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Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva

(By Arul Thiagarajah)

It was five years ago Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva, one of the most distinguished statesmen of his times passed away full of years, at the ripe old age of 84. Nevertheless he has left behind his footprints on the sands of time. Sir Mahadeva is very often in the thoughts of the older generation, but the younger generation may not have a clear idea about his contribution to the political emancipation of Ceylon and in the field of education and culture of our motherland.

Sir Mahadeva's ancestors were intimately connected with the legislature of Ceylon as from the nineteenth century. His father's maternal uncle A. Coomarasamy Mudaliyar was the first Tamil Member in the first Legislative Council in 1835. Mr. Coomarasamy was a bright pupil at the Seminary run by Rev. J. H. Cordiner, the author of the famous book on Ceylon. Coomarasamy's son who later became Sir, Muttu Coomarasamy won the coveted Turnour Prize at the Colombo Academy. Sir Muttu Coomarasamy was a great friend of Disraeli the then Prime Minister of England and had the former been spared a few more years of life he would have entered the British Parliament. Sir Mahadeva's father Ponnambalam Arunachalam (later Sir) was the first Ceylonese to enter the Ceylon Civil Service, through open competitive examination. In addition he a distinguished scholar, entered politics and was acclaimed and accepted as an all Ceylon Leader. Mahadeva's uncle Sir Ponnambalam Ramarathan for half-a-century he trode the political scene like a colossus. He was a great scholar, educationist, statesman and above all a great philanthropist. Sir Ponnambalam brothers very much resemble the distinguished twin brothers Sir A. Ramsewamy Mudaliyar and Sir Dr. A. Lakshmaswamy Mudaliyar in the

field of Administration, Education, Philosophy, Law and Legislature.

Sir Mahadeva had a brilliant academic career at the Colombo Academy, and later secured Mathematical Tripos at Christ College, Cambridge. He passed out as a Barrister-at-law from Lincoln's Inn. After he returned to Ceylon, he joined the Ceylon National Congress founded by his father. The first eventful thing in Mahadeva's career took place in 1924. He contested the Western Province Tamil Seat and was opposed by R. Sri Pathmanathan his brother-in-law and Dr. M. M. Kumarasamy a reputed independent gentleman. In the face of fierce contest and mud slinging Mahadeva won the election. Later Mahadeva became the Principal of Parameshwara College, Jaffna founded by his uncle Sir Ponnambalam Ramarathan. The Government is now contemplating to convert this into a modern University Campus.

Sir Mahadeva was a foresighted politician and worked along with Mr. D. S. Senanayake the builder of the new Constitution and first Prime Minister of Independent Ceylon. Mahadeva has been a member of the State Council representing Jaffna Constituency for several years and succeeded Sir Baron Jayatilaka then Minister of Home Affairs in 1942, and continued to hold this post till 1947. He felt that the Sinhalese and the Tamils forming the major two communities in Ceylon should work together for the welfare of their motherland.

He was appointed High Commissioner for Ceylon in India in 1949. Later he was appointed as a Member of the Public Service Commission. He had remarkable memory power and added lustre and brought distinction to his office. In this sphere his clarity of mind and firm adherence to rules and precedence were recognised.

He had been the mana-

Maha Kumbabishekam At Neeraviady Pillaiyar Temple

The devotees of this ancient Temple at Neeraviady had done well in bringing back the Temple Buildings to normal condition by organizing the shastric requirement of a Maha Kumbabishekam.

The Maha Kumbabishekam publication deals with the Veda-Agamic conception of this important ceremony and the several functions relating to the performance of the Abishekam.

The Maha Kumbabishekam ceremony was conducted true to Veda Agamic tradition and was attended by a large number of devotees.

ger of the Vivekananda Vidyalayam, founded by the Vivekananda Society, Colombo, a great Saiva religious Society, for a considerable number of years and devoted considerable time and energy to Hindu religious and cultural affairs. The birth centenary celebration of Sir Mahadeva's illustrious father Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam took place in the year 1953. The writer came in intimate contact with Sir Mahadeva during this time and served as a member of the Centenary Celebration Committee. Prominent persons like Mr. William Gopallawa, Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, E. W. Kannangara, D. B. Ellapola, A. M. A. Azeez, Dr. S. Natesan, Sir Kanthiah Vithianathan served in this Centenary Celebrations Committee and made the function a resounding success.

Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva was knighted in the year 1955. In a feature article commenting on the conferment of Knighthood a prominent journalist observed "... That while the ancestors of the powers that are were glorified cattle lifters, the forefathers of Sir Mahadeva were speaking philosophy on the international platforms." He stood for a united

(Over to page 6)

AFRICAN AND DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

(Continued from last issue)

'Far from being ashamed of our black skin and our original values of civilization, we (Black Africans and Dravidians) should be proud of them. For, we are the world's elder sons', Mr. Leopold Sedar Senghor President of Senegal, said here today.

For thousands of years, "we had been the first producers of civilization, long before we became consumers", he said delivering a lecture on "Negritude and Dravidian Culture" at the Rajaji Hall under the auspices of the International Institute of Tamil Studies.

'On the kinship of Dravidian and Negro-African languages, the visiting President said, in the 19th century, Alfredo Trombette was one of the first scholars to have the presentiment that the two represented a common language, akin to Sumerian. He also referred to the recent studies conducted by researchers in this field. Claiming that the "Eritrean culture" was the survival of an ancient Indo-African Culture, he gave examples to show that vocabulary relating to metallurgy and cotton spinning was exactly the same in the Dravidian languages of India and Negro-African languages.

Mr. Senghor said it would be of great advantage for the Dravidians and the Black Africans to get together and investigate the points of convergence, or rather of kinship in the values of the civilisations characteristic of the two black worlds—the world of the Black Dravidians and of the Black Africans.'

These observations by the President of Senegal are of interest as Lahovary has in his work "Dravidian Origin of the West" indicated the prevalence of an ancient Dravidian language in countries along the Mediterranean. He has observed at page 1 of his book, "Dravidian, although

today a very composite group of languages, as a result of numerous different linguistic contacts in the course of time, is not an isolated group, but the survivor of an incorporating or polysynthetic family of Peri-Mediterranean and Hamite-Semitic languages (as shown by its more archaic structure), which stretched, some five or six thousand years ago without a break over a vast zone of the Near East." He has also pointed out at page 2 of this book that by Near East he means Araratia, Syria, Palestine, Concasia, Perisia, Mesopotamia with its extensions towards India, as well as Arabia and the African regions facing Arabia.

It is not impossible that as research progresses interesting facts will emerge to confirm this view. In this context the following extract from a review of this work by Nilakanta Sestri is of interest, "A learned reviewer of the French original of this book has reminded us that in Bopp's day the classical philologists who had not so far studied any other languages but Latin and Greek were filled with indignation at the attempt to extend the field of research to other far away and little known languages and to postulate a common ancestry for them in the remote past; and that it took a century and a half for them to learn that, after all, Bopp was right."

Saiva Maha Sabha Kurunegala

Thirugnana Sambanthar Guru Poojah was observed by the Saiva Maha Sabha Kurunegala on 6-6-1974 in which Sri Thurai Manoharan, B. A., lecturer University Peradeniya Campus delivered an instructive lecture on "Gnana Sambanthar".

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

ஒதிய முத்தி அடைவே உயிர்ப்பா
பேதமில் உச்சிவம் எய்தும் துரியமோ(6)
ஆதி சொரூபம் சொரூபத்த தாமவே,
ஏதமிலா நிருவாணம் பிறந்ததே.

(What is called) emancipation ensues thus: In the state of Turiyam where no difference is perceived between the soul, God and Divine Grace the intrinsic nature of the soul becomes identified with the nature of God. This indeed is the dawn of faultless freedom from action.



திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானமும் கலியுகம்
நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானறி விக்கசயும்
நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானறி நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே ஞானறி காட்டுமே.
திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY JUNE 14, 1974

HAPPY HAPPENINGS

The trend of tendencies now prevailing in the United Nations Organization is an indication of a substantial change of heart in the matter of dealing with international affairs. The entry of the People's Republic of China into the comity of Nations certainly heralded a new era and in a great measure has paved the way for more co-operative effort and better understanding. However, bickerings do continue with the emergence of the oil producing countries of the Middle East making that area the centre of gravity of contending political aspirations. The resultant upset in the economy of the world in general and the disagreeable impact on the industrial and commercial enterprises of the Western Powers have been disturbing the prospects of progress in the direction of a solution of the crisis in the Middle East. Yet the relieving feature of Dr. Kissinger's determined and daring mission has given high hopes of a bright future though in his home country politicians are busy taxing his patience by persisting in nauseating comments.

In the midst of these happenings, the acceptance of the membership in U. N. of Bangladesh by the Security Council has further enlivened the hopes of higher achievements. Let these efforts bring universal harmony which alone can save humanity.

Mahadeva—The Model Statesman

Memories of the mighty men of the glorious past remind us all of one significant fact, namely the existence of a great heritage to which the present generation has become heir. Among these stalwarts whose statesmanship illumines the history of this lovely little Isle, Sir Mahadeva's name occupies a pre-eminent place.

The special contribution on the life and achievements of Sir Mahadeva appearing in this issue of the 'Hindu Organ' gives a studied sketch of the distinguished leader's personal attainments and public achievements for the general good. In this context we may refer to the event of the year, we mean the establishment of the Jaffna Campus in the premises of Parameshwara College, and observe that in a way it is a tribute to the foresightedness of the Ponnambalam brothers and a recognition of Sir Mahadeva's stewardship of the College as Principal. The present generation has in Sir Mahadeva a great ideal as a model statesman and exemplary leader.

THE SACRED SPORTS OF SIYA

How the Poet Idaikadan got rid of his negligent treatment by the Pandian King

V. SUBRAMANIAM
Saiva-Pulavaa

After Sembagamara Pandian, who was a great devotee of Siva had departed to dwell in His presence, there followed a succession of fifteen kings down to Kulesan who was so learned that a place was accorded to him on the College Bench of poets, and his poetical composition continued to be held in high esteem

One poet named Idaikadar knowing these circumstances, composed some works greatly celebrating the king, which he recited before him. But the King took little notice and gave no sign of approbation and gave no reward. Stung with this neglect the poet went to the presence of the Lord and besought Him to avenge the injury (done to him). The Lord favourably heard the request, and by an illusory act of will caused the image of Himself and Sakthi to disappear and He removed the College and Idaikadar to Vadamatthurai, on the South bank of the Vaigai river.

The next morning when the guardians of the temple went to open the doors of the shrines, to their dismay they found no images there which in circumstance they went and reported to the King together with their fear about the future prosperity of the place. The King greatly disconcerted came down from his throne, cast himself in the dust and made piteous lamentation; when messengers came to him and announced that the Lord and Sakthi had been pleased to appear at Vadamatthurai, a circumstance never before known the King on receiving this intelligence set out, without State, not even walking, but passing over

the intervening distance by bodily rolling over on the ground. When he arrived he repeated his lamentations eagerly inquired, if theft or the craft of trees or birds or the fault of learned men or his own transgression of the law of Manu had occasioned this heavy visitation? A celestial voice was heard stating that not for any such cause; but that partly as this was a place where the Lord's devotee Kuberan (the god of riches) had performed worship and partly because of the insult rendered to Idaikadan; the Lord had been pleased to descend and remain at this place for a time. The King being now instructed, greatly honoured Idaikadar by the gift of a young elephant (a peculiar honour to poets and by the donation of very fertile lands.

Idaikadar being satisfied chanted the King's praises and the former order of things being restored, the King received many gifts from the God together with a son named Arriamarthana (அரியமார்த்தன பாண்டியன்) whom he caused to be crowned; and delivering to him his kingdom, Kulesan himself received an unfading immortality.

பரிசீலைப் புலவருக்கு அருள்
குலேசன் பல பகல சழித்தித்
துரியகுப்பு இரலை வெம் மழு
எடுத்தவன் மதிச் சென்னிமேள்
வரிசீலைப் படை பொறித்தவன்
என பெறு வரம் மைந்தனும்
அரிமருத்தனிடத்து அவனி
வைத்து அன் அடி எய்தினான்

Sir Arunachalam

(From page 5)

Ceylon; but he felt that merit, fairplay, and justice alone should be the criterion in all spheres of

சான்றிதழ் வழங்குவது மிகவும் உரிமை
சான்றிதழ் வழங்குவது மிகவும் உரிமை
சான்றிதழ் வழங்குவது மிகவும் உரிமை
சான்றிதழ் வழங்குவது மிகவும் உரிமை

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF R. N. SIVAPIRAKASAM

SIDHANDHA SEMINAR

The Meikanda Aatheenam of Jaffna in celebrating its second year of activities has organized a Siddantha Seminar during the High Festivals of Nallur Veeramakali Amman Temple beginning from June 10, 1974.

The first day's conference was formally declared open by Sri R. N. Sivapirakasam, President of the Saiva Paripalana Sabha. In doing so he drew attention to the fact that the study of the Saiva gashtras must form a regular feature in Temples and the High Festivals would be a fitting occasion for this religious instruction.

Shri T. Murugesapillai, A. G. A. Jaffna in his address of appreciation observed that religious studies that were in vogue during the time of Sri La Sri Navalar should be revived and that particular attention should be paid to the learning of the Meikanda Sastras.

Sri La Sri Gnanapragasa Thambiran of the Jaffna Meikanda Aatheenam said that the Aatheenam had organized a series of such seminars, specially during the High Festivals of different Temples and that the Siddantha Conference was intended for making a genuine effort in bringing religious truths to the people in a convenient manner.

activities of the Government.

Above all he became intensely religious minded in his last days. He was devoted very much to the Yoga Swamikal, the beacon light of Jaffna who brought illumination to those who came in contact with him (Swami) Sir Mahadeva was the managing trustee of Sri Ponnambalayanesar Temple situated in Colombo North, built by his more illustrious uncle Sir Ponnambalam Ramaswamy, Sir Mahadeva not only administered the Temple well but also renovated the temple and built a Gopuram, and its consecration ceremony took place in 1967. Two years later in the month of June 1969 Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva passed away peacefully. In all his religious activities he was ably assisted by his devoted wife Lady Mahadeva, who is surviving him His son Mr. B. Mahadeva and his son-in-law Professor T. Nadarajah have repeated the brilliancy of their grand father in the sphere of public administration and law respectively.