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(The only Newspaper - Ceylon for the Hindus)
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAYFOR BOOKS ON
SAIVAISM

Dial 356

Saiva Prakasa
Book Depot

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

X

JAFFNA, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1973

X

PHONE No. 358

He Was Hero Of All High Aspirations

Ramanathan Contribution Is a Rare and Rich Heritage

Today the people of this country are remembering the patriotic services of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan to the cause of freedom.

Although it is commonly known that this hero had saved the future of Sri Lanka and fought many a battle for the freedom of his country, many may not know the whole picture of this picturesque personality. In this connection all lovers of freedom must be indebted to the author of the excellent biography of this patriot bearing the title "The life of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan" The author Mr M Vythilingam B. A., retired Principal of Chavakachcheri Hindu College has not only done justice to the man biography but also brought out the characteristics of a patriot in the form of a captivating account of all activities of the distin-

guished statesman and scholar in the cause of freedom, language, religion and above all the true purpose of life.

The author has very appropriately dedicated his worthy book to, "All lovers of human freedom for the cause of freedom was the cause that was dearest to Ramanathan's heart."

Here we quote the author's very words.

"The greatest Ceylonese of all times" — this was the testimony and tribute of our revered leader and first Prime Minister of Free Lanka, the late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, P. C. to the memory of the man who is the subject of this biography. A distinguished educationist once



"The Greatest Ceylonese of all time"

—D. S. Senanayake
First Premier of Lanka

said, "The term 'Great' is little understood and widely mis-used in this country. It is often applied to persons whose claim to that lofty appellation is by all standards meagre;" and proceeded to add, "If ever in this country there was one man who was truly and indubitably great, it was Sir. Ponnambalam Ramanathan."

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Tributes to Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan From Distinguished Persons of His Time

Statesman and man of action, sage and scholar, legislator and jurist, philosopher and man of religion, patriot and philanthropist, controversialist and orator, author and administrator, educational reformer and benefactor, born leader and idol of the nation.

I think, if I were a Ceylonese, I should feel specially proud of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan. He has had a most remarkable career. I suppose there are few instances on record in which a man has touched life at so many points and at every point at which he has touched it, he has touched it with distinction.

—Governor Sir Herbert Stanley

At the early age of twenty-eight, he was selected by His Excellency Sir James Longden to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council. Then and from that day to the ripe old age of seventy-nine years, whether as the masterful lawyer at the Bar, the silver-tongued orator on the platform or the undisputed leader of the Council board, he bestrode the public life of this

country like a Colossus.

—Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara

The greatest Ceylonese of all times

—Rt. Hon.
D. S. Senanayake, P. C.

The Solicitor General is one Ramanathan, a Tamil Hindu and a cultured man of great ability and influence. What struck me most was that he was altogether free from the social trammels which encumber us here

—Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Sir Ramanathan was a statesman of the highest calibre and did more than anyone else of the era for Ceylon. He was a great philanthropist and man of God. He built there great shrines dedicated to Paramasiva one of which is a magnificent

VICTORIA COLLEGE CELEBRATION OF THE COLLEGE DAY

The birthday of Prof: J. W. Small, F. C. S., F. G. S., Principal Victoria College was celebrated recently.

The following paragraph is an extract from the Address of Congratulations that was presented to the Principal by the students of the College.

Victoria College is a living monument of your disinterested self-sacrifice and it is

SIXTY YEARS AGO

no exaggeration to say that it owes its present position to you and to you alone. Your noble personality and high character have left their lasting impression on everyone who has come in contact with you. The Victoria College Hall mark is a sure guarantee of deep culture, high character noble sentiments and patriotism of the highest type and every boy who has left the college is fighting the battle of life with great credit to himself and his *alma mater*."

Hindu Organ — 27-11-1913

temple in Colombo of none to defend the poor, neglected Singhaliese, they are a doomed people with none to guide and protect them. Unhappy Singhaliese!

—C. Rajagopalachari

It has not been my lot in any country to be associated with a gentleman of greater natural dignity, courtesy and charm of manner than Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan.

—Prof Marris

The Buddhists, as a national sect, owe Mr Ramanathan a deep debt of gratitude. His interest in the question of the Wesak Holiday and the Buddhist Temporalities Bill, his encouraging words to the Buddhist students of the Pali College and the Theosophical Society and a host of other services to Buddhism have endeared him immensely to the Buddhists of Ceylon.

—'Sarasavi Sandaresa'
of May 28, 1889

The day that you (Ramanathan) are taken away from Ceylon, from that day there will be

neglected Singhaliese, they are a doomed people with none to guide and protect them. Unhappy Singhaliese!

—The Anagarika Dharmapala
The law-students should remember what their President (Ramanathan) has done for the law-students of Ceylon. He placed both the branches of the profession under a deep debt of gratitude by being the originator of the present system of legal education and improving the position of the law-students of the Colony.

—Sir P. C. Layard
Chief Justice

During the long and active period of over fifty years, there was no occasion on which he did not assist his people in their long struggle towards self-government, at every stage of which he fought in the van.

—Governor Sir J. Graeme Thomson

In my opinion, no man has risen to the ideal

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THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

...நாம் அஞ்சுவது யாதொன்றும் இல்லை, அஞ்ச வருவதும் இல்லை,
(Thevaram)

There is nothing we are afraid of, nothing
can frighten us.



திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

நமச்சிவாயவே நானும் கல்வியும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி விக்கையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே நன்னெறி காட்டுமே.

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1973

SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE IN THE SERVICE OF MAN

Observing the Ramanathan Day for the forty third time, the people of Sri Lanka pay homage to one who in the appropriate words of Shri K. P. S. Menon, Indian Diplomatist and scholar, was "a national figure with an international reputation" and whose "memory is well worth preserving, well worth cherishing, well worth handing down to our children and our children's children as a precious heirloom". We remember with great pride a forefather fighter in the cause of full freedom who made use of all his faculties, his talents, mental power and natural endowments throughout his lifetime to the fullest advantage of his country. Dominating wellnigh a continuous period of fifty years of the colonial history of Sri Lanka, Sir Ramanathan was in the front line of lofty leadership inspiring his countrymen with noble ideas setting a worthy example of dedicated service to mankind. He was a perfect man, for all he did was to make himself fully useful to his people in every aspect. As legislator and legal luminary he introduced several enactments that formed the basis for the preparation of his country eventually to take its proper place as a member of the comity of free nations, and courageously opposed all discriminative legislation. His mettle was made known in the Legislative Council of 1879, when delivering his maiden speech he opened his dexterous attack with the significant words "I regret I cannot agree to the Second Reading of this Bill (a legislative measure that was intended to arm the European Planters with extra ordinary powers) for many of its provisions are oppressive to the people of this country."

The founding of the Ramanathan College for Girls and the Parameshwara College for Boys, the preliminary and pioneer work he had done for the establishment of a University for this Island and the efforts he had made to have the Law College established make him an educationist *par excellence*.

The launching of the Hindu Board of Education had his active assistance and able advice. Here are some of his significant words on the cause of the promotion of vernacular education. "We who speak of ourselves as rolling in wealth, are the niggardliest in our expenditure on so noble a cause as education ... nothing is more universally admitted than the principle that the Government should provide for the education of the masses. The wealthier classes of Ceylon, absorbed in their own pursuits do not think of the educational wants of the poor ... the future policy of the Government should be to spend largely on the promotion of vernacular education."

As a devotee of religious practice, his exhortation to the Hindus in the course of his address

at a public meeting in 1890 at the Saiva School (an institution that paved the way for the establishment of the Jaffna Hindu College) that they should "conserve their rich and ancient national heritage by actively assisting the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha in organizing Hindu Education in conformity with Hindu tradition and culture" depicts the ambitious plan he had for extending educational facilities for Hindus.

And we the people of this land that had gifted to us a real leader, noble patriot and ennobling example, have a duty to be discharged to ensure the fruits of his supreme service for future generations. Let us all in one voice move for the early establishment of the Ramanathan Campus in the Ramanathan Grounds that extend from Ramanathan College to Tinnevely and Kopy.

Message in Memory

(Shri S. R. KANAGANAYAGAM, Advocate
President of the Ramanathan Academy)

Over forty years have passed since the philosopher, philanthropist, patriot, scholar and saint, Sir P. Ramanathan departed from this world. But his name, his achievements, his endowments for propagating Saiva Religion and learning are still green in the memories of the people of this country where people of various faiths venerate his name. In years gone by the name of Ramanathan was like a *Manthiram* which swayed the minds of the people of his generation who always listened to him.

If this country desires to regain its ancient culture and glory we must decide here and now to learn the lessons of history and teach our growing generation his biography and the brave deeds he did for the people irrespective of race, religion, creed and colour. We know that such men are not born except once in a generation. Let his deeds guide the destinies of Sri Lanka.

As I had outlined in the course of my Ramanathan Memorial address in 1969 the dream of a University for the preservation of Hindu Culture, education and music is coming true. Let us all unite and work for its speedy culmination. Since his passing away classical Tamil music has reached a high standard in Jaffna owing to the energetic efforts of the Ramanathan Music Academy. And it is now felt among music circles that our children need not spend money to go to South India for this purpose. Some of our own students of music and experts have been honoured in recent years by being invited to perform at the annual music festivals in South

Tributes to...

(From page 5)

of what a representative of the people should be as Mr. Ramanathan has done.

—Sir Frederick Dorahorst

Mr. Ramanathan, in the Solicitor-General's chair, you are a race-horse yoked to a bullock-cart.

—Sir Henry Blake

Mr. Ramanathan impresses me as very remarkable man. His interpretations (of the Christian Gospels) are simply wonderful. The spirit of this man is Christly

—Rev. Walter

A. A. Gardner, New York

The reading of the 'Culture of the Soul among Western Nations' and of the 'Commentaries of St. Mathew and St. John have quite changed the tenor of my life. It has given me a new way of measurement by which I find myself accepting and rejecting all other ideas.

—Dr. A. B. Edie of U. S. A.

Ramanathan is by far the most spiritually illuminating teacher I have ever known.

—Myron Phelps

As long as Mr. Ramanathan will teach us, we are willing to sit and listen.

—An American Professor

If the country is really in peril, we should all vote for Ramanathan.

—Sir James Peiris

In the hour of dire need, the valiant son of the North came readily and generously to help them (the Singhalese). They claimed him as their Saviour. Jaffna and Ceylon should be proud of her greatest son.

—atuwantudawa

An aristocrat born of aristocrats, he was ever

(Over to page 7)

India during the month of December.

All of us and the generations to come are indebted to the incomparable and immense services rendered by this great patriot for the country.

RAMANATHAN RECOLLECTIONS

(Continued from last issue)

[The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary explained that he did not charge the hon. member with any improper motive or with any motive other than wishing to oppose this vote and continued his speech on the merits of the question. When he finished his speech Mr. Ramanathan rose to reply] Mr. Ramanathan said:

The Colonial Secretary spoke of my mental vision being obscured. I leave the public to decide between him and me as to whose vision is obscured. What shall I say of the of the obscurity of his mental vision when he confounded the only issue which I raised with other issues which I did not and which had no bearing whatever upon the point before the Council? I spoke of the condition of the revenue for the year 1888, and of its inability to bear the charge of Rs. 90,000 proposed to be voted on account of interest for the Hspitale Railway Extension. But nineteen-twentieths of the speech he delivered referred to the policy of progress, to the success of the planting enterprise and other irrelevant matters. Under these circumstances am I not justified in asking whether it was his vision or mine that was obscured? His

conduct today, Sir, reminds me of a trick common among pettifogging lawyers. Seeing that the position I had taken up was impregnable he has resorted to abuse. He has also made monstrous charges against me such as that I accused the Government of systematically neglecting native interests and that our railway policy has been a complete failure, charges which were never before brought against me. With the accession of my hon. friend to this Board the tone of our debates has changed but I hope that no other member will copy him in this respect and pursue his policy of abusing and misrepresenting one's opponents.

TRUE EDUCATION

BY M. ELIATHAMBY, B.A. (Lond.)

Man should prove himself worthy of the gifts of common sense and the power of reasoning endowed to him by developing the mental and intellectual faculties to the full, by virtue of which he stands altogether distinct from other living beings. Proper education alone can help a man develop a well-integrated personality. A harmonious development of the physical, intellectual, aesthetic, moral and spiritual powers acquired through education makes one a full man fit to earn his own living, to adjust himself to any environment, to practise noble ideals, to transcend the animal forces in man and in short to develop a culture which makes him a worthy citizen.

Are the children of today who will be the future generations brought up in such an atmosphere as to bear the responsibility of being good citizens? Are they aware of the problems confronting them? These are some of the questions to be posed to parents and teachers who are interested in the welfare of the children. The energy and enthusiasm of the young children under eighteen should be so channelled and directed towards studies to bear fruits in later life without allowing unwanted distractions in them which may tend to create an untoward

behaviour, non-chalance to work and learning wrong values. Many grown-up children are frequent visitors to theatres and eating houses neglecting their class work and sometimes find themselves in unhealthy associations which ultimately brings ruin to them and to their families. It is a duty incumbent on the parents to watch the behaviour of their children outside the school over which the teachers have no control. Giving money more than what is required for their daily expenses, non insistence of a few hours of daily work at home and a comfortable

(To be continued)

Tributes to ...

(From page 6)

careful of the interests of the poor.

—Governor Sir Graeme Thompson

All educationists have special reasons for deploring the absence of his (Ramanathan's) noble and inspiring personality because of his life long and splendid advocacy of the cause of education; and I venture to believe his services to education were among the most enduring gifts to the people of Ceylon.

—Prof. Marra

On that particular occasion when he denounced the Donoughmore Com

nampalam Ramanathan and no other" He bestrode the political firmament like a Colossus." The half century preceding the Donoughmore Reforms is indisputably, "The Age of Ramanathan" — these and many others have been the judgments passed on Ramanathan by persons who knew him and were competent to judge.

Ramanathan was admittedly one of the greatest and most memorable personalities of his time and his career, one of the most prolific. Statesman and sage, Scholar and jurist, philosopher and man of religion, patriot and philanthropist, educational reformer and benefactor, author and idol of the nation, his versatility was astounding. His was a mind of many dimensions, at once strong and active, tenacious and vigorous. Scion of an ancient and illustrious house — for none other has given us names so honoured and so universally cherished — steeped in the splendid traditions of public and political life, of high intellectual and spiritual culture and given to patriotic and philanthropic endeavour, he enjoyed in full measure all the advantages that

if a prophet had come from another world opening the eyes, stirring the hearts and shattering the illusions of smug, selfcomplacent individuals. ... They were not speeches merely; they were philippics against the Reforms.

—K. P. S. Menon

The half-century preceding the Donoughmore Reforms is indisputably the 'Age of Ramanathan'

—M. Balasundaram

When I landed in this country five years ago, and made my bow to the Legislative Council, I had the honour of being received by our guest this evening (Ramanathan) in a speech which reminded me of Homer who said of Nestor, "And from his lips, there flowed words sweeter than honey".

—Sir Graeme Thompson

heredity and environment could vouchsafe to man. Birth and breeding did all they could to fashion the man, the consummate master of political action and the incomparable champion and benefactor of a nation

Ramanathan's life was one long and ceaseless struggle for the national weal. His is, perhaps, the finest example in all our history of a life nobly and relentlessly dedicated to the shaping of our national institutions. Few other statesmen in our history gave proof of greater sagacity or courage or vision in the handling of high affairs of state or played a more constructive or a more creative role or left their marks so plainly and so indelibly inscribed both in the Statute Book and the life and business of the nation. To his contemporaries, he symbolized patriotism, courage, indomitable will and dedication to the cause of his country's freedom. He was regarded as the embodiment of the dignity, honour and virtue of the Ceylonese nation and expressed, as few others before or after him, the moral conscience of his time. He was a patriot whose patriotism burned with a purer, nobler flame, a patriotism which transcended all narrow domestic walls and embraced in its broad bosom all humankind, regardless of race or creed or clime. K. P. S. Menon once said, "The great thing about Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan was that he had a universal mind." Not that he loved his people less, but that he loved mankind more. He imbued our politics with a spiritual emotion and made it less a business or a strategy than a religion. Truth, Justice and Liberty — these were his governing passions and it was loyalty to these ideals that was the key — note of his whole career. Sectarianism, Communalism, racialism and a host of other isms which, alas! have become the sole stock-in-trade of the fashionable politician and professional firebrand and constitute the gravest menace to the peace and security of nations, and to civilization itself, were utterly foreign to his temperament.

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Umapathisivam And The Upanishads

(Continued from the issue of 16-11-73)

Even the name of Jehovah God the Father of the Bible seems to be an echo of our own Siva (or Shiva) as the word is sometimes spelt. The word God itself, whose original etymology has baffled English lexicographers ignorant of Eastern languages, seems to be identical with our Kadavul (கடவுள்) the Transcendent Being. This last word implies the existence of the world, animate (souls) as well as inanimate (matter), and a Being உள்பொருள் which transcends it (உட்பொருள்). Here is much food for thought by true research-workers. Such similitudes as these cannot be unceremoniously brushed aside as mere accidental coincidences.

That the soul and God are intrinsically distinct entities but inseparably united (Advaita relation) is clearly indicated in such sruties as the famous Rig-Veda Mundaka-Svetasvara verse which speaks of two birds, inseparable friends, perched on a tree one of which eats the fruits thereof while the other looks on without eating. And this is placed beyond all doubt by the immediately following verse in the Upanishads which says that man sits grieving bewildered by his own impotence but when he sees (realizes) the other (the Isan) happy and contented his grief passes away. Among other sruties to the point are the Chandogya sruti which speaks of God entering (the world) with the living soul, the Mundaka-Katha sruti which says that God can be reached by the man whom God choose the Katha sruti which requires the devotee to admit the reality of both (God and

soul) as a pre-requisite to God-realization, the Brihadaranyaka sruti which speaks of God as dwelling in the soul though different from it and of the soul as forming God's body the Svetasvatara sruties which speak of the Isan (Lord) and Anisan (non-lord) and of the soul understanding the distinction between itself and its Ruler, other sruties too numerous to quote which speak of God as the True of the true the Soul of souls the Eternal among those that are eternal the Intelligent among those that are intelligent, &c. the first word in each verse referring to God and the second to the soul. The innumerable sruties prescribing various forms of worship, devotion and meditation also presume the existence of the worshipper (soul) as distinct from God the Entity that is worshipped or meditated on.

That souls are many is also clear from some of the above quotations such as soul of souls, the Eternal among those that are eternal &c. The innumerable sruties that speak of the wise and the ignorant those who go by the Devayanam and the Pitryanam or are born in lower forms of life like worms dogs &c. some entering a womb after death while others enter the trunk of a tree &c. some attaining Moksham and never returning therefrom while others get born repeatedly &c. all point to the same conclusion. This is a matter of commonsense and ordinary observation not requiring any further proof but we quote the authority of the sruti teaches something to the contrary. (To be continued)

AUCTION SALE

All the unredeemed Jewels pawned with Veluppillai Suppiramaniam, Licensed Pawn Broker of Ilakady, Karainagar North from 12th June 1971 till 1st September 1972 will be sold by me by Public Auction at the said Pawn Shop on Saturday the 5th day of January 1974 commencing at 10 A.M.

Jetty, Karainagar, 20th November, 1973. V. ERAMPAMOORTHY, Licensed Auctioneer. 120, 23 & 30

ORDER NISI

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 2915

In the matter of the intestate estate of the late Nagamattu Rajaratnam of Puttur West Deceased Alankaram widow of Rajaratnam of Puttur West

Vs. Petitioner

- 1 Rajaratnam Gunaratnam
- 2 Mahesvari daughter of Rajaratnam
- Minor 3 Rajaratnam Kanagamoorthy
- " 4 Thanamalar daughter of Rajaratnam
- " 5 Nagamattu Appathurai, all of Puttur West The 3rd and 4th Respondents are minors appearing by their guardian-ad-litem the 5th Respondent

Respondents

This matter coming on for disposal before T. J. Rajaratnam Esquire; District Judge, Jaffna, on the 6th day of December 1972 in the presence of Mr. S. Logeswaran Proctor on the part of the Petitioner, and the petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read: It is ordered that the 5th Respondents be appointed guardian-ad-litem over the 3rd and 4th minor Respondents for the purposes of representing them in this action and it is declared that the Petitioner as the lawful widow of the deceased abovenamed be granted Letters of Administration over the estate of the deceased abovenamed and that she be allowed to administer the said estate, unless the Respondents or any other person interested in the said estate shall show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary on or before the 25th day of July, 1973. It is further ordered that the 5th Respondent do produce the 3rd and 4th minor Respondents in Court on the said date at 10 a.m.

This 6th day of December 1972.

Sgd. T. J. Rajaratnam District Judge

Order Nisi extended for 6-12-73.

Sgd. T. J. Rajaratnam D. J.

125 28 & 30

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POINT PEDRO

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 1029

In the matter of the Last Will of the late Annapillai alias Ammahpillai of Karanavai North Thambiah Selladurai of Karanavai North.

Vs. Petitioner

Ponniiah Nadarajah of Karanavai North, presently of Amman Temple Maha Veedhiya, Sri Kataragama Devalaya, Kataragama.

Respondent

This matter coming on for disposal before C. M. Tharmalingam Esquire, District Judge, Point Pedro on the 6th day of June, 1973 in the presence of Mr. N. Esurapadham, Proctor for the Petitioner and Last Will No. 8581 dated 11-5-1961 attested by P. Kanapathipillai, Notary Public and now deposited in this court

and the Affidavits of the Petitioner, the said Notary Public and the witnesses thereto having been read.

It is ordered that the said Last Will be and the same is hereby declared proved as the Will of the abovenamed deceased Annapillai alias Ammahpillai that the Petitioner be and he is hereby declared the Executor of the said Last Will, and that Probate of the said Will be issued to the Petitioner as such Executor, unless the Respondent or any other person appears before the 29th day of August, 1973 and shew cause to the contrary to the satisfaction of this court.

This 6th day of June, 1973

Sgd. C. M. Tharmalingam District Judge

Time to show cause extended to 5-14-73 Intld. C. M. T. 124 2 & 30

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Printed and published by Mr. M. Mylvaganam residing at No. 2, Second Lane Brown Road Jaffna, for and on behalf of the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai, Jaffna, at their Press, the Saiva Pirakasa Press, 450 K. K. S. Road Vannariponnai, Jaffna, on Friday November 30, 1973.

Editor: E. N. SIVAPIRAKASAM