)
 8. Shri Ramanatha Dharmasastra (lesson)

**on the occasion of Swamy Vivekananda's
147nd Birth Anniversary
at Vivekananda Society, Colombo
on 12.01.2012**

More than anything else, it was human misery that shook him to depth, the misery of India's mute masses. But what could he do to alleviate the burden crushing India's millions? Social indifference was supreme in the land. And, inevitably, his thoughts began to burn to the West, to the dawning civilization that had been largely responsible for awakening all those thoughts in him.

His thundering success in Chicago electrified the entire western world and brought India, so to speak, into the consciousness of most thoughtful westerners-no longer the India of the Theosophists, nor the cold, unrepresentative India of the Brahma samaj, but living, dynamic India that was at last awakening. In the words of the New York Herald, Vivekananda was "Undoubtedly the greatest figure in the parliament of religions. After hearing him we feel how foolish it is to send missionaries to his learned nation."

The news of Vivekananda's triumph in Europe and America electrified India. His great success was taken in India as a national triumph, his landing in Colombo in January, 1897, might have resembled the landing of Gautama Buddha himself, such was the size of the shouting multitudes, the singing of religious hymns, the immense processions that greeted him. At last, an Indian had shaken the West and had been able to convey to the Westerners the idea that it had something to offer that the West did not possess.

In famous message to India, he sounded the call of awakening, in which he summed up his world-view with great forcefulness: "Each nation, like each individual, has one theme in this life, which is its centre, the principal note around which every other note comes to form the harmony... if any one nation attempts to throw off its national vitality, the direction which has become its own through the transmission of centuries, that nation dies ...

What was enduring in his work, what still endures to this day, is the concrete materialization of his devotion to service: the Ramakrishna Mission, which was founded in 1897 to spread the Master's gospel and to serve in almost all branches of human endeavor except the political; it was divided into an Indian branch with its monasteries (matha) and convents for retreats (ashram), and foreign missions established abroad. To public service was added teaching the Vedanta doctrine.

Thoroughly impressed and silenced, his critics went to work: relief centres for famines, orphanages, training centres, clinics, educational institutions sprouted all over India, caring for all regardless of caste. The most remarkable aspect of Vivekananda's fantastic activity was his ability to attract flocks of western disciples who went to work in India with the greatest self-abnegation.

His influence persisted long after his death and inevitably overflowed into politics. The greatest leaders of the early twentieth century, whatever their walk of life – Rabindranath Tagore, the prince of Poets, Aurobindo Ghosh, the greatest mystic-philosopher; Mahatma Gandhi, who eventually shook the Anglo – Indian Empire to destruction – all acknowledged their overriding debt to both the Swan and the Eagle, to Ramakrishna who stirred the heart of India, and to Vivekananda who awakened its soul.

He preached a virile creed

“The most vivid of the followers (of Ramakrishna) was a proud young Kshatriya, Narendranath Dutta, Who full of Spencer and Darwin, first presented himself to Ramakrishna as an atheist unhappy in his atheism, but scornful of the myths and superstitions with which he identified religion. Conquered by Ramakrishna's patient kindness, “Naren” became the young master's most ardent disciple; he redefined God as “the totality of all souls”, and called upon his fellowmen to practice religion not through vain asceticism and meditation, but through absolute devotion to men. “Leave to the next life the reading of the Vedanta, and the practice of meditation. Let this body which is here be put at the service of others! The highest truth is this: God is present in all beings. They are His multiple forms. There is no other God to seek. He alone serves God who serves all other beings!”.

He received a good English education, taking his degree from a mission college in Calcutta, and distinguishing himself in philosophy. As a student, he came a good deal under the influence of the Brahma Samaj. He had a fine voice, and wherever he went was in great request for the singing of Bengali hymns. After taking his

degree, he began the study of law; but, early in 1882, an Uncle took him to see Ramakrishna; and the moment became the turning point in his life.

From the first Ramakrishna singled him out as one destined to do great things for God, and gave him a great deal of attention. On his master's death he became a sannyasin, and then spent some six years in retirement in the Himalayas, doubtless studying and thinking about many things. In 1892 he emerged from his retirement, and toured all down the western coast of India, going as far south as Trivendrum (Kanyakumari) when he returned north again and went to Madras. Preparations were being made at that time for holding the Parliament of Religions in Chicago. Some friends in Madras proposed that Vivekananda should be sent to the Parliament to represent Hinduism. Funds were collected, and he travelled to America by way of Japan, the gathering was held in September, 1893; and Vivekananda made a great impression, partly by his eloquence, partly by his striking figure and picturesque dress; but mainly by his new, unheard-of presentation of Hinduism. The following quotations from American papers show how far those who were most deeply influenced by the Swami went.

"He is an orator by divine right, and his strong, intelligent face in its picturesque setting of yellow and orange was hardly less interesting than those earnest words, and the rich, rhythmical utterance he gave them."
"Vivekananda is undoubtedly the greatest figure in the parliament of religions. After hearing him we feel how foolish it is to send missionaries to his learned nation."

He stayed some time in America, lecturing and founding Vedanta societies in several places.

His mission was spiritual

Vivekananda was profoundly moved by the realization of India's poverty and the state of her oppression under the British colonial rule. And he proposed a revolution. The spirit of this revolution enormously influenced Gandhi and influences Indian political to this day. Vivekananda in this sense is a great figure in Indian history, one of the very greatest historical figures that India has ever produced. But it must always be noted that Vivekananda's revolution, Vivekananda's nationalism, were no like the kind of revolution, the kind of nationalism, which we associate with other great leaders, admirable and noble as they may be. Vivekananda was far greater than that. In fact, when one sees the full range of his mind, one is astounded. Vivekananda looked towards the west, not simply as a mass of tyrants exploiting

various parts of Asia, and other undeveloped areas, but as future partners, people who had very, very much to offer, at the same time, without any false humility, he faced the west and said, "we have fully as much and more to offer you. We offer you this great figure such as Ramakrishna. You can offer us medical services, trains-that run on time, hygiene, irrigation, electric light. These are very important, we want them, and we admire some of your qualities immensely."

You all know the story that Vivekananda was so fond of, about the lion that was brought up with a lot of sheep. Now another lion comes out of the forest and the sheep all run away, and the little lion that had been brought up thinks it's a sheep and runs away too, and how the pursuing lion grabs it, takes it over to a pool of water and says, "Look at yourself, you're a lion". This is what Vivekananda was doing to the Indian people.

He saw far, far into the future; his political prophecies are extremely interesting, and he said repeatedly, that the great force, which would finally have to be reckoned with was china. He also remarked on visiting Europe for the last time in 1900 that he smelled war everywhere, which was more than most professional statesman did, at that time.

He was not only an appeal to the poor and lowly but also to kings and princes and mighty rulers of the ear, to grand masters of learning, of finances, of arts and of science, to leaders of thought and of creeds, to mighty intellects, philosophers and poets. Vivekananda shook the world of thought in all its higher lines. Great teachers bowed reverently at his feet, the humble followed reverently to kiss the hem of his garments; no other single human being was revered more during his life than Vivekananda.

This monk was of commanding presence and vast learning speaking English like a Webster. The American protestants, who vastly outnumbered all others, imagined that they would have an easy task, and commenced proceedings with the greatest confidence, and with the air of "Just see me wipe you out. "However, what they had to say was the old commonplace twaddle that had been mouthed over and over again in every little hamlet from Nova Scotia to California. It interested no one, and no one noticed it.

When, however, Vivekananda spoke, they saw that they had a Napoleon to deal with. His first speech was no less than a revelation. Every word was eagerly taken down by the reporters, and telegraphed all over the country, when it appeared in thousands of papers. Vivekananda became the lion of the day. He soon had

an immense following. No hall could hold the people who flocked to hear him lecture. They had been sending silly girls and half educated simpletons of men, and millions of dollars, to Asia for years to convert the poor benighted heathen and save his alleged soul; and here was a specimen of the unsaved who knew more of philosophy and religion than all the persons and missionaries in the whole country. Religion was presented in an agreeable light for the first time to them. There was more in it than they had ever dreamed; argument was impossible. He played with the persons as a calf plays with a mouse. They were in a state of consternation. What could they do? What did they do? What they always do – they denounced him as an agent of the devil. But the deed was done; he had sown the seed, and the Americans commenced to think. They said to themselves: "Shall we waste our money in sending missionaries who know nothing of religion, as compared with this man, to touch such men as he? No!" And the missionary income fell off more than a million dollars a year in consequence.

When this quite unknown young man of thirty appeared in Chicago at the inaugural meeting of the parliament of Religions, opened in September 1893, by cardinal Gibbons, all his fellow-members were forgotten in his commanding presence. His strength and beauty, the grace and dignity of his bearing, the dark light of his eyes, his imposing appearance, and from the moment he began to speak, the splendid music of his rich deep voice enthralled the vast audience of American Anglo-Saxons, previously prejudiced against him on account of his colour. The thought of this warrior prophet of India left a deep mark upon the United states.

But the flame of that pyre is still alight today, from his ashes, like those of the phoenix of old, has sprung anew his conscience of India the magic bird-faith in her unity and in the Great Message, brooded over from Vedic times by the dreaming spirit of his ancient race – the message for which it must render account to the rest of mankind.

India's spiritual ambassador to the west

I owe so much gratitude to India and indirectly to India's spiritual Ambassador to the West, Swami Vivekananda. I have never met him but I have been grateful to him.

There is indeed a need for a broader outlook on religion and for a wider recognition of the fact that all the great world faiths rest on the same, or on very similar, basic truths. All that really differs is the mode of expression of these truths. I am an enthusiastic advocate of a close collaboration between the great world faiths. I do

feel that the time has come for us all to think in terms of world unity. The speed of modern travel and intercommunication has converted the world into a single whole. Yet we still continue to think of it in old terms of East and West.

A bright pearl of the Orient sea
Brother swami Vivekananda,
Bright pearl of the orient sea,
Came here with his soul all illumined
By Light, Love, and Liberty.
He came here with greetings fraternal
From the mystical East to our West;
And from those wise Vedas inspired
He taught us the purest and best

He brought us a message most gracious
From the long past ages of time;
He came as the Priest and the Prophet
Enthused with a faith all sublime.

Right soon to our hearts he found entrance,
So lovable, so gentle was he, -
And as teacher or friend was so winning,
None could other than love be.

He proclaimed ancient truths with wisdom,
And his eloquence quickly did win
Many earnest and faithful disputes,
Whom he taught of their God-powers within

God bless our dear brother swami,
May his path grow ever more bright;
And when his earthly journey is finished
He be clothed in God's garments of light.

- DR. JOHN C. WYMAN
Brooklyn, New York
23rd June, 1899

He preached a universal religion.

Swami Vivekananda was a bridge between the East and the West. He was a great and illustrious son of India, but he was as well-known in the West as he was known in India. He realized that there was much that the East could take from the West, and much that the West could take from the East. He appreciated the material and scientific progress the west had made, he realized the sense of equality which was there in the West, he also admired the democratic institutions of the West, but so far as his own country and the East was concerned, he knew we followed the things of spirit. He felt that both parts of the world had much to contribute to each other, and that contribution would lead in the long run to bringing about a world which would work for peace and happiness.

The Spiritual path – finder

Men who lead their fellow beings in any sphere of life are rare and those that lead the leaders are rarer still. These super guides come not very often upon this earth to uplift the sinking section of Humanity. Swami Vivekananda was one of these supper souls. Well, may the land of Bharat feel ennobled by the memory of such great one having sprung on its soil to serve humanity at large, to be the spiritual path-finder of many a suffering soul, and to shine in the spiritual firmament with the luster of the glory of vedic civilization enlightening the world. It was he who could set the septic mind of the West at rest in the spiritual era Ambassadors of spiritual mission had risen before him in the east, but none could speak to the west as he did with that voice of conviction, keeping audience spell bound and enthralled. The worthy disciple of the worthy master rose to the pinnacle of spiritual eminence, preaching the gospel of the innate oneness of the human race, and preaching universal love and the affinity of all human souls.

VIVEKA SUTRAS

Inspiring Aphorisms of Vivekananda

Arise! Awake! and stop not still the goal is reached
Bless men when they revile you
Conquer yourself and the whole universe is yours
Do not merely endure, but be unattached
Eat to him, drink to Him, sleep to Him, Seed Him in all
First get rid of the delusion, I am the body'
Give everything, and look for no return

Homogeneity, sameness is God
Incarnations like Jesus, Buddha, Ramakrishna, can give religion
Gnana yoga tells man that he is essentially divine
Knowledge exists, man only discovers it,
Look at the Ocean, and not at the wave
Man as the Atman is really free, as man he is bound
Never turn back to see the result of what you have done
Out of purity and silence comes the word of power
Perception is our only real knowledge or religion
Quarrels in religion are always over the husks
Religion without philosophy runs into superstition
See no difference between man and angel
The more our bliss is within, the more spiritual we are
Unchaste imagination is as bad as unchaste action
Vedas cannot show you Brahman, you are that already
We are human coverings over the Divine
Xian you will be when you see Christ. Look only for realization
You are good, but be better
Zeal with faith (Shraddha): Have this, and everything else is bound to follow.

Be Aryan conspiracy

1866 Apr. 10 : A secret meeting was held in the Royal Asiatic Society, London, when a conspiracy was hatched to induct the theory of Aryan invasion of India, so that no Indian may say that the English are foreigners. "India was ruled all along by outsiders and so the country must remain a slave under the Christian benign rule." (The British wanted to justify their rule in India. To that end they tried to show all people here as outsiders)

A clever clergyman Edward Thomas spelled the theory with lord strangford in the chair. Slowly and slowly it was suggested that the so-called aborigines, Dravidians, Aryans, Hunas, Sakas, Rajaputas and the Muslims came at different epochs and ruled the country. Thus it was suggested that the country had been ruled by the foreign invaders and so there is nothing wrong if the Britishers are ruling the country. And, therefore, Indians had no right to demand independence." (Dr. D.S. Triveda, professor, Prakrit Research Institute, Vaisali, Bihar).

Swami Vivekananda was the first to challenge the theory of Aryan invasion of India. He said : "That is all nonsense."

"In what veda, in what sukta, do you find that the Aryans came into India from a foreign country? Where do you get the idea that they slaughtered the wild aborigines? What do you gain by talking such nonsense? Vain has been your study of the Rmayana; why manufacture a big fine story out of it?."

"Well, what is he Ramayana? The conquest of the savage aborigines of southern India by the Aryans! Indeed! Ramachandra is a civilized Aryan king, and with whom is he fighting? With kind Ravana of Lanka. Just read the Ramayana, and you will find that Ravana was rather more and not less civilized than Ramachandra. The civilization of Lanka was rather higher and surely not lower, than that of Ayodhya."

"And then, when were these Vanaras (monkeys) and other southern Indian conquered? They were all, on other hand Ramachandra's friends and allies. Say which kingdom of Vali and Guhaka were annexed by Ramachandra?"

"And may I ask you, Europeans, what country you have ever raised to better conditions? Wherever you have found weaker races, you have exterminated them by the roots, at it were. You have settled on their lands and they are gone for ever. What is the history of your America, your Australia, and New Zealand, your Pacific islands and South Africa? Where are those aboriginal races today? There are all exterminated, you have killed them outright, as if they were wild beasts. It is only where you have not the power to do so, and there only, that other nations are still alive."

"The object of the people of Europe is to exterminate all in order to live themselves. The aim of the Aryans is to raise all up to their own level, may, even to a higher level than themselves. The means of European civilization is the sword; of the Aryans, the division into different Varnas. This system of division into different Varnas is the stepping stone to civilization, making one rise higher in proportion to one's learning and culture. In Europe, it is everywhere victory to the strong, and death to the weak. In the land of Bharatha, every social rule is for the protection of the weak."

**on the occasion of Swamy Vivekananda's
152nd Birth Anniversary
at Vivekananda Society, Colombo
on 02.02.2015**

Mrs. Isha Srivatsava, Secretary of the Indian High Commission, Revered Swamiji (Shri Rishi Thondunadhan), Mr. Neelakandan President of the All Ceylon Hindu Congress. Mr. Ramiah Principal of the Vivekananda College and all the distinguished guests including our former President, President's Counsel Mr. Sivarasa, our former Joint Secretary who worked very hard to make the exam an Island wide success & Mr. Kandasamy.

I take this opportunity to extend my warm welcome to all of you, May I tell you we all know that the Vivekananda Society, is the only Society that was formed in the name of Swamy Vivekananda within ten days of His Maha Samathi – we have tread 112 years, we have celebrated Swamy's Birth anniversary year after year. What is the magic? What is the reason? What is it so special about Swamy Vivekananda! after all we all know, Mother Bharath (From which Srimadhi Srivatsava is one of the proudest products) has had many number of Divine personalities and avatars like Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Lord Buddha, Adi Shankara, Ramanuja Bagdhachariya, Thirugnanasambanthar, Thirunavukarasar, Gnaneshwar, Yugdheswar, Eknath, Thurkaram, a line unbroken upto Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sri Aurobindo, Sri Ramana Maharishi, Sri Shiridi Sai Baba & Sri Sathya Sai Baba. But there is to this long line, this long chain of unbroken saints, Swamy Vivekananda with a quality of difference, with the difference in his quality of his approach.

He did not confine himself to any Ashram or any Hermitage, he did not spring a cocoon of rituals of Religions Practices around him. He ventured over to the people, he went in search of masses, he was the Swamy for the vast. He wanted to wipe every tear that was shed by every countryman in Mother Bharath. He ventured out to the world, he walked the length and breadth of India for 3 long years from Varanasi to Kanyakumari. He was in that period where the people were hungry for foods, the people were clamouring for clothes and felt that all should have a comfortable life, that was the difference that Swamy Vivekananda made.

Even when he went to the west he did not study philosophy or religion, he went to their faculty, he visited all the industries, he visited the hospitals and he asked thousand questions. One lady who was there in one of the hospitals in Chicago says he asked thousand questions as to how technology had made the west more advanced, and he wanted to give it to the people in India, that is the difference.

He told the west, don't give us loaves and loaves of bread teach us the way to make the bread, then we will look after ourselves. We do not want any religion from there, we only want the technology. He made it very clear.

In fact his message inspired a number of leaders both in India and other parts of the world. Even recently you would have watched in the T.V. when President Barak Obama visited India, in his speech he quoted Mahatma Gandhi and Swamy Vivekananda, as the most impressive personalities who have had an indelible impression in his life.

Mahathma Gandhi says, after reading Swamy Vivekananda's works, my love for India has grown thousand times, has grown thousand folds. Sri Aurobindo says Swamy Vivekananda was a lion among men. Now, these words are very potent words. Bharath Netha, Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, one after the other, for all of them Vivekananda was a standing inspiration.

In addition to that, even when he went to the west he met the best of scientists, he met the best of philosophers, he met Prof. Maxmuller, he met Ralf Immerson and he also met that incorrigible atheist and atrocite and was able to convince him. Here, I can tell you an interesting story, when he met George Rock Miller, the richest man in the world, met Swamy Vivekananda he gave a signed blank cheque and asked him to take whatever he wanted. Swamy gave it back to Rock Miller and said do charity in the name of a foundation. Today it is one of the most charitable organizations in the U.S.A. (The Rock Miller Foundation)

In that way he has inspired many a men also in Sri Lanka. When he came to Sri Lanka, he was staying just at a place 10 minutes walk from this place. I have got a nice photograph of Swamiji addressing in Colombo, which I brought to present to Mrs. Srivatsava after the proceedings are over. This shows Swamiji's visit in Colombo. He went to Kandy, He went to Anuradhapura and he went to Jaffna where he was accosted with a rousing welcome. There were thousands and thousands of people, festoons and festivities all along. They were all welcoming Swamy Vivekananda and ultimately when he reached Jaffna Hindu College the pinnacle of Education, you could see people waiting there till 10.00 O'clock in the

night. Swamy YogaSwamygal said that he was like a lion cub, he said Swamy was walking to and from the stage like a lion cub and spoke to the audience. And this is the inspiration that made us and our forefathers to start this Society.

The Society which started 12 years back had very distinguished personalities. Mahathma Gandhi was present at this same place addressing an audience and the members of the Vivekananda Society in 1927. Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Srimathi Vijeyalakshmi Pandit (President of the UNO at that time) and also Rajaji the first Governor of India, all of them have come and addressed a large gathering, in this Society. So this organization has a long and cherished relationship with Mother Bharat and we venture to foster this relationship for years to come and the presence of Shrimathi Srivatsava here, who is in charge of the cultural affairs, and information will definitely pave the way for our mutual relationship.

Before concluding I must say that it is very easy, perhaps as Swamy (Shri Rishi Thondunathan) has aptly put it; It is very easy for us to stand up here and speak in lofty terms about Swamy Vivekananda and his ideals but, what is required is a modicum of practice of a minuscule portion of whatever that has been said. If it is practiced then we would have upheld the ideals of Swamy Vivekananda.

May I, on behalf of the Society, thank our guest of Honour Srimathi Srivatsava, Mr. Kandiah Neelakandan and respected Swamiji (Sri Rishi Thondunathan) who gave his blessings and Mr. Ramiah Principal of Vivekananda College, and say that I implore you, I call upon the youngsters to participate more and more in the activities of the Society, so that we can carry forward the ideals of Swamy Vivekananda.

Thank you.



Acknowledgements



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*"There is only one Religion – the Religion of Love;
There is only one caste – the caste of Humanity;
There is only one Language – the Language of the Heart;
There is only one God – He is Omnipresent"*

- Sathya Sai Baba



"The purpose of Spiritual Education or Brahma Vidya is to enable man to have a Vision of the Divine in Society. When man combines this Vision with Tapas, he merges with God. The Vision of Divinity and merging with Divinity, are like two poles; one positive the other negative. The positive and negative will join together and take you to a position where you will become Divine"

- Sathya Sai Baba