

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

ஒதிய வண்ணம் கலையின் உயர்களை
அகிலம் வேதமே யாமென்று அறிகிறீர்,
சாதியும் பேதமும் தத்துவம் ஆய்விற்பள்
அதி என்று ஒதினர் ஆயின் கிழுத்தியே.

People know not that of all the books that they read the Vedam is the highest, the eternal book. That it is the original source (of all books) was declared by Her, the Soul of souls, who is both the similarity and the differences, and the truth at the same time.



Hindu Organ

Friday, 13th January, 1978.

NOT ABOVE SUSPICION!

Bats among birds—that is the position of suspicion among words. Bacon had good reason to arrive at that conclusion.

What is now wrecking the prospects of harmony among communities, races and countries is that there runs across all conferences, dialogues, consultations and talks an unseen thread of suspicion that has enough energy to prevent final outcome by itself snapping.

Something is wrong or somebody is guilty; otherwise how can bold bids to bring about rapprochement such as has been attempted in the Middle East tend to be fruitless.

Big Powers frequently meet to discuss the prospects of banning the manufacture of nuclear weapons all the time themselves producing dangerous bombs, missiles and what not. These efforts begin under suspicious circumstances; the negotiators themselves viewing the matter with a suspicious glance.

The world is today in the worst position of cracking, politically and socially—Why? Religious practice has been ignored. If leaders are really religious can there be any loose talk, or even tall talk? Will they have something up their sleeves while being engaged in free and frank discussions of moves for the solving of outstanding problems?

Here again we have to look for guidance in the high moral practice that held Mahatma Gandhi above suspicion. Truthfulness cannot entertain suspicion. Hence the need for genuineness of feelings when negotiations are promoted to achieve harmony.

HOMAGE TO S. HANDY - PERINBANAYAGAM

It was at Jaffna Hindu, white venomous serpent that I met Mahatma Gandhi half a century ago. I was then a boy in my teens. Darshan of the Mahatma left a deep imprint in the minds of many of us. His language was simple and his message went straight to our hearts. A few years after, in 1950 I believe, Harindra Nath Chatterjee came and talked in a language that was new to us. He recited his own poem ending with the line, "We will make the

The prime mover behind all these epoch-making events was a man called Handy - Perinbanayagam. He like many Digitized by Google

ary happenings in the sub-continent — renaissance India. It was therefore a delight beyond words when I beheld the man who brought Gandhi to our shores, in the class-rooms at Jaffna College. I had gone there for my Inter-Arts; and he taught us Latin. His digressions in Roman History and his eloquent exposition of the charms of Virgil and the wit of Horace and the oratory of Cicero were soul-stirring. Occasionally he took our English and kept us spell bound. Outside the class-room he met us informally and sitting round a ping-pong table he talked for hours on end on every conceivable subject under the sun—Karl Marx and Kalidasa, Shaw and Shakespeare, Sex and Freud, Bible and Dhammapada. The choicest books in the small library in his living room at our hostel included the Tamil Classics like Silappadikaram and the Thirumurais of the Saiva Saints.

What was the essence of the personality that Handy was in the school and the community? He was indeed a phenomenon, nay a climate that pervaded not merely Vaddukkoddai but the entire environs of Jaffna. His nationalism and the high sense of patriotism attracted the attention of the whole country. A profound scholar, a dedicated teacher, a thinker with a passionate quest for Truth, a soaring idealist who thought in terms of large causes which carried him often too high above the 'crowd'. But to us nurtured in Jaffna Hindu's veneration for India and her leaders, and inspired by the intellectual revolt against foreign rule, the climate at Vaddukkoddai, with Handy and his Mentor Rev Bicknell at the centre was particularly congenial.

His journey from Vaddukkoddai via, Law and Politics to Kokuvil Hindu College as its Principal is a story studded with controversy and soiled with sour episodes at the hustings. No doubt the man with strong convictions, on national issues and not fully free from intellectual egoism was embittered not a little by the reactions of his community to the uncompromising stand he took on National Unity. However, Handy had flowered into a social force; and had won country-wide esteem.

When he returned to teaching—his first love, the

A GRAND FESTIVAL OF ARTS

At the Jaffna Campus

A Grand Festival of "Hindu Culture — A Historical Perspective" in which four members of the Academic Staff participated. Messrs. P. Gopalakrishnan and S. Krishnarajah; Mrs. G. Kularatnam and Mr. N. Subramaniam spoke respectively on "Religious Consciousness, Philosophical Traditions, Cultural Development and Social Life." There was a lively discussion following this Seminar which was Chairman by Prof. K. Kailas Nath Kurukkal.

Early in the morning there was a Tree Planting Ceremony in which Professors W. L. Jayasingam and V. K. Ganeshalingam; Messrs. R. Arasaratnam and K. Kanagaraja participated.

The morning sessions started with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by Prof. S. Selvanayagam. In his introductory remarks, he congratulated the members of the Union for organizing this Festival of Arts and said that it was happy augury for the future. The President Mr. S. Packiyanathan and Secretary Mr. S. Sivalingaraja of the Union welcomed everyone present there. Prof. K. Indrapala in his brief address referred to the unique toleration in Hinduism and said that the past should serve as a guide to the future which has to be rooted in or inspired by the past.

The main programme in the morning sessions consisted of a seminar on

began to brighten once again. A Trade Unionist that relentlessly fought for the underdog, an effective Exponent of National Education, and Swabasha, a Fighter against state-monopoly in education and for the freedom of the Teacher, his name will go down in the annals of this country, as one of the greatest Patriots, noble and sincere in his ideals, as a Maker of men who will pass on to posterity the abiding impact of his personality.

To add a personal note: Teacher, Mentor, Friend, he was all these and more to me; but it gave me joy infinite when at our last meeting in his home at Manipay, he told me that he found Solace and Peace in the contemplation of Lord Nataraja!

Om Shanthi! Shanthi!
Shanthi!

N. Sabaratnam

— V. S.

வாஸ்தவ முடிவு சூதா மதுவாக்ராமமாக
கால்மூற ஏர சூதா கோவை ஸுதா மது
புதுமூற மது கால்மூற கால்மூற மது
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