

Our Work is
Our Advertisement

Saiva Prakasa Press

INTHUSATHANAM

(The Hindu Organ)

(The only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus)

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

FOR BOOKS ON
SAIVAISM

Dist 356

Saiva Prakasa
Book Depot

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

JAFFNA, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

Page No. 356

STANDARD OF LIVING

BY C. SINNATHURAI

All the world over there is a widespread feeling and impetus in the minds of politicians, statesmen and patriots to raise the standard of the living of the people. Every person has his own standard of living. A person's standard depends on his aspirations, culture and ambition. A person's ambition depends on his heredity, environment, abilities and potentialities. But what the politicians mean is that the common man should have enough and to spare in regard to food and other wants. The basic needs of a person are food, clothing, shelter and education. Every able bodied person should be induced to put in the maximum amount of physical and mental work to earn his daily bread and to obtain his amenities. The disabled and the helpless poor people must be looked after by the state.

We are living in a scientific age where numerous inventions have been turned out to give the people various kinds of industrial work and to give comforts and to kindle the sensual pleasures. The telephone, the wireless, the radio, television and the aeroplane have shortened the distance and brought the people in all nooks and corners of the world in closer contact. People know what glaring events take place in all parts of the world within a short time. The mental horizon of the people has widened so much so that the impact of the events have an immediate effect on the minds of the people. Human wants have increased tremendously - by the march of scientific development. The money earned is not sufficient to meet the mounting wants. So with the rapid yearly increase of population, the struggle for existence has become keener and keener. There is a out-throat competition in every sphere of activity. The turn out of mechanical inventions has

surmounted the demand of the people. With the scarcity of essential power, many people are thrown out of employment. The race for hoarding money and earning more money by any means is the ruling order of the day. So there is tension in the minds of the people. Hatred and jealousy, bribery and corruption, selfishness and self-centredness, gaining cheap popularity, divide and rule policy are the order of the day. People do not care to look to the other man's point of view. People care little in doing good and selfless things. Emphasis on good character is very little. There is degeneration in decency and morality. This chaotic condition of the people is due to the never-ceasing race to get as much money as possible by any means. The worship of Mammon is on the increase. Power seeking persons are found in every sphere of life.

Food, clothing, shelter and education are our essential needs. India and Ceylon are agricultural countries. They have an age long culture of their own. These two countries should not become industrialised countries in the sense that America and European countries are; mechanical industrialisation will flourish only at the expense of peace and contentment and identity of culture. Too much of emphasis on the industrial development of the country will ultimately lead to the crippling of the moral and spiritual stamina without which life in this world will be meaningless and will be full of sorrows in spite of a person's wealth and good health. That was why Mahatma Gandhi did not support the manufacture of machines on a larger scale. The external glamour of the world incites the senses and lands us into a mire from which redemption is tremendously intricate

(Over to page 6)

Adjustment in All Affairs

By

S. Sivasubramaniam
Honorary Secretary,
Council for National Unity
and Welfare

The holding of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Sri Lanka is a matter for congratulation both to the organizers and to representatives from other countries as well as to our own country, the President His Excellency Mr. William Gopallawa and its Leader the Prime Minister Hon. Mrs. Sirimavo Ratwatte Bandaranaike and the Cabinet and her team of officials and the Opposition Group led by Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, M. P. It is reasonable to expect good results flowing from the Conference both to the cause of international good-will and co-operation and to the welfare of Sri Lanka from the external and internal points of view. It is gratifying that Hon. Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, M. P. Minister for Local Administration and Mr. V. N. Navaratnam, M. P. one of the leaders of the Tamils United Front, spoke in terms conducive to a more satisfactory adjustment of international problems, and the stabilization of National Unity. It is hoped that these utterances will be followed as speedily as possible by appropriate action on all sides.

AUCTION SALE

All unredeemed Jewellery pawned with Mr. V. Suppiramaniam, Licensed Pawn Broker of Ilakady, Karainagar North from 15th September 1972 till 29th March 1973 will be sold by me by Public Auction at the said Pawn Shop on Monday the 4th day of November 1974 commencing at 10 a.m.

V. Erampamoorthy
Licensed Auctioneer

Jetty, Karainagar
15th September 1974.
8 10 & 21.

Navalar Endowments Need Proper Administration

Presiding over a meeting held at the Rasika Ranjana Sabha hall on 18-9-74, Pandithamabi S. Kanapathippillai observed that a Sabha to preserve the huge endowments of Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar was absolutely necessary.

Advocate T. Somasundaram and Messrs. S. Ponnuasamy, S. Seevaratnam, M. Vythilingam, R. C. Manmatharajan explained the nature of work that has to be done to preserve the charities.

Puliampokkanai Sivan Kovil

"If the Kovils of such historical eminence are well maintained and the devotees take a keen interest, most of the ills which grip the country in general and the Tamils in particular would disappear" observed Mr. V. Anandasangaree M. P. Kilinochchi when he addressed the Puliampokkanai Sivan Kovil Alaya Paripalana Sabha, last Friday at the Kovil madam.

Mr. R. T. Subramaniam President occupied the chair.

Mr. S. S. Sinnathamby and Sri N. Ankerappillai, high priest urged that the holy well and Theerth-shakkerny are two urgent needs which should be attended to this year and completed before the rains.

All paid tributes to the President Mr. R. T. Subramaniam for the Sabai's work last year in completing the bell and belfry for the Kovil. The pealing from the Bell created a solemn atmosphere among the devotees.

All arrangements are speedily taken to construct the *Thiruvudai* and *Thirumangalambal* shrine for this shrine. The president was entrusted to go ahead with the scheme and take all suitable steps on behalf of the Sabai to complete the two projects.

God Vinayaka

(AN INVOCATION)

(Continued from last issue)

Thereupon, Siva along with His Consort Uma went to an art gallery when the picture of a couple of elephants was drawn. Both looked at the couple and Lord Ganapathi with the face of an elephant was manifested.

The demon was subdued. He took the form of a big rat (bandicoot) and Lord Vinayagar sat tight on it. From this symbolized point of view, all that is intended to point out that Lord is present in every form (எல்லாமாய் அல்லதுமாய்).

The four hands with Passa, Ankusam, Danta and Kalasam represent Divine form. The legs and belly represent human form and face, the animal form. The good in one hand is deadly to the elephant, but in Vinayaka we find the elephant face as well as the Chastiser, the god in the hand. Thereby He indicates that He exists in all beings and at the same time transcends them.

Of the four hands three are having weapons to protect His devotees from opponent. That shows His alertness and eagerness to protect them. In one hand He is having a Kalasa. Some say that it is Madaka (*மொதகம்*) for doing service to His parents. His devotion to His parents is well brought out by the story of the competition between the brothers Ganesa and Kumara to win the mango fruit from Siva. Siva laid down that he who comes first after going round the world wins the fruit. Lord Kumara began to fly on His peacock around the world. But Vinayaka calmly and devotedly went round the parents and got the prize!

As Kumara is the Bestower of all Divine knowledge may He bless us all.

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

புண்ணிய பாவம் இரண்டின பூமிதில்,
நண்ணும் பொருதறிவார் சிவஞானிகள்,
எண்ணி இரண்டையும் வேறாத் (து) அப்புறத்து
அண்ணல் இருப்பிடம் ஆய்ந்து கொள்வீரே.

There are two kinds of action (performed by man) in this world, virtuous and sinful (or good and bad). Siva Gnanies know them both when they arise. Root out both after due deliberation and realize the abode of God transcending both.



திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

நமச்சிவாயவே குளர்ப்பும் கவிதையும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி விஞ்ஞானமும்
நமச்சிவாயவே நானறி நேத்துமே
நமச்சிவாயவே நன்னொதி காட்டுமே.

திருச்சிற்றம்பலம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1974

That is the Way

Problems however peculiar they may be never remain unsolved. This theory gives us greatest hopes at the present movement when we begin to view the suggestion made during the Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentarians that outstanding questions in the context of the fundamental rights of the Tamil speaking people could be resolved with more confidence.

No effort has ever looked wasted. Continuous and courageous attempts can hardly fail so long as the goal to be reached is a desirable end. We need not lay emphasis on the fact that for a nation to go forward in the onward march collaboration, co-operation and co-ordination of the soul force of every community of this ancient Isle of historic fame are necessary impetus.

Dialogue in parliamentary parlance has a particular significance. Diversity there is, but unity also is there. Differing opinions can lead to acceptable conclusions being reached if only the issues are discussed and deliberated upon. That previous 'pacts' have proved ineffective cannot be a reason to ignore the possibility of a future success.

The establishment of the Jaffna Campus has added to the scope of future expectations. That the Premier has consented to declare the Campus open makes the situation more appropriate for a Conference of political parties to discuss pending issues earlier and pave the way for a bright future October 6, 1974 is only three weeks away.

STANDARD OF LIVING

(From page 6)

and difficult. All of us must realize the transitoriness of worldly pleasures through the senses. The pleasures appear to be real at first. They appear like bubbles in the ocean and disappear. They are a mirage and lead us to a place where sustained and everlasting happiness is unknown.

"A contented mind is a continual feast." There must be a contented mind. It is not an easy thing to harbour such a thought. It must come from within. "The aids to noble life are all within" says, Mathew Arnold a great English poet. The idea to keep the mind at rest free from desires is not a commodity to be bought in the market. It arises from the accumulated store of good deeds done in previous births. A man's worth is measured not in pound, shilling and pence and not by the number of years he has lived but by his deeds and thoughts. "As you think, so you become", is a great truth. All of us must elevate our thoughts by constant prayer and communion with God and by seeking the company of sincere religious persons and by reading the Guna Jhastras (குளசாத்திரங்கள்) Thirumalais (திருமுறைகள்), and other good books of all time. By raising the mind from the whirlpool of worldly attachment, we can concentrate on the Supreme Being whose unceasing ever-flowing abundant Grace only will raise the standard of living. We must yearn for the dawn of a real religious and prayerful life which is an effective and lasting panacea to all our social and mental ills. The money we earn and the wealth we get are only a means to keep the body and soul together. God, the Almighty has given us this mortal frame to reach His Feet and become one with Him. Saint Thirumoolar has given this idea in a very picturesque

and appealing stanza.

"உடம்பின் முன்னிடுக்
கென்றிந்தேன்
உடம்பினுக் குன்றே உறு
பொருள் கண்டேன்
உடம்பினே உத்தமன்
கோயில் கொண்டா
கென்று
உடம்பை யானிருந்து
ஓம்புகின்றேனே."

Saint Thirumoolar says that once he thought that his body was a thing to be despised and full of dirt. But when he realized that the indestructible Almighty God resided within him, he began to look after the body well. Except the persons of saintly qualities the others do not think in the way Saint Thirumoolar thought. They plunge themselves into worldly pursuits such as obtaining wealth, fame and power. They do not have a balanced thought. They overdo certain things which in the long run bring sorrow and misfortunes in battalions. In such pathetic circumstances they are left in the lurch and they do not know what to do and where to go for help. Sometimes dear friends and close relatives may desert them. Then only they may be forced to get the help and Grace of God. Good thoughts and elevated thoughts must be nurtured in the mind at an early age. When dotage comes and sorrows befall us, we must be able to take them with a smile and think they are the works of the unseen power and surrender our entire body and soul together to Him. Before the attainment of economic development and material prosperity, the minds of the people must be tuned to the feet of God without which material prosperity will be fruitless. Saint Sutharamoorthy Swamiga, aptly puts it. "இன்பம் உண்டெல் துன்பமுண்டு ஏழற மனை வாழ்க்கை." Happiness and sorrows are twins. So the politicians and others who are responsible for guiding the destinies of a country should lead exemplary righteous lives themselves and lay more and genuine emphasis on our true religious life so that

Prize-Giving

The Annual Prize giving ceremony of the Jaffna Hindu College will be held on Wednesday the 25th instant. Mr Justice S. Sharvananda will be the chief guest. Mrs. Sharvananda will distribute the prizes.

democratic principles may flourish with all their splendour. Then only true democracy will prevail and people will preserve it. Then only bribery and corruption, jealousy and hatred selfishness and favouritism will not find a place in the life of the people. Side by side with the effort to usher in an era of peace and plenty, the standard of the good way of living must be raised. Simple living and high thinking should be the ideal of all politicians rich and educated men, teachers and priests. Every person of any religion should practise the precepts of his religion. Example is better than precept. If all practise their religion in the proper way, there is no room for favouritism or foul play. There will be no corruption. No workers in co-operative shops and government offices will ever desire to misappropriate state property.

If the government servants are taught morals from time to time, there will be little room for criticism.

Instead of raising the moral standard and instead of raising the spiritual aspects, if the stress is based on a high standard of living the stamina to withstand difficulties will be very little among the people. In America and Western European countries, many people are fed up with material life and are coming to India and Sri Lanka to satisfy their spiritual thirst. Some come here dressed in national dress of the Tamils and mix with the people. On the other hand, some of the educated young men of our land move about in the nooks and corners of our villages in foreign dress. Westerners turn to the East for spiritual inspiration, while most of us do not like to preserve our traditions and our good ways of life. Only simple living and high thinking and austerity will bring peace and prosperity to our country.

வாக்குமிக வழாறு பெய்க கடுவளஞ் சரக்க மன்னள்
கேசரிமுறை அரக செய்க குறைவினா துயிர்கள் வாழ்க
நாள்மறை வறங்க சொசிக நற்றயம் வேலி மலக
மென்மைகொள் வகவதி விளங்குக உவக பெருமாம்

Printed and published by the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Saiva Prakasa Press 450 K. K. S. Road Vannarponnai, Jaffna on Friday September 20, 1974.

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