

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

மாயை மகைந்த மகைப்பொருள்
மாயை மகைய வெளிப்படும் அப்பொருள்
மாயை மகைய மகையவால் வர்க்கட்டுக்
காயமும் இல்லை கருத்தில்லை தானே.

To the bewildered soul hidden by Maya, God becomes manifest when Maya disappears. To those who are able to take shelter (in God) on the disappearance of Maya, there is no (birth in the body, neither is there even (the slightest) thought (of such birth).



Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

Still They Smoke!

RELIGION rigorously prohibits it, yet drink they do! Medical men condemn it as a menace to health, still they smoke!

Norway near the icy cold Northern Polar region does not reed the poisonous 'smoke' even, as what is generally thought to be, a screen for chill. The Parliament of this highly health-conscious country has by enactment banned advertising of any kind of tobacco for the use of pipes or the manufacture of cigarettes. Windows of shops in the picturesque land of the Norwegians no longer display such advertisements.

The National Cancer Association has gone one step closer to the entire stopping of smoking by distributing the film "Decide for Yourself" to schools and social organizations throughout the country in a bold bid to scare away the smokers. Here is a sure way to prevent ailments such as smoker's heart, smoker's throat and certainly the smoker's lung that causes cancer.

But we in this ancient land of religions persuasion enjoy the freedom of the wild ass to smoke drink and sink in health!

Religion, Culture, And Simple Living

scheme would be placed before the public.

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM
Life Member Saiva Paripalana Sabha
Member Hindu Religious Affairs Advisory Board

Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan's 125th Anniversary

The 125th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan of revered memory falls I believe on the 16th April 1976. It is trusted that celebrations to pay homage to a great personality will be held in all parts of Sri Lanka and in other countries as well. By doing so, we will be discharging a duty to the past and at the same time doing a duty to present times and to the future.

S. SIVASUBRAMANIAM
Attorney-at-Law

THE RAMA LEGEND IN ASIA

(Dr. Lokesh Chandra's instructive article on Ramayana is reproduced from the 'Hinduism' of November December 1975 published in London).

Born as a primaeval poem in Valmiki's metrical measure, welling forth in all spontaneity at the grievous sight of the death of a love-lorn, avian couple shot by a hunter, the Ramayana has become the lyric of the men of Asia — from Siberia to Indonesia.

In the sixth century the Sinhalese poet-king Kumanadasa, composed the *Janakiharana*, the earliest Sanskrit work of Ceylon. Its word-to-word Sinhalese paraphrase was done in the 12th century by an anonymous writer, and ever since it has been eulogised. In our times, the Sinhalese translation of the Ramayana by C. Don Basteen has been a decisive influence on the Sinhalese novel. Modern dramatists, like John d Silva, an outstanding playwright, have adapted the Ramayana. The popular appeal in Ceylon has been of the ideals of the Ramayana in general, and the virtues of Sita, in particular, have ever been idealised.

Ramayana in Cambodia

In seventh century Cambodia, citations attest that the Ramayana had become a major and favourite epic. Its episodes symbolised great historic events in sculptured monuments. That the Khmers had been impregnated with the Ramayana is evident from the fact that a name or a scene was sufficient to characterise a historic episode or to endow a social - ethical problem with moral authority and special emotion. The depiction of the victorious exploits of Jayavarman VII, the Ramayana, became an integral part of Cambodian life, played at feasts, figured on frescoes, and told by story-tellers. It is, in fact, the loveliest expression of the soul of the Cambodian people. Even today it holds Cambodian spectators spell bound. It is a memorable experience to witness the graduation ceremonies of the Royal Ramayana Ballet of Cambodia.

A Thursday is picked up for the ceremonies. Thursday is an auspicious day in Cambodia and its colour is deep saffron, joyous and divine. In the morning, a platform covered with a white cloth is put up in the hall. On the cloth are placed danavas in black head-gear. The gandhas and the incense-sticks are lit. By

the flickering amber light the coloured fruits and varied offerings all merge into the rich background, while wisps of blue incense-smoke curl in the air. The little dancers rise from their places and carry plates of offerings upon their heads to eight altars at the eight points of the compass. The Guru then puts on the mask of the hermit. On to every girl is tied a cotton thread steeped in holy water. He asperges each one slightly and anoints her on the forehead with perfume. All the girls put on their masks and dance in graceful groups, while the music ripples liquid, shrill and captivating, until the lights flicker out and the glitter of golden jewells and crocus-coloured usage fades away.

In Indonesia

In the ninth century the Ramayana was sculptured on "the Temple of the Slender Maiden" at Prambanan in Indonesia. These sculptures differ from the classical Indonesian epic by the poet Yogeshvara. It means that the Ramayana was prevalent in Indonesia in several versions. The Ramayana reliefs at Pana taran in the 14th century display the predominance of loca style. The entire story is not shown, but only those scenes in which Hanuman and his simian army play a role. It points to the crystallisation of particular Ramayana scenes as prominent among the repertoire of the performing arts.

Since the 18th century the Ramayana became a dominant element in the performing arts of the countries of South-East Asia. In Laos, Phra Anu-

Lecture on Saiva Siddhanta

Mr. S. Krishnarajah, Lecturer in Philosophy read an interesting paper on 'Perception' — Theory of knowledge in the Saiva Siddhanta, under the auspices of the South Asian Studies Seminar held at the Jaffna Campus. He analysed the views expressed in the Sutras and the commentaries of the Saiva Siddhanta works concerning perception. This was followed by a useful discussion. Mr. S. V. Kasinathan lecturer in Philosophy, Peradeniya Campus presided over the meeting.

Lecture on the Recent Tamil Novels of Sri Lanka

Mr. N. Subramaniya Iyer M.A., Junior Asst. Librarian Jaffna Campus read an interesting paper on the "Tamil Novels of Sri Lanka 1970 to 1976", under the auspices of the South Asian Studies Seminar, Jaffna Campus, last month. An interesting discussion followed this.

rut (King Aniruddha) constructed the new pagoda of Vat Mai. On its pylon are carved episodes from the epic. Of about the same period is the Vat Pa Ke with the most complete paintings of the Ramayana in Laos. Needless to say that the Ramayana plays a premier role in the modern ballet of Laos.

The Ballet School at Vientiane teaches it regularly with appropriate music and dance. When Princess Dala (Tara), daughter of King Savang Vatthana, was married, the Ramayana was danced in full regalia and splendour at the Royal Court of Luang Prabang

Sale of Unredeemed Jewellery

I shall sell by public auction the unredeemed jewellery pawned before 1.1.1975 with Mr. S. Sinnathamby Since of Kandy Road, Kilinochchi on Thursday 26.3.1976 commencing at 9 a.m., at the said pawn shop.

643, K. K. S. Road,
Jaffna.

S. Mahadevan.
Auctioneer
(40 5 & 12)

வாண்மூல வழாது பெய்க கல்வனஞ்சு கருக்கமன்னன்
கோக்மூற அரசு பெய்க குறைவிலா துயிர்கள் வாழ்க
நான்மூற வறங்க கோங்க நற்றவம் வேள்வி மல்க
மேன்மைகொள் கைவற்றி விளங்குக உடை பேசுவாம்

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Editor-in-Chief R. N. SIVABAKAM