



SEPTEMBER 28TH 2002

# Awards of Excellence

CANADIAN TAMIL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

DIRECTIONS  
SPECIAL EDITION OF AOFE





# Saluting Excellence in our Community



Our very best wishes to  
the honoured recipients of the  
Canadian Tamil Youth Development  
Awards of Excellence.

We are proud of the  
contributions you have  
made to the community with  
your talent, ingenuity,  
imagination and initiative.  
Here's wishing you continued  
success in the new millennium.



*Valuing People... Valuing Diversity*





**2002**

**Winter/Fall**  
DIRECTIONS: SPECIAL EDITION



**TEAM DIRECTIONS**

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The objective of **DIRECTIONS** is to encourage dialogue and debate on a variety of subjects. The opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the author and not of **DIRECTIONS** or **CanTYD**. Contributions may be edited according to space restrictions and to comply with **CanTYD** mandate.



Awards of  
Excellence

**DIRECTIONS** is a quarterly magazine of the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre (CanTYD). It is a vehicle for dialogue and a networking tool for Tamil youth. The next issue is planned for March 2002.

**DIRECTIONS  
CanTYD**

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This magazine is available on the **CanTYD** homepage.

We would like to hear your opinions about this issue of **DIRECTIONS**. Please send your comments to directions@cantyd.org or to the above address.

**DIRECTIONS** is always on the lookout for articles, essays, columns, commentaries, poems, artwork, etc. Please consider writing for **DIRECTIONS**. Contribution limit is 1000 words. Send your contributions to the above contact addresses.

**DIRECTIONS** reserves the right to refuse to publish letters or articles which are judged to be libellous or discriminatory on the basis of gender, race, ethnic, religion, sexual orientation, class or (dis) ability.







## FROM THE EDITORS

It is a pleasure to hand to you, our special issue of Directions. This issue is a combination of both the Directions and Awards of Excellence magazines. As you all can see, Directions is quickly becoming a full-fledged publication containing opinion pieces, columns, stories, etc. Our previous issues have been well received by the Tamil youth community. Volunteers are always welcome to join Directions' friendly and dedicated team.

Now getting on to the theme of this issue. Life is full of problems and without them, life will be meaningless. As human beings, we cannot be coward and run away from them but rather we must stand our ground and overcome the obstacles in our path and reach for excellence and succeed. Reaching for excellence and succeeding in life can be done academically and/or socially. Does a degree or hard work guarantee success? Or is it neither and merely a matter of luck? Does one really need to have a college/university degree to be respected and get a good job? Yes indeed, without a degree one would be hard pressed to find a job these days. The degree beside your name will earn you good impression. But then again, as long as the person has the exposure to the business world, can't he earn a respectful living through honest hard work? There are lots of people who have succeeded in life without a degree and there are so many people who are in a good position because of their degree.

So with these thoughts in mind, lead your life to wherever it takes you and as long as you think things through carefully and make informed decisions and choices, you will have happiness and success in your future.

- Rama, Nesha and Gaithree.





## BREAKING THE BARRIERS: BUILDING THE FUTURE

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A mere four and a half years ago 14 Tamil university and college graduates set out to form an agency to serve the growing needs of Tamil youth in the Greater Toronto area. Their footsteps were guided by their thirst to assist and empower our youth in order to maximize their potential. With very limited means this group set to change the world, at least their part of it. They had very little financial support, experience, and organizational recognition.

Since the formative days of CanTYD, we have had four and a half years of sustained and continuous growth allowing us to better serve the needs of our diverse youth population. Our programs evolve in order to make our services more effective. For example, last year we launched Project RANI, a program to assist young Tamil women with the aid of the United Way of Greater Toronto. This year, we are pleased to expand our programs with the Community Mobilization Project, funded by the National Strategy on Crime Prevention and Project IMPACT, funded by the City of Toronto. These two new programs will allow us to create capacity and assist Tamil youth and their families in different areas of our city. In addition, we have increased our roles in high schools with the expansion of Project THAMIL. These programs are unique and custom designed to serve the needs of our youth and their families in the long term.

The names and pictures of our Awards winners you see in these pages reflect the depth of commitment our youth have made to academia, community, sports, arts and to overcoming challenges. These awards not only represent their individual success, but the success of an entire community. We value the contributions of our award winners and encourage others to follow in their path. The sacrifices of our community members - the parents, guardians, and family - their investment in the future of their children is bearing fruit as our community moves forward. We congratulate the awards winners and their families for a fine effort!

The success of CanTYD lies in the hands of its volunteers and staff. Their individual and collective efforts shape and mold this organization into a unique and rewarding entity. Though most remain out of the spotlight, they are the people who make CanTYD special. A big heartfelt "Thank You" goes to our Fearless Leader/Big Brother - Gary Anandasangaree, for having had the fortitude and the wisdom to support and guide the growth of CanTYD over the past year.

We would also like to thank each one of you for your continued support in making this event a great success. Whether you are a funder, sponsor, judge, journalist, nominee, award recipient, or a community member - your continued support has been inspiring in making this event an annual reality!

Anusha Srijevanathan  
Director

Neethan Shanmugarajah  
Director





# About



# CanTYD

A single bullet escaping the barrel of a gun is enough to take away a valuable life, a life's worth of memories, a hope for the future, and will leave scars even in the life of the one who pulled the trigger. Kapilan Palasandiran, the first Year University of Waterloo Physics student, whose death came at the hands of random violence, shook us all. To all of us who were contemplating on doing something to help youngsters and prevent the Tamil community from being labeled as brimming with criminals, it was the wake up call.

On February 15, 1998 at 7:00 p.m., 17 members gathered in the boardroom of the Tamil Eelam Society to do something to reduce the negative portrayal of the Tamil youth in the news media and to formulate strategies and programs to reduce violence and enable the development of our youth. From this discussion arose Canadian Tamil Youth Development Center (CanTYD). Our mission for the year 1998 was set towards fostering a positive image of Tamil youth in the community.

CanTYD has made inroads into the Tamil community and the non-Tamil community. CanTYD has worked with the news media to bring about a change in the portrayal of Tamil youth. Partnership between the Toronto District School Board and CanTYD has provided the volunteers at CanTYD the necessary training in several areas including counseling, leadership training etc., and it has also enabled CanTYD to actively interact with the students to provide needed assistance, counseling, support and role models to follow. In addition, CanTYD also works in partnership with the Toronto Police Services in working with the community to reduce violence and promote development. Our activities are thus geared towards reaching out to youth, the community and other stakeholders, provide the necessary services and to work in partnership with all concerned to achieve our mission.

Since February 15, 1998, we have grown from a 17-member organization to a center with more than 100 volunteers and are ably assisted by a dedicated group of advisors. With the tremendous support, CanTYD has been receiving from everybody involved we are determined to successfully achieve our mission of empowering and developing our Tamil youth.

தனது எதிர்காலம் பற்றிய நம்பிக்கை வாழ்கையின் வசந்தமான நினைவுகள் என்பவற்றைச் சுமந்துகொண்டு இருக்கும் விலைமதிக்க முடியாத மனித உயிரை அழித்துவிடும் ஒரு துப்பாக்கி வேட்டு, அதனைச் சுட்டுத் தீர்த்தவனது வாழ்விலும் கறைகளைப் படிய விட்டுச் செல்லும் என்பது யதார்த்தமாகும். இத்தகைய வன்முறை என்ற அரக்கனின் பிடியில் சிக்கித் தன் இன்னுயிரை நீத்த கனேடிய வார்ட்டலூ (Waterloo) பல்கலைக்கழக 1ம் வருட பௌதிகவியலத்துறை மாணவன் கபிலன் பாலச்சந்திரனின் கொலை எம்மை எல்லாம் உலுக்கிவிட்டது.

கிரிமினல்கள் (Criminals) என்று முத்திரையிடப்பட்ட எமது தமிழ் இளைஞர்களைப் பாதுகாக்க வேண்டும் அவர்கள் குற்றம் புரியாமல் தடுக்க வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக ஏதாவது ஆக்கபூர்வமாகச் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்ற கட்டாயத்திற்குட்பட்டிருந்த எமக்கு கபிலன் பாலச்சந்திரனின் கொலை "விழித்தெழு" என்ற அழைப்புப்போல இருந்தது.

வன்முறைகளைக் குறைத்து எமது தமிழ் இளைஞர்களை ஆக்கபூர்வமாக முன்னேற்றுவதற்காகவும் தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் பற்றிய கனேடிய ஊடகங்களின் எதிர்மறான போக்கினைத் தடை செய்யும் முயலாகவும் 1998ம் ஆண்டு மாசி மாதம் 15ம் திகதி மாலை 7 மணியளவில் தமிழ் ஈழச் சங்கப்பணிமனையில் 17 அங்கத்தவர்கள் ஆக்கபூர்வமாக ஏதாவது ஒன்றைச் செய்ய வேண்டும் என ஒன்று கூடி இருந்த அன்று நடைபெற்ற கலந்துரையாடலின் விளைவாக "கன்ரெயிட்" எனப்படும் கனேடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் அபிவிருத்தி மையம் என்ற அமைப்பு உதயமாகியது. இவ்வாறான எமது அமைப்பின் முக்கிய நோக்கம் தமிழ் இளைஞர்களைப் பற்றி இச்சமுதாயத்தில் ஒரு ஆதரவான போக்கினை உருவாக்க வேண்டும் என்பதே.

"கன்ரெயிட்" என்ற எமது அமைப்பு தமிழ் சமுதாயத்திற்கும் தமிழர் அல்லாத சமுதாயத்திற்கும் பல முன்னேற்ற பாதைகளை வகித்தது. மேலும் இவ் அமைப்பு செய்தி ஊடகங்களிடையே தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் பற்றிய தப்பிப்பிராயங்களை போக்குதல், ரொன்ரோ (Toronto) மாவட்ட கல்விச் சபைக்கும் தொண்டர் அடிப்படையில் ஆலோசனை ஆதரவு என்பவற்றை வழங்குதல் போன்ற பணிகளைச் செய்தது. இது மட்டுமல்லாது ரொன்ரோ (Toronto) காவற் துறையினருடன் தமிழ்ச் சமுதாயத்தை முன்னேற்றும் முகமாக வன்முறைகளைக் குறைக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளையும் மேற்கொள்கின்றது. இவ்வாறாக எமது அமைப்பு தனது முக்கிய குறிக்கோளான எமது தமிழ்ச் சமுதாயத்தின் இளைஞர்களை நல்வழிப்படுத்துவதில் மேலும் பல நிறுவனங்களுடன் ஒன்றிணைந்து உழைக்கின்றது.

1998ம் ஆண்டு மாசி மாதம் 15ம் திகதி 17 அங்கத்தவர்களுடன் தொடங்கிய இந்த அமைப்பு இன்று நூற்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட தொண்டர்களையும் தம்மை சேவைக்கென அர்பணித்து வாழும் ஆலோசகர்கள் குழுவையும் கொண்டதாக இன்று வளர்ச்சி அடைந்துள்ளது.

இவ்வாறாக சகல தரப்பினரதும் அபரிமிதமான ஆதரவுடன் வளர்ந்து வரும் கன்ரெயிட் நிறுவனம் தமிழ் இளைஞர்களையும் யுவதிகளையும் முன்னேற்றப் பாதையில் இட்டுச் செல்லும் அதன் குறிக்கோளான வெற்றிகரமாக அடையும் என்பதில் தீர்க்கமாக உள்ளது.





# Programs In CanTYD

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## Research

[research@cantyd.org](mailto:research@cantyd.org)

When CanTYD was initially formed, preliminary research was conducted to assess the needs of Tamil youth in Canada. Based on the recommendations of this preliminary research, several programs were started to address the issues that face Tamil youth. In August of 1999, CanTYD launched a year long in-depth research study funded by the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention to explore the issues and concerns that face Tamil youth in the Greater Toronto Area. A survey of high school Tamil students as well as interviews of frontline workers and the youth themselves was conducted and culminated in the publication of *Toronto Tamil Youth: The Realities* in September 2000. CanTYD will continue to conduct research on a need basis to determine how to effectively serve the Tamil youth in Canada.

## Awards of Excellence

[awards@cantyd.org](mailto:awards@cantyd.org)

Awards of Excellence, CanTYD's signature event seeks to motivate and inspire high school Tamil youth to excel in various fields and provide positive role models. Students who have excelled in Athletics, Academia, Community Service, Unique Distinguished Effort, Most Improved Effort, and Overall achievement are recognized at this prestigious annual awards ceremony. In addition, awards are given to students who have strived to overcome great difficulty and also to those who have made a dramatic improvement in their scholastic career. An independent panel of judges determine the recipients of the awards. Award winners who are continuing on to post secondary education receive a scholarship towards their higher learning. It is CanTYD's vision to propel all Tamil youth to achieve their full potential.

## Counselling

[counselling@cantyd.org](mailto:counselling@cantyd.org)

The Centre provides peer counselling, information and referrals to Tamil youth. All information is kept confidential. Peer counsellors provide access to resources and options in general and aid and advocate on behalf of Tamil youth with any issues they might have.

## Directions

[directions@cantyd.org](mailto:directions@cantyd.org)

This quarterly publication by CanTYD provides Tamil youth with a forum to express themselves through written contributions. Directions is widely distributed and read in the Greater Toronto Area and is also available to a global audience via the Internet. Readers of Directions include Tamils and non-Tamils who are working with or for the Tamil community.

## Communications

[communications@cantyd.org](mailto:communications@cantyd.org)

The Communications Team, the outreach team, of CanTYD, endeavours to establish relationships with mainstream and Tamil media to foster better relations between communities through workshops, presentations, and networking. The team provides support for all CanTYD programs to publicize the achievement of Tamil youth which in turn help overcome the inaccurate negative image of Tamil youth in the media while concurrently creating a positive one. CAPS, the Communications Archiving Project, aims to keep an accurate database of online and paper articles relating to Tamil youth.





## Programs In CanTYD contd...

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### Web Team

**webmaster@cantyd.org**

The web team connects CanTYD to the rest of the world. Our website, [www.canty.org](http://www.canty.org) has been visited by individuals from all over the globe who have acclaimed the achievements of CanTYD. The website serves to inform both members and non-members of CanTYD's activities.

### Project T.H.A.M.I.L.

**thamil@canty.org**

Project T.H.A.M.I.L. (Tamils Helping And Motivating to Inspire Leadership) team, works with Tamil youth at a grassroots level to inspire leadership in students. The program also seeks to involve parents as part of the process. To achieve this goal, Project THAMIL currently runs the following programs:

*School Outreach* - CanTYD currently works with Tamil highschool students at five secondary schools on a regular basis. The outreach workers act to foster strong relations with students, teachers, administration and parents. Students are given the opportunity to actively participate in interactive workshops such as assertiveness, conflict resolution, and "parents: bridging the generation gap and culture".

*Akka Thamizha?* - Akka Thamizha? is a publication of literary and artistic submissions by Tamil students from Grade 7 to OAC. Akka Thamizha? is a result of an initiative by highschool youth to promote youth expression, creativity and originality through the arts.

*Drop-In Centre* - The Drop-In Centre serves to provide Tamil youth with a positive environment to interact with other youth and older mentors. Although no permanent facility exists at the present time, CanTYD uses community centres to hold constructive recreational activities during the summer and school year. The Drop-In Centre participants work on several projects, schoolwork assistance, sports, workshops, and discussions groups to name a few.

*Parents Network* - The team has created a Parents Support Network to provide Tamil parents with access to resources and support. A Parents Support Network will create greater awareness in areas such as education, careers in Canada, and the Canadian justice system.

*Medai Konal* - A young talented group of artists produce plays written and directed by writers and producers in the group. They have received rave reviews for their productions with themes of domestic violence, substance abuse, and violence presented at several community events during 2001.

*Youth Transition Program* - A program for grade 8 students, it aims to make the transition from elementary school to high school a better and comfortable process. This is achieved throughout the transition summer with a program consisting of workshops facilitated by high school students on issues that they encounter in the high school environment i.e. peer pressure, popularity, conflict resolution etc.



## Programs In CanTYD contd...

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### **Project RANI**

**info@cantyd.org**

Dedicated to the empowerment of young Tamil women, Project RANI devotes its attention to workshops, Drop-in Centres, Girl Talk!, Mother-Daughter Drop-ins and various activities. A much needed program, Project RANI volunteers visit secondary schools and provide counselling and support to young Tamil women.

### **Project IMPACT**

**coordinators@cantyd.org**

It aims to prepare three neighbourhoods to develop into proactive local communities that can deal with youth issues themselves through addressing the root causes. The project has two direct goals:

#### **1. Education:**

- a) To increase awareness about youth issues in the three neighbourhoods through dramas, pamphlets, videos and workshops
- b) To familiarize the community about the services available to address youth issues such as gang violence, substance abuse, parental conflict and mental health related issues.

#### **2. Outreach:**

- a) To work on an individual basis with youth who are involved in anti-social activities in these neighbourhoods to get them back on track
- b) To involve a group of youth in that neighbourhood in the education component of the project so that they develop skills in leadership, teamwork, presentation, communication and organization.
- c) To use the identified youth to take the message to the other youth in the neighbourhood.

The overall purpose is to reduce the amount of anti-social activities in three neighbourhoods and to increase the capacity of the community to address these issues through education and awareness.

### **Community Mobilization Program**

**coordinators@cantyd.org**

The project is aimed at increasing the participation of the youth and the parents in various activities in two neighbourhoods. For example, School extra-curricular activities and school parent councils; increasing the use of community resources and services by youth as well as by parents so that they can address issues such as substance abuse and health issues more effectively; increasing the awareness in the community about the youth issues and their consequences. Through these three outcomes, the project will ensure a better communication at home and also availability of productive activities for youth rather than hanging out in streets and getting involved in illegal activities.

### **Community Watch**

**comwatch@cantyd.org**

CanTYD works with other organizations to find effective solutions for issues relating to the Police Services and seeks to educate the police on Tamil community issues. In partnership with other Tamil organizations and the Toronto Police services, CanTYD facilitates the Community Watch program. In addition, an important task of Community Watch is to provide education and awareness of the history, cultural background and issues of the Tamil Community that will hopefully assist police in serving the community in a culturally sensitive manner.





## Programs In CanTYD contd...

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### **Finance Team**

**finance@cantyd.org**

The finance team provides accounting and financial support for CanTYD's initiatives. To run the various programs in CanTYD, financial help is solicited from government grants, corporate sponsorships, and private personal donations. While maintaining the financial integrity of CanTYD, the team facilitates the training of new members in a non-profit financial environment.

### **Volunteer Team**

**volunteer@cantyd.org**

With over 300 volunteer applications in the CanTYD database, the volunteer team ensures that all new volunteers have found their niche in CanTYD. Facilitating the smooth transition into this organization, this team endeavours to make the "first impression" a good one.

### **Admin Team**

**coordinators@cantyd.org**

The working horse of CanTYD, this team ensures the smooth running of the day-to-day activities of CanTYD. From ensuring the accuracy of CanTYD administration records to maintaining contact with the community and composing letters to service providers to updating volunteer hour logs, this team is involved in every facet of CanTYD. An opportunity to learn about the inner workings of a non-profit organization, volunteers eagerly sign-up for this up-and-coming team.



## கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்

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கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட காலத்தில் கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர்களின் தேவைகள் பற்றிய தொடக்க ஆய்வொன்று நிகழ்த்தப்பட்டது. இவ்வாய்வின் ஆலோசனைகளிற்கிணங்க தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் எதிர்நோக்கிய பல்வேறு பிரச்சனைகளுக்குத் தீர்வு காணும் வகையில் பல புதிய திட்டங்கள் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டன. தேசிய செயற்திட்டத்தில் சமூகப் பாதுகாப்பும் குற்றத் தடுப்புகளும் என்ற அமைப்பினால் வழங்கப்பட்ட நிதியுதவியுடன் 1999ம் ஆண்டு ஆய்வொன்று மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. ஒருவருட காலத்தில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட இந்த ஆய்வில் ரொரன்ரோ பெரும்பாகத்தின் தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் எதிர்நோக்கும் சவால்களும் பிரச்சனைகளும் அடிமட்ட நிலையிலிருந்து ஆராயப்பட்டன. இதற்காகக் கல்லூரி மாணவர்களிடமும், இளைஞர்களுடன் முன்னணியில் வேலை செய்பவர்களுடன் நிகழ்த்தப்பட்ட ஆய்வுகள், நேர்முகம் காணல்களின் தொகுப்பாக "ரொரன்ரோ தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் - யதார்த்த நிலைகள்" என்ற அறிக்கை செப்டம்பர் 2000ம் ஆண்டில் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. தொடர்ந்து சீரிய சேவைகளை வழங்குவதற்காகக் காலத்திற்குக் காலம் தேவை அடிப்படையில் மேலும் ஆய்வுகள் எம் நிலையத்தினால் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும்.

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தமிழ் இளைஞர்களுக்கு சக இளைஞர்களது ஆலோசனைகள், வழிமுறைகள், செய்தி விபரங்கள், அறிமுகம் செய்தல் போன்ற வழிகளில் இத்திட்டம் துணைபுரிகிறது. இளைஞர்கள் கூறும் விபரங்கள் யாவும் அந்தரங்கமாக வைக்கப்படுகிறது. பொதுவான விபர ஆதாரங்கள் வழிமுறைகளைகள் போன்றவற்றை இந்த இளைஞர்கள் பெற உதவுவதுடன் அவர்களின் தனிப்பட்ட பிரச்சனைகளுக்குத் தீர்வு வழிமுறை ஆலோசனைகளையும் சக வழிநடத்துனர்கள் வழங்குகின்றனர். கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலைய வழிநடத்துனர்களுக்கு ரொரன்ரோ மாவட்டக் கல்விச் சபையினரால் விசேட பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இப் பயிற்சி, பிரச்சனைகளுக்கு சுமுகமான தீர்வுகாணல், கோபத்தைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் வழிமுறைகள், சக நண்பர்களின் மத்தியஸ்த வழிமுறைகள், இளைஞர்களுக்கு உதவக்கூடிய ஏனைய துறைகள் போன்றவற்றில் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.



## கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்

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தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் தம் சுய வெளிப்பாடுகளை தமது பங்களிப்புகளின் மூலம் உருவாக்கித்தர இக் காலாண்டு சஞ்சிகை வெளியீடு உதவுகிறது. ரொரன்ரோ பெருநகரின் பல பாகங்களுக்கும் இது விநியோகமாவதுடன் பலராலும் விரும்பி வாசிக்கப்படுகிறது. தொடர் வலையத்தினூடாக இச்சஞ்சிகை உலக வாசகர்களையும் சென்றடைகிறது. இவ்வெளியீடு தமிழரால் மட்டுமன்றி தமிழ் சமூகத்துடனும் சமூகத்திற்காகவும் பணிபுரியும் மற்றினத்தவர்களாலும் வாசிக்கப்படுகிறது.

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செய்கையில் ∴ செயல்முறையில்

தமிழ்த் திட்டம் (தலைமைத்துவமடைய தமிழ் இளைஞர்கட்கு ஊக்கமும் உதவியும் அளிப்பது)  
வாயஅடைஞ்உயவெலன.முசப

கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையத்தின் தமிழ்த் திட்டக் குழுவானது தமிழ் இளைஞர்களுடன் ஒருங்கிணைந்து அடிமட்டநிலையில் இயங்கி அவர்களது தலைமைத்துவத்தை ஊக்கப்படுத்துகிறது. இந்நோக்குடன் இத்திட்டம் பெற்றோரின் பங்களிப்பையும் வேண்டிச் செயற்படுகின்றது. அந்த இலக்கினை அடைவதற்காக ஒன்பது திட்டங்களை நடத்துகிறது.

பாடசாலைத் தொடர்பு மையங்கள் - கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம் தற்போது ஐந்து உயர்கல்லூரிகளில் தமிழ் மாணவர்களுடன் ஒழுங்காக இம்மையங்களில் செயற்படுகிறது. இத்திட்டம் மாணவர்கள், ஆசிரியர்கள், நிர்வாகம், பெற்றோர் ஆகியோருடைய வலுவான உறவுகளை உருவாக்கும் வகையிற் தொழிற்படுகிறது. தம்மை முன்னிலைப் படுத்தல் (யள்ளநசவளைநெள்ள) பிரச்சனைகளுக்கு சுமுகமான தீர்வுகள் "பெற்றோர் - கலாச்சார பாரம்பரிய இடைவெளிகளுக்குப் பாலம் அமைத்தல்" போன்ற கலந்துரையாடும் பட்டறைகளில் மாணவர்கள் தம்முனைப்புடன் பங்குபற்ற வாய்ப்பளிக்கப்படுகிறது.





## கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்

அக்கா தமிழா - ஏழாம் வகுப்பு முதல் ஓசை (மூயுஊ) வகுப்புவரையுள்ள தமிழ் மாணவர்களின் கலை இலக்கிய படைப்புக்களைத் தாங்கிவரும் சஞ்சிகைதான் "அக்கா தமிழா" ஆகும். மாணவர்களின் உணர்ச்சி வெளிப்பாடுகள், புதிய உருவாக்கங்கள், சுய ஆக்கங்களைக் கலைகளின் மூலம் வெளிக்கொணர்ந்து படைக்க "அக்கா தமிழா" ஊக்கமளிக்கிறது.

பொழுதுபோக்கு நடவடிக்கைகள் - தமிழ் மாணவர்கள் நேரிய குழலில் தம் வயதொத்த பிர இளைஞர்களுடனும் வழிநடத்துனர்களுடனும் கலந்துறவாட னுசழி ஐமெயம் உதவுகிறது. இன்றுவரை இம்மையத்திற்கு நிரந்தரமான ஓர் அமைவிடம் கிடைக்கவில்லை எனினும் இத்தகைய நேரிய வளர்ச்சிக்குரிய பொழுதுபோக்கு நடவடிக்கைகளை கோடை காலத்திலும் பாடசாலைக் காலத்திலும் சமூக நிலையங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம் மேற்கொண்டு வருகிறது. தமிழ் இளைஞர்களைப் பற்றிய "சிலைட்" படங்கள் பார்த்தல், அதிகார பங்களிப்பு என்ற தலைப்பில் நவீன நடனம், காற்பந்தாட்டம் கைப்பந்தாட்டம் போன்ற நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் இந்த (னுசழி ஐமெ ஊநவெசந) மையத்திற்கு வரும் மாணவர்கள் பங்குபற்றுகின்றனர்.

பெற்றோர் இணைப்புத் திட்டம் - தமிழ்ப் பெற்றோர்களுக்கான ஓர் ஆதரவுத் திட்டம் அமைக்கப்பட்டு அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய வளங்களும் ஆதரவும் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன. கனடிய கல்வி முறை, தொழில் வாய்ப்புக்கள், நீதி நிருவாக அமைப்புமுறைகள் போன்ற துறைகளில் பெற்றோருக்கு கூடிய அறிவும் விளக்கங்களும் கொடுக்கப்படுகின்றன.

மேடை கோணல் - தமிழ் இளைஞர்கள் தம் குழுவிலுள்ள எழுத்தாளர்களின் படைப்புக்களை இயக்குநர்களின் உதவியுடன் தத்தம் திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தி நாடகங்களாக உருவாக்கி வழங்குகின்றனர். வீடுகளில் இடம்பெறும் வன்முறைகளும் விளைவுகளும், தகாத பொருட்களின் பாவப்பும் விளைவுகளும், சமூகத்தில் இடம்பெறும் வன்முறைகளின் தாக்கம் போன்ற கருத்துக்களை மையமாக வைத்து உருவாக்கப்பட்ட இந்த நாடகங்கள் பல்வேறு தமிழ்ச்சமூக நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் மேடையேற்றியது மட்டுமன்றிப் பலரது ஏகோபித்த பாராட்டுகளையும் பெற்று வளர்கிறது.

இளைஞர்கள் புதிய மாற்றங்களில் இணையும்கால திட்டம் - எட்டாம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள் ஆரம்ப பாடசாலைகளிருந்து உயர் கல்லூரிகட்குச் சென்று சமூகமாகவும் சிறப்பான முறையிலும் தம்மை இணைத்துக்கொள்ள வழிவகுக்கிறது. இவர்கட்குக் கோடை விடுமுறைகளில் பட்டறைகள் நடாத்த வழிகாட்டுகின்றது. ஏற்கனவே உயர்பாடசாலைகளில் உள்ள மாணவர்கள் இப்பட்டறைகளில் தாம் எதிர்நோக்கிய சவால்கள் அவற்றை எதிர்கொள்ளும் வழிவகைகள் என்பனபற்றி கலந்துரையாடி விளக்குவார்கள்.

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இது தமிழ் சமுதாயத்திற்காக உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. இளம் பெண்களை மேம்படுத்துவதே இதன் முக்கியகுறிக்கோளாகும். இதில் பலவிதமான நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடாத்தி வருகின்றன. ஆவற்றில் சிலவே பெண்கள் கலந்துரையாடல், பொழுதுபோக்கு நடவடிக்கைகள், தாய் மகள் கலந்துரையாடல் போன்றன தோண்டர்கள் வல வாடசாலைகளுக்கு சென்று அங்குள்ள தமிழ் யுவதிகளின் குறிக்கோள்கள் மற்றும் பிரச்சனைகளை செவிமடுத்து வருகின்றனர். இதற்கும் மேலாக தொண்டர்கள் தனி-தனியாக யுவதிகளை சந்தித்து அவர்களுக்கு தேவையான உதவிகளை செய்ய முன் வந்துள்ளனர்.



## கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்

### Project Impact

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மூன்று அயல் சமூகத்தை தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அவர்களை ஒரு சமூகமாக அமைத்து, அவ் இடத்து இளம் சமூக பிரச்சினைகளின் அடிப்படை காரணங்களை அவர்களே அறிந்து, அவற்றிற்குரிய தீர்வுகளை காணும் வகையில் இவ் அமைப்பு உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இத்திட்டத்தின் இரு நேரடி குறக்கோள்கள் கல்வியும், பொழுதுபோக்கு நடவடிக்கையுமாகும். இத் தமிழ் திட்டம் சமுதாயத்திற்கு இளைஞர் பிரச்சினைகளை தீர்ப்பதற்கான தங்களிடம் உள்ள சேவைகளை பற்றி அறிவூட்டுவதையும் ஒரு குறிக்கோளாக கொண்டுள்ளது. சில இளையோர் பிரச்சினையை குறிப்பிடுவோம் ஆனால், குழு வன்முறைகள், போதைவஷ்து பாவனைகள், பெற்றோருடன் முற்பாடு, மற்றும் மூழை சுகயீனம் என்பனையாகும். சமூக நலன்கேடான பாரியத்தில் இறங்கி இருக்கும் இளைய சமுதாயத்தினை ஒரு வழிப்படுத்துவதே இதன் முக்கிய நோக்கமாகும். இவர்கள் இளைய சமுதாயத்தின் திறமைகளை ஆன தலைமைத்துவம், குழுபோலைகள், மற்றும் பேச்சு திறமையை வளர்ப்பதற்கான முயற்சிகளில் ஈடுபட்டு வருகின்றனர். இதன் முழு நோக்கமும் மூன்று அயல் சமூகத்தில் சமூக நலன் கோடான விடயங்களை குறைப்பதும், கூடிய வரையான மக்களுக்கு இவ் பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு தீர்வு காணும் முறைகளை கல்வி மூலம் தெரியப்படுத்துதலுமாகும்.

### Coomunity Mobilization Program

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இரண்டு அயல் சமூகத்தை தேர்வு செய்து அதில் இழையோரையும், பெற்றோரையும் பல்வேறுபட்ட நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் பங்கெற்க வைப்பதே இதன் நோக்கம். ஊதாரணமாக: பாடசாலையில் கல்வி தவிர்ந்த ஏனைய நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் பங்கேற்றல், பாடசாலையில் பெற்றோர் சந்திப்பு, கூடியவரை பொற்றோரையும் மாணவரையும் சமூக சேவைகளில் பங்கு பெற்றுகொள்ளவைத்தலாகும். இதன் மூலம் போதைவஷ்து பாவனை, உடல் நல பிரச்சினைகளை இலகுவாகவும், கவனமாகவும் தீர்த்து வைக்க முடியும். இதற்கு மேலாக இளையோரால் உருவாக்கப்படும் பிரச்சனைகளையும் அதன் பிரதபலிப்புக்களையும் கூடியளவு மக்களின் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டு வர முடியும்.

### சமூக கண்காணிப்பு

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கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம் பிற நிறுவனங்களுடன் இணைந்து எல்லா வளங்களையும் பகிர்ந்து பாவிக்கிறது. அதுமட்டுமன்றி காவந்துறை சேவைகளுடன் தொடர்பான பிரச்சனைகளுக்குத் தீர்க்கமான வழிமுறைகளிற் தீர்வுகளைக் காண முயற்சி செய்கிறது. இதற்காக காவந்துறையினருக்கு தமிழ் சமூக விடயங்களில் கூடிய அறிவையும் விழிப்புணர்ச்சியையும் உருவாக்க செயற்படுகிறது. பிற சமூக நிறுவனங்களுடன் ரொரன்றோ காவந்துறையினருடனும் இணைந்து சமூக கண்காணிப்புத் திட்டத்தை செயற்படுத்துவதைச் சுலபமாக்குவதில் கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம் பங்கேற்கிறது. இச் சமூக கண்காணிப்புத் திட்டம் உருவாக்கியுள்ள "நகரத்தின் அழைப்புக்குரல்" என்ற தன்னியக்கத் தொலைபேசிச் சேவை தமிழில் மக்களுக்கு சமூகத்தில் இடம்பெற்ற அண்மைக்கால நிகழ்வுகளை அறியத் தருகிறது. இச் சமூக கண்காணிப்புத் திட்டத்தின் மற்றொரு முக்கிய பணி என்னவென்றால் காவந்துறையினர் தமிழ் சமூகத்துடன் கலாச்சார புரிந்துணர்வுடன் செயற்பட உதவுவதற்கு தமிழர்களின் வரலாறு கலாச்சாரப் பின்னணி, பிரச்சனைகள் பற்றிய ஊடக அறிவை காவந்துறையினருக்கு வழங்குகின்றமை ஆகும்.

### நிதிக் குழு

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கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையத்தின் முயற்சிகளுக்கான நிதியுதவி ஆலோசனைகளையும், கணக்கு வழக்கு வைப்பீட்டு வேலைகளையும் செய்கிறது. எம் நிறுவனத்தின் பல்வேறு சேவைத்திட்டங்களுக்குமான நிதியுதவியானது அரசாங்கங்களின் உதவிகள், தனிப்பட்டோரின் நன்கொடைகள் மூலம் பெறப்படுகிறது. இக்குழு நிதி செயலீடுகளை ஒழுங்கு முறையில் பேணி வைப்பதுடன் ஒரு இலாபநோக்கமற்ற நிறுவனங்களின் நிதிச் செயற்பாடுகளில் புதிய அங்கத்தவர்களுக்குப் பயிற்சியும் வழங்குகிறது.





## கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலையம்

தொண்டர் குழு

எழடரவெநநசளுஉயவெலன.முசப

கனடியத் தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலைய கணணி செய்தித் தொகுப்பின் பட்டியலில் 300க்கும் மேற்பட்ட தொண்டர்களின் விண்ணப்பங்கள் பதியப்பட்டுள்ளன. இப்புதிய தொண்டர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் தத்தம் தகுத்திறமைகட்கு ஏற்ப தொண்டாற்ற ஏற்ற துறைகளைத் தேர்ந்து சேர வாய்ப்பளித்துள்ளனர். முதல் அறிமுகப் பதிவு சிறப்பாக அமையவும் புதியவர்கள் சுமுகமாக ஏனைய தொடர்புகளுடன் இணையவும் வழிவகுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

நிருவாகக் குழு

உழுமுசனையெவழசளளுஉயவெலன.முசப

கனடிய தமிழ் இளைஞர் முன்னேற்ற நிலைய செயற்குழுவாக இயங்கி நிறுவனத்தின் நாளாந்த செயற்பாடுகள் சுமுகமாக நடைபெறுவதை இக்குழு கண்காணிக்கிறது. நிலையத்தின் நிர்வாக அறிக்கைகளைச் சரியாகப் பேணுவதுஇ சமூக இணைப்புக்களை ஏற்படுத்துவதுஇ சேவை வழங்குபவர்களுடனான கடிதப்போக்குவரத்துகளைச் செவ்வனே செயற்படுத்துவதுஇ தொண்டர்களின் சேவை நேரப் பதிவேடுகளைப் பேணுவது போன்ற பல்வேறு நடவடிக்கைகளையும் இக்குழு கண்காணிக்கிறது. ஓர் இலாபநோக்கற்ற நிறுவனத்தின் உள்துறை இயக்கங்களை பயிலும் ஆர்வத்தில் பல தொண்டர்கள் இக்குழுவில் விருப்புடன் இணைந்து செயற்படுவதுடன் பயன் பெறுகின்றனர்.



# MEMORIES FROM AOFE 2001

November 10, 2001 was the night of CanTYD's third annual Awards of Excellence and the Royal Ontario Museum was the venue of choice. As usual, it failed to disappoint. The night provided an opportunity to recognize Tamil youth for their achievements in various fields. Twenty-one awards were given out for achievements in academics, athletics, community service, perseverance and overall excellence. It is CanTYD's goal to uphold these winners as role models to other youth, while showcasing the positive aspects of our community to the media and the community at large.

The Awards of Excellence are geared towards high school youth in Grades 9 to 13. Award winners came from the Greater Toronto Area and were selected by a panel of independent judges from the many applicants who filled out applications made available in schools earlier in the year. The judges themselves were comprised of school principals, lawyers, doctors, business entrepreneurs and other leaders from within and without the Tamil community. In addition, the same independent judges based on nominations received by CanTYD, selected a Professional Achievement award winner and a Lifetime Achievement award winner. The Professional Achievement award was presented to Dr. Sudarshan Devanesen, an outstanding physician and the first Tamil Canadian appointed to the Order of Canada. The Lifetime Achievement award was presented to the late Dr. Christie Jeyaratnam Eliezer, a member of the Order of Australia, and an accomplished academic and humanitarian.

An audience estimated at 600 strong was in attendance. Amongst those in the audience were directors of various school boards, politicians, community leaders, police superintendents, corporate sponsors, supporters, the proud families of award winners and of course CanTYD's own corps of volunteers. The generous support of corporate sponsors such as Scotiabank, Royal Bank, Sunflowers Furniture and Teknion, enabled CanTYD to provide award winners in grade 13 with entrance scholarships for post-secondary education.

The night started off with a reception that provided an opportunity for the winners to meet various leaders of the community. The main program was kicked off with an excellent rendition of the Canadian national anthem and the Tamil Thai Vanakam. The emcees for the night were Dwight Drummond from CityTV and Lakshmi Kugathan, a student at the University of Toronto. The duo were excellent hosts throughout the night and complemented each other very well.

While the main purpose of the night was to present awards to the many winners, the night also featured performances and presentations that further highlighted the various talents of the Tamil youth of today. The showing of a documentary, created by CanTYD's own Medai Konal team, on Tamil youth violence, the views of the community, and CanTYD's role in these issues was met with astonishment at the high quality of the video. The content of the documentary itself moved a few in the audience to tears. A bharathanatyam performance provided guests from outside the Tamil community a glimpse into the majestic and ancient dance form. Agni, a band of young Tamil musicians provided a mix of Western and Tamil music, much to the delight of the audience.

The second edition of "Akka Thamizha?" was released during the night. Barbara Hall, a longtime supporter of CanTYD and Chair of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention received the first copy. The booklet featured a compilation of the artistic expressions of Canadian Tamil high school youth.

The night was also filled with speeches from such luminaries as Dr. Ethirveerasingham, a previous award winner himself, Dr. Devanesen, the professional achievement award winner, and Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, the chief guest and former premier of British Columbia. The speeches were both inspiring and thought provoking.

The celebration was heart-warming and portended of a bright future for the Canadian Tamil community. But alas this night, like all nights, had to come to an end. The fourth annual CanTYD Awards of Excellence will no doubt continue in the fine tradition of previous years.





## MASTERS OF CEREMONY



- + Graduated from Humber Radio Program
- + Host of Ishtyle TV, KISS92 FM DJ, and Comedian
- + Some of his interests includes playing golf, basketball and soccer
- + His future plans would be to host an International Talk Show
- + Always wanted to pursue a career in Television
- + His role models : His Parents
- + Words of wisdom to the youth:



MO D

"Don't let anyone tell you can't do something that you believe in...follow your dreams and do what makes you happy"

## SHARALLA SATKUNARAJAH

- + Attends Erindale Secondary School
- + Would like to pursue a field in medicine
- + Currently volunteers at Trillium Mississauga Hospital where she enjoys helping the staff and doctors
- + She is presently taking piano lessons (Grade 3)
- + Some of her interests includes reading novels, watching TV and music.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KAVICHANDRAN ALEXANDER

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

2002



Kavichandran Alexander was born in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka in 1949 and was educated in St. Thomas's College, Mount Lavana. He has always had a passion for music and poetry which was instilled in him by his highlygifted mother Lily, after whom his company Water Lily Acoustics is named. He moved to Paris, France in 1968 with the intention of studying cinematography. He performed in the French production of the rock musical Hair in Paris as well as in some French films. Kavi auditioned and was accepted into Maurice Bejart's highly innovative creative arts school "Mudra" in Brussels, Belgium. Between 1973 and 1974 he travelled widely in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. He moved to Sweden in 1976 and began working as a free-lance producer for an independent Swedish record company, for whom he produced and recorded American jazz artists such as Art Blakey, Thad Jones, Wynton Marsalis and Bobby Watson.

He then moved to the United States in 1981 with the goal of starting his own record company to preserve the classical music of Asia by recording it with the highest fidelity and artistic integrity. His first recording for his own Water Lily Acoustics was of the legendary virtuoso Dr Ustad Ali Akbar Khan in 1985. Since the inception of Water Lily Acoustics in 1985, Kavi has produced and recorded master musicians from Iran, India, China, Sudan, Morocco, Tibet, Turkey, The Gambia and Korea. Master musicians of the East he has produced and recorded include Ustad Imart Khan, Professor V.G. Jog, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, Pandit Jasraj, Dr N.Ramani, N. Ravikiran, Lalgudi Krishnan, Dr L. Subramaniam, Hossein Alizadeh, Simone Shaheen, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, Jie-Bing Chen, Wu Man, Hamza El Din and Dong Seok Kim.

Music from numerous recordings produced by Kavi have been featured in Hollywood movies such as "Dead Man Walking", "Two Days in the Valley", "Primary Colours", "Angel Eyes" and "One Hour Photo". He has also produced and recorded numerous Grammy winning American artists such as Ry Cooder, Taj Mahal, Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Edgar Meyer, James Newton, Larry Coryell, Jon Hassell and David Hidalgo.

In 1993, he produced and recorded "Meeting by the River" with Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ry Cooder, which won a Grammy award for Best World Music Album. In 1996, he produced and recorded "Tabula Rasa" with Bela Fleck, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Jie-Bing Chen which was nominated for a Grammy in the World Music category. In 2000 he produced and recorded "Nature's Realm" with The Philadelphia Orchestra, which is the first all analog recording of a major symphony orchestra in over 20 years and which garnered much critical acclaim.

Kavi's recordings for his Water Lily Acoustics and for numerous other labels are considered by music lovers and audiophiles alike, to be the very finest available and are held in the highest esteem. His unique blending of eastern and western musicians have helped create a new genre which will certainly impact and shape the music of the future, while his recordings of purely eastern classical music help to archive and preserve these ancient art forms that are most important for the well being of humanity.



# Culture

By: Jeevitha Rajendra

One of the most basic concepts in sociology is that of culture, which may be defined as the sum total of all distinctively human activities that can be transmitted from one generation to another. Various groups practice culture differently because it gives them an identity, and this makes people's lives easier by providing them rules and guidance by which they can conduct their lives. Through culture, we see order and co-operation. To get a better understanding of culture, look at the Tamil culture. It is a unique and exciting one. To many, the Tamil culture is known as one of the most disciplined and respected cultures. Let's start with the issue of arranged marriages. At first you must understand Tamil families worship and give more respect to their prestige than many other things in life. In western society, dating, falling in love and getting married is a normal part of life. On the other hand, our Tamil tradition forbids for a man and a woman to fall in love, especially if you are a female. It is known to bring great embarrassment to the whole family. Thus, an arranged marriage is more respectful and does not ruin the family's prestige.

"Life offers many paths to choose from  
You must always choose the one that is right  
One where you don't have to be  
Where you don't fall.  
Never take a step in life that will bring,  
Shame to your family name or prestige. ,  
Anyone can make money, but earning  
Respect is not everyone's cup of tea!"  
- Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham

Furthermore let's look at the many customs in the Tamil culture and why we follow them. Starting with why a woman wears, what's called, a pottu on

her forehead. This type of practice was pronounced in the early ages. For young girls, wearing a pottu is for beauty's sake. However, when a woman wears a red-colored pottu after her marriage, it warns off other men signifying the fact that she's already taken. It also serves to protect her husband from danger. In addition to wearing the red pottu, a thali represents a vow that the couple has taken together during their wedding. The first knot symbolizes their union, the second, love and the third, permanence, thus making their married life complete. Another marriage symbol is the metti, a silver ring that the wife wears on a toe. This indicates that the man she is going to wed touches her feet for the first and last time, while putting the precious ring on her toe. When he does so, he says " I place my dignity, pride and prestige at your feet, and I ask you to maintain and protect it." Last but not least, the issue of dowry. Although dowry was not originally part of the tradition, it became one after many years of practice whereby the parents of the bride gave away gifts and money to their daughter to help her prosper in her new role as wife.

Trusting one another  
Giving each other respect  
And treating each other's soul as their own  
Makes every marriage  
A wonderful, and dignified marriage

*Jeevitha is a grade 11 student at Albert Campbell C.I*



# World Youth Day

By: Annette Selvanayagam

Downtown Toronto is always on the move. However, within a huge crowd, a person can still feel isolated, as we are all withdrawn into our individual lives. However, during the last week of July, Toronto was awakened. Thousands of energetic young men and women poured into the streets, spreading their youthful spirits. It was World Youth Day 2002.

From over 150 countries, more than 200,000 pilgrims gathered in the heart of Toronto. On the street corners and in the trains, they were united in song and dance to celebrate the gift of life. With such brotherly love emanating everywhere, it felt to be in the company of family other than strangers. Everyone was trying to get to know each other and about their cultures despite the language barriers and many political and social issues.

From Sri Lanka, sixteen young adults accompanied by three priests participated in the weeklong celebrations. From Manaar to Negombo, they were joined under one flag and one nation. At a crucial point in Sri Lankan history, this national unity is symbolic of the spirit of World Youth Day.

Pope John Paul II addressed all the youth as, "The salt of the earth. The light of the world." Salt provides flavor to food and helps preserve it. Thus, Papa John Paul is calling us to change and improve the "taste of human history." He urges us to humanize the world with love and compassion. "The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity." He also explains that the light from a single candle is lost in darkness, however the unity of many candles will bring a world out of darkness.

I remember distinctly at one of the events, when Pope John Paul II appeared on the jumbo screen, someone exclaimed in breathless awe, "Now, that's power!" He was right. In his frail, weakening body, all I saw was his strength and defiance. He believes in us. In his determination and inspirational acts, he urges the youth of the world to push forward in our hopes.

Apart from the pilgrims, amongst the crowds at the World Youth Day events, there were also volunteers. From the Tamil Community, nearly a hundred volunteers, both young and old assisted in all sectors of the events. From food distribution to choir participation to VIP assistance, we were there to lend a hand. Though it was a Catholic event, there were Hindus and Christians who were part of the group; helping out for the good of Toronto and the Tamil Community. The volunteer directors of Our Lady of Good Health Mission and World Youth Day greatly appreciate all the volunteers for their service and dedication. **THANK YOU!**



## "Dared to do it "

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On July 18, 2002 professionals, established businesses and up and coming entrepreneurs along with their friends and associates from the mainstream community gathered to participated in the Tamil community's first annual golf tournament fundraiser hosted by CanTYD at the immaculate Silver Lakes Golf and Country club.

Proceeds from this tournament were directed in its entirety towards scholarships in recognition of the outstanding achievements of youth in a broad range of categories from community service, to academia, to the arts and athleticism. Awards not only acknowledge outstanding achievement, but also recognize those who have overcome extraordinary circumstances and have demonstrated steadfast dedication in pursuit of their dreams. These scholarships are to be presented at CanTYD's Awards of Excellence celebration.

On behalf of all of us at CanTYD, to all participants, sponsors, and prize donors, we extend to you our sincerest thanks for your support in acknowledging and empowering youth to brave all obstacles and embark on a journey in pursuit of their goals. We eagerly anticipate the continuation and progression of this partnership and hope that you are just as enthused.

CanTYD would also like to extend their appreciation to its members on the sponsorship team; Uma Sivaram, Easan Sri, Umesh Vallipuram, Tharshini Kumarasamy and Jay Kumarasamy for their pioneering sprit, outstanding efforts, sacrifice and unwavering dedication towards organizing this momentous event. Further, we would like to thank Kanish Thevarasa, Dr. Pon Sivaji and Mohan Markandaier for their counsel, support and motivation.

To Mr. Siva Balasingham and his prodigious son, Gajan, we thank you for your extraordinary support and motivation.

Thank you to all and a hearty congratulation to V.S. Lamba and his team for their sportsmanship and sweeping victory at CanTYD Open 2002.

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**CanTYD**  
*Open*  
**2002**





# CanTYD Open

Congratulations to the winners of CanTYD Open 2002



(L-R) B. Basra, V.S. Lamba, D.S. Lamba, S. Ahluwalia  
and the trophy presented by Babara hall

and to our generous sponsors....Thank you!

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By: Thanu Thirunavukkarasu



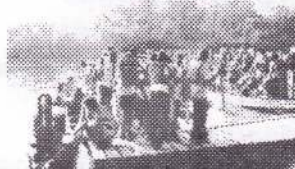
Echoes of "CanTYD! CanTYD!" are heard on the Lakeshore waters, when 20 Tamil youths from different schools get together to practice for CanTYD's second annual dragon boat race. These youths practice for an hour every Sunday, for a whole month. With each practice, their strokes get stronger, their echoes get louder, and their excitement for the race sky rockets.



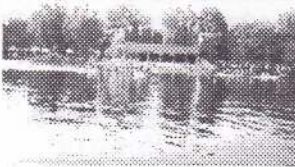
Rain or shine, these practices are crucial for the preparation for the race. There were times when two practices were booked back to back, where the weather was not kind, and rain would greet them on the water. But regardless of the circumstances, these youth will continue practicing. And with each powerful stroke, the canoe pushes itself forward with more force, with the ripples of water receding faster away. At the end of practice these tired souls crawl back to shore with sweat dripping down their face, and a bright beaming smile of pride radiating from their faces.



This year, CanTYD came in 16th place in the first race, and the 6th place in the second race. Although these places do not reflect the amount of hardwork and the amount of energy put into practicing for this race, the participants were not disappointed!! The second race was where people had the most fun, not caring about placing, but rather giving the race the best they had and not looking back.



The race ended with mixed emotions. Sad because it was done, and happy because the youths came this far. Everyone left, anxious for next year's race.



Thanu is an OAC student at Albert Campbell C.I





# தமிழ் குரல்

## உன் வாழ்க்கை உன் கையில்

நான் ஏன் பிறந்தேன்? இந்த வாழ்க்கைக்கு என்ன அர்த்தம்? தேடிச்சோறு நிதம் தின்று சின்னஞ்சிறு கதைகள் பேசி மாய்ந்து போவது தானா வாழ்க்கை? தேடிப்பல நூல்கள் வாசித்திருக்கின்றேன். அதன் மூலம் நான் தெரிந்து கொண்ட விடயங்களை உங்களுடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதே இந்தக் கட்டுரையின் நோக்கம்.

ஒரு சிறுவனையில் இருந்து தான் ஒரு பெரிய விருட்சம் வளர ஆரம்பிக்கின்றது. அது போல் ஒரு மனிதனின் எண்ண விதையில் இருந்துதான் எல்லா செயல்களும் சாதனைகளும் தொடங்குகின்றன. உங்கள் மனதில் தோன்றும் எண்ணங்களை நீங்கள் கண்காணித்து சீராக்கா விட்டால், உங்கள் மனம் கண்டதும் விளையும் முடிபுதருள்ள தோட்டமாகி விடக்கூடும். வாழ்க்கையின் சாரம்சமே நல்லெண்ணம் என்கிற ஒன்றில் தான் அடங்கியுள்ளது. எனவே நல்லெண்ணங்களைப் பயிரிடுங்கள். உங்கள் வாழ்க்கை கனி தரும் சோலைவனமாகி விடும். நீங்கள் எதை நினைக்கிறீர்களோ அதுவே நடக்கும்.

வாழ்க்கையின் குறிக்கோளை அடைவதற்கு நல்ல இலட்சியம் அவசியம். நல்ல இலட்சியம் இருந்தாலும் அதிலிருந்து நாம் வழுவி விடாமல் எமது இலட்சியத்தை முழுமையாக நிறைவேற்றிக் கொள்ள இலட்சிய ஊக்கம் மிக அவசியமானதொன்றாகும். இலட்சிய ஊக்கத்தை ஏற்படுத்திக் கொள்ள சிறந்த ஒரு வழிமுறை உங்கள் எதிர்காலத்தை மனத்திரையில் தெளிவாகப் பாட்பது. உங்கள் இலட்சியம், அடைய வேண்டிய இலக்கு, அதற்கான செயற்திட்டங்கள் பற்றி கற்பனை (தெளிவாக சிந்தனை) செய்யுங்கள். இதனால் உங்கள் ஆழ்மனம் உந்தப்பட்டு உங்களை அறியாமலே நீங்கள் உங்கள் இலட்சியப்பாதையில் சென்று கொண்டிருப்பீர்கள். உங்களை உற்சாகப்படுத்திக் கொள்ள இன்னொரு வழி உங்கள் இலட்சியத்துடன் தொடர்புடைய வெற்றி பெற்ற மனிதர்களின் க்யசரிதையை வாசியுங்கள். வீர சிவாஜியின் சரித்திரம் தான் பகவத்சிங்கை ஒரு புரட்சி வீரனாக்கியது.

உங்கள் வாழ்க்கை என்னும் திரைப்படத்தில் நீங்கள் குப்பர் ஸ்டாராக விளங்குவது உங்கள் கையில் தான் இருக்கிறது. எல்லோருக்குமே வெற்றி பெறுவதற்கான எல்லாத் தன்மைகளும் இருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் அவை நமக்கு இருக்கின்றன என்பதை வேண்டுமானால் மட்டும் நாம் அறியாதது இருக்கலாம். "ஒரு ஆசை ஒரு ஆன்மாவிற்கு எழுகின்ற தென்றால் அதனிடம் நிறைவேற்றிக்கொள்ளக்கூடிய எல்லா ஆற்றல்களும் அதனிடம் இருக்கிறது என்பதே அதன் அர்த்தம்" என்று எம்சன் சொல்கிறார்.

வெற்றி பெறுவதற்கான பண்புகள் யாவை? நாம் செய்ய வேண்டியதெல்லாம் வெற்றிகரமான மனிதர்களின் வாழ்க்கையிலிருந்து அந்தப் பண்புகளை கற்றுக்கொள்வது தான். வாழ்க்கையில் வெற்றி பெறுவதற்கான வழிமுறைகள் பற்றி ஆங்கிலத்தில் எமர்கள், நெப்போலியன் ஹில், டேல் கார்னகி, வால்டர் டோயல் ஸ்டேபிள், அந்தோனி ரொபின் என்ப பல எழுதியுள்ளார்கள். தமிழில் அப்துல் ரஹீம், டாக்டர் எம். ஏஸ் உதயமூர்த்தி, பி.சி.க கணேசன் ஆகியோர் எழுதியுள்ளார்கள். கண்ணதாசன் புதிப்பகம் பல மொழிபெயர்ப்பு கயமுன்னேற்ற நூல்களை வெளியிட்டுள்ளது. இந்தப் புத்தகங்களை வாசிப்பதன் மூலம் நீங்கள் வாழ்க்கையில் வெற்றி பெறத் தேவையான மனோ சக்தி, விடாமுயற்சி, நேர்(நல்ல) எண்ணங்கள், கயமதிப்பு, தன்னம்பிக்கை, ஆழ்மனத்தின் பிரமிப்புட்டும் செயற்பாடுகள் பற்றி விரிவாக அறிந்து கொள்ளலாம்.

உங்களைப் பற்றி நீங்கள் க்யஅலகல் செய்து கொள்ளுங்கள். உங்களை நீங்களே விலகி நின்று கேள்விகள் எதுவுமே கேட்காது வெறுமே கவனித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். இது உங்கள் மனம் பற்றி அதன் செயல்கள் பற்றி நீங்கள் தெரிந்து கொள்ளவும் உங்களை மேம்படுத்திக் கொள்ளவும் உதவிகோலாக அமையும்.

வெற்றிக்கான வழிமுறைகள், செயல்முறைகள் எளிமையானவை, - இலகுவானவை என்று சொல்லவில்லை. ஆனால் எல்லோருமே புரிந்து கொண்டு கடைப்பிடிக்கக்கூடியவை. இந்த எண்ணங்களை, பண்புகளை உங்களுடையதாக்கி கொள்ளுங்கள். நீங்கள் வெற்றி பெறுவது உறுதி.

உலகில் உள்ள எந்தச் சக்தியினாலும் மிகைக்க முடியாத சக்தி ஒன்று உள்ளது. அதுவே மனிதனின் மனோசக்தி - ஸ்டாலின்.

McMaster University Graduates



cantyd.org

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## வாசல் தேடிடும் விழிகள்

இவர்கள் எம்மவர்கள் . . .

இருட்டை இழந்தும் மினுமினுக்கும்

- வீட்டில் பூச்சிகள்

வினாந்தரப் பகலில்கூட நிழலுக்கு ஏங்கும்

- நிஜங்கள்

அற்புதத்தீவில் அவதரித்தும் அதன்

அனுபவம் உணராத

- துர்பாக்கியங்கள்

தந்தை நாடென்று விழித்திடும் தூரத்தில்

- கைவிரித்த

- அவலம் கண்டு நொந்த இதயங்கள்

அஹிம்சை போராட்டத்தின் உச்சம்

சென்றும் - இம்சை ஒன்றினையே

- பரிசாகப் பெற்ற பாவங்கள்

இவர்கள் . . .

இல்லாத வீட்டிற்கு வாசலைத்தேடிடும்

விழிகளை கொண்டார்கள்

தயர்த்தால் செய்த வாழ்க்கை ஒன்றினை

தமது காதல்

- உதிர் புன்னகை கொண்டு

வென்றவர்கள்

பூக்களுக்கும் போரிடத்தெரியுமென்னும்

புத்திலக்கியம்

- படைத்திட்ட மறவர்கள்

தாய் மண்ணில் வேதனையை

தாங்கிக்கொண்ட தியாக

- உள்ளங்கள்

இவர்கள் . . .

இல்லாத வீட்டிற்கு வாசலைத்தேடிடும்

விழிகளை கொண்டார்கள்

பேரினவாத பேய்களின் தர்பாரில்

ஆள்வோர் தானே

- செங்கட்குளைகள்

அமைதி எனும் மாளிகை வீட்டின் குளை

அணைத்துச் செங்கல் எடுக்க

- வருவாரோ இந்தப் பாதகர்கள்?

முடியாத கதையிதுவோ முடிவதுதான்

காலத்தின் கையிலினிலோ

- முரண்பாடுகள் உள்ள மட்டும்

இவர்கள்

இல்லாத வீட்டிற்கு வாசலைத்தேடிடும்

விழிதனைக் கொண்டார்கள்.

ஈழம் மீதினில் எமது கருத்துக் கவிதை

- ரங்கசாமி சிதம்பரம்



## UNIQUE DISTINGUISHED EFFORT

2002

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

“

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
OVERCOME PERSONAL HARDSHIPS AND  
SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.

”



### MANIMARAN SWAMINATHAR

GRADE: 10

Manimaran Swaminathar's love of writing poetry has already resulted in two published works. "... These are my biggest and most meaningful achievements because [it has] proved to the public, that if a person tries his/her hardest they can achieve anything in this world." This grade 10 winner of the Unique Distinguished Effort Award praises his family, teachers and school guidance counselor for his accomplishments. He is grateful for their guidance and support in fostering his academic successes and overcoming his physical barriers. This aspiring diplomat or computer engineer is currently attending Woodland School.

WORDS TO LIVE BY...

"A man is a sum of his actions, of what he has done, of what he can do. Nothing else."

-- Mahatma Gandhi

### YATHAVAN SIVARAJAH

GRADE: OAC

Yathavan's love of children has led him to volunteer his time to enhance their lives. Community service is important to this individual, who counts his Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award as his most meaningful accomplishment to date. Yathavan attributes his success to his mother "who has carried me across the quicksand. Anyone who knows me knows my mother. She is the wind that pushes me to soar towards success." Yathavan draws his inspiration from his late grandfather and is constantly working towards measuring up to his standards "He was my mentor and guided me through the maze of life ... he was a man of integrity, wisdom, courage, commitment and perseverance." This OAC recipient of the Unique Distinguished Effort Award is currently attending McMaster University, pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering.



WORDS TO LIVE BY...

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a CHILD..." -- Anon

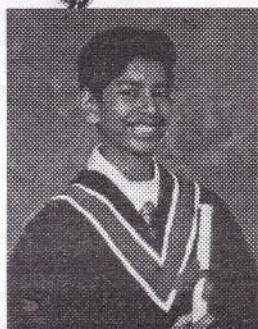


# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

“

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY IN  
SCHOLASTICS.

”



**NIMALAN THAVANDIRAN**  
**GRADE: 9**

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"I say try. If we never  
try, we shall never  
succeed."

- Abraham Lincoln

Nimal Thavandiran's academic improvement and enrichment, which have been fostered by his excellent teachers, has resulted in his receiving the grade 9 Overall Achievement Award. He recognizes his parents as the ones who have helped him succeed in and out of school, and admires their hard work and perseverance. Nimal hopes "to become a computer programmer and perhaps even start my own business similar to Bill Gates." The recipient of the Grade 9 Academic Award is currently attending Birchmount Park Collegiate.

**SALINI KANESU**  
**GRADE: 10**

Salini Kanesu's most meaningful achievement to date is, among other things, coming out on top in the Future Horizons 2002 Engineering Competition. Salini attributes her success to her family and teachers, as well as her own commitment and determination to be the best she can be. She is inspired by her family, who "drive me to work hard because I am so amazed by their many accomplishments . . . I learned perseverance and wisdom from my family and I say that every individual needs both of these characteristics to attain success anywhere!" Salini's interest in math and science has encouraged her to set goals to pursue a career in the Medical field in the future. This winner of the Grade 10 Academic Achievement Award is currently attending Nelson A. Boylen Collegiate.



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Self-respect is the  
root of discipline: the  
sense of dignity  
grows with the ability  
to say no to oneself."

-- Abraham J. Heschel



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

2002

AWARDS  
OF  
EXCELLENCE



**SENTHURAN VETTIVELLUPILLAI**  
**GRADE: 11**

Senthuran Vettivelupillai is thrilled and honoured to be the recipient of CanTYD's Grade 11 Academic Achievement Award, and counts it as one of his greatest accomplishments. This gifted math whiz attributes his successes to "persistence, hard work and my inherent inquisitive nature, for I am constantly seeking knowledge and understanding of the world around me. This . . . combined with hard work and diligence, has enabled me to attain academic excellence." Senthuran's greatest influences are his parents, who motivate him to strive for excellence in all aspects of life. Currently a grade 12 student at R.H. King Academy, Senthuran is working towards contributing to the betterment of humanity. "I want to contribute in some way to the greater good of the world."

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"You can observe  
a lot by watching"

**JANANI SIVARAJAH**  
**GRADE: 12**

Janani Sivarajah's many successes include her thriving academic career and her volunteer work for various causes. She is especially devoted to working with kids to help enhance their academic abilities, and is also proud of her work with various hospitals. This recipient of the grade 12 Academic Achievement Award owes all of her success to her parents. "They are as ambitious about my education as much as I am, if not more." Janani draw inspiration from her father. "It is inspiring to see how much people respect him and come to him for any help. I look up to him a great deal and wish to be as strong as he is." Janani aims to become a doctor and is currently working towards this dream as a student at Don Mills Collegiate Institute



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"Every country is  
my country and  
every man is my  
kinsman " - Swami  
Vivekanada



2002

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



**THULASI SHANMUKANATHAN**  
**GRADE: 12**

WORDS TO LIVE BY...

"Think before you speak." - - Anon

One of Thulasi Shanmukanathan's many accomplishments includes completing a six-year bilingual certificate, making her fluent in English, Tamil and French. Despite her busy academic career, she has also found time to volunteer and maintain a part-time job during the school year. Thulasi attributes her success in school and life to her father, "... who was always there for me. He was the one who stayed up all night to help me with work. He always pushed me to do my best even when I didn't think that I couldn't do it myself." Thulasi's outstanding performance has won her both the grade 12 Academic and Overall Achievement Awards. An aspiring doctor, Thulasi is currently completing her final year at Agincourt Collegiate.

**GOPY ARUMUGAM**  
**GRADE: OAC**

Among Gopy Arumugam's many accomplishments, he regards his volunteer work in various hospitals and other worthy causes as his most meaningful and self-fulfilling achievement. A dedicated musician who plays multiple instruments, he credits his success to his parents and teachers who "have been an enormous support and encouragement throughout the years in helping me to get to where I am now ... I especially want to acknowledge my parents for their persistence on achieving my best." This winner of the OAC Academic Achievement Award hopes to become a doctor, and devote time to research so that he can contribute in the effort to develop efficient, accessible treatments to combat the world's deadliest diseases.



WORDS TO LIVE BY...

"You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

-- Anon



## ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

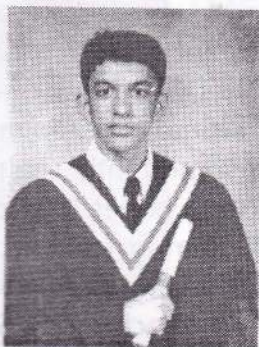
2002

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

“

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
EXCELLED IN ATHLETICS AND HAVE  
EXHIBITED TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP

”



WORDS TO LIVE BY ...  
"Be who you are"

### **PRATHIPAN RATNAM** **GRADE: 10**

Prathipan Ratnam's most meaningful achievements to date include earning recognition from his school and community for his outstanding efforts in athleticism. This grade 10 recipient of the Athletic Achievement Award attributes his success to his parents. He draws his inspiration from a friend who "is a great leader and an excellent role model. He influenced me to do my best in everything." This athlete eventually aspires to become either an engineer or pursue a career in medicine. Prathipan is currently working towards this goal at Kipling Collegiate Institute.

### **SHAKTHI SIVAKUMAR** **GRADE: 12**

Shakthi Sivakumar has been able to participate in numerous sports teams both at school and in the community, while maintaining high academic standards; and considers this as one of her most meaningful accomplishments. In spite of her busy schedule, this recipient of the Grade 12 Athletic Achievement Award has also found time to tutor other students as well as volunteer. Shakthi attributes her success to her parents who have always supported her, and her older brother, who "sparked my first interest in athletics when I was young. He has played an important role in why I am involved in a variety of activities [today]." This aspiring doctor who would like to practice pediatrics or sports medicine one day is currently attending David and Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute.



WORDS TO LIVE BY ...  
"Greatness is not where  
we stand, but in the position  
we are moving." -- Anon



2002

## ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT



**GRACE THARMARAJAH**

**GRADE: OAC**

Grace Tharmarajah's hard work was rewarded when she received the Senior Athlete of the Year Award in her final year of high school. She is grateful to her parents, teachers, coaches and friends who have supported and encouraged her athletic abilities and desire to succeed. She is especially influenced by one of her coaches who taught her that "winning is important, but sportsmanship and attitude are foremost . . . she trained me to be a better athlete, but more importantly, she trained me in developing as a person." In the future, Grace hopes to become a medical researcher and help those who are suffering from incurable diseases. This OAC recipient of the Athletic Achievement Award is currently attending Queen's University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree.

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Reach for the stars,  
and fall for the  
crowds." - - Anon

## PERFORMING ARTS

“ RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
EXCELLED IN PERFORMING  
ARTS ”

**KARTHIGA DHARMANANDA**

**GRADE: OAC**

Karthiga Dharmananda has achieved excellence both in and out of school. An honor roll student for five consecutive years, this student devotes much of her time away from school to her dance and community service. Karthiga, the recipient of the Artististic Achievement Award, attributes all of her Bharathanatyam successes to her Guru, who "helped bring out my full potential, making me push myself harder when I thought I had reached my limits." She is grateful to her parents for their encouragement. "My parents are the true definition of love and support. I owe everything that I have accomplished to them." Currently a first-year student at University of Toronto, Karthiga aspires to eventually pursue a Master's degree in Business.



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Nothing worth doing "  
in life is easy."



## MOST IMPROVED STUDENT

2002

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

“

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE SHOWN  
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR  
ACADEMIC ENDEAVOURS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

”



### DENESH BALARAVEINDIRAN

GRADE: 11

Denesh Balaraveindiran has made remarkable strides in the past year. The recipient of the Most Improved Student Award states that his biggest and most meaningful achievement to date has been increasing his average by more than 40%, thus earning himself a coveted place on the honor roll. Denesh accomplished this astonishing feat by "encouraging and engaging myself towards success to show my family, relatives and friends that I am as good as others." This motivated student hopes to become a professional in a career that lies in-between technology and biology. Denesh is currently attending grade 12 at Agincourt Collegiate.

#### \*WORDS TO LIVE BY...

"Quotes aren't  
memorized but  
are felt."



## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

“ RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS  
TOWARDS IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY  
AND SCHOOL LIFE. ”



**KAUSIKI SHANMUKANATHAN**  
**GRADE: 9**

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"There's a good reason  
for everything."  
"Behind every closed  
door is a new beginning."

Kausiki Shanmukanathan's biggest accomplishment to date has been her increasing determination to succeed in everything she tries her hand at. She credits her success to her parents, who have always been there for her, and to her own growing ambitions, which were the "reasons to my doing so well. I knew that if I wanted to make myself be important and make a positive difference in this world, I would have to do well and have goals to look forward to." One of Kausiki's long-term goals is to become a psychiatrist, and make a difference in the lives of others. Kausiki draws her inspiration from her sister, who "was always behind me in all my decision-making and my shoulder to lean on whenever I needed her." The recipient of the Grade 9 Community Achievement Award is currently attending Victoria Park.

**PAMILA NAVARAJAH**  
**GRADE: 10**

One of Pamila Navarajah's greatest accomplishments to date would be her acceptance into the "Steps to University" program which makes her a part-time university student while still in high school. Pamila attributes her success in life to her mother, who she describes as her "pillar of strength." This recipient of the Grade 10 Community Achievement Award for grade 10 draws inspiration from one of her teachers, who "encouraged me to follow my heart, listen to advice, and basically supported my decisions." Pamila currently attends Emery Collegiate Institute and aspires to a career in the medical field.



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"The difference between  
a successful person and  
others is not a lack of  
strength, not  
of knowledge, but rather  
a lack of will -Vincent .T. Lambardi



# OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION



## **JEEVANA PREMACHANDRAN** **GRADE: 11**

Jeevana Premachandran counts meeting Adrienne Clarkson at a Youth Forum in Ottawa, and her involvement as a secretary with the TDSB SuperCouncil among her many accomplishments. Jeevana, who is the recipient of both the Grade 11 Community Achievement Award and the Grade 11 Overall Achievement Award credits her family, teachers and guidance counselors for her success. She is inspired by her two older sisters and has "always looked up to them and have always wanted to achieve the same things that they have achieved. This way I have always had a challenge to face and this has pushed me to my success and to the place where I am right now." This talented student who believes that happiness is everything is currently attending Rosedale Heights Secondary School.

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm"-

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **SINTHIYA BALASUNDARAM** **GRADE: OAC**

Sinthiya Balasundaram is especially proud of the fact that she has obtained enough scholarships, bursaries, and earnings to pay her tuition for her studies at Ryerson University. This recipient of the Grade 13 Community Achievement Award attributes her success to her parents and guidance counsellor, and is aware of the importance of dreaming and setting goals for herself. Sinthiya has been influenced by her Art Teacher, who taught her to "live life and take every opportunity to thrive and succeed . . . 'See, Hear, Think, Act, Reflect, Improve: Evolvment'". Sinthiya is looking forward to pursuing a career in B-Comm Telecommunications and hopes to eventually travel around the world.



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Hold on to your dreams,  
for if dreams die, life .

is like a broken-winged bird that  
cannot fly -- Langston Hughes"



## **THANU NADARAJAH** **GRADE: OAC**

Thanu Nadarajah is an avid volunteer who has committed numerous hours to serving others. As an active participant in many worthy causes, she strongly believes that "a community is built on the basis of service and volunteerism." Thanu attributes her success to her parents, who have taught her the importance of perseverance and hard work, and "whose support and encouragement has made all the difference." She draws her inspiration from Nelson Mandela and admires his work in eradicating racial division and oppression. This recipient of the OAC Community Achievement Award is currently attending the University of Guelph, and pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree.

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .

"Learn from yesterday,  
live for today, hope  
for tomorrow."

-- Anon





## OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

“

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO ARE WELL-ROUNDED BOTH IN ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC ENDEAVOURS.

”



### MAHINTHAN THAYAPARAJAH GRADE: 9

As the recipient of the Overall Achievement Award for Grade 9, one of Mahinthan Thayaparajah's most meaningful accomplishments to date has been helping the less fortunate through his work with the food drive. This winner credits his success to his parents, siblings, and "teachers who are indisputably dedicated professionals who make the learning process a valuable part of my life." In the future, Mahinthan hopes to become an Aeronautics Engineer and serve Canada through his services at the Canadian Space Agency. His personal goals include working to make Canada "a better place for the co-existence of many cultures." Mahinthan is currently attending grade 10 at Westview Centennial.

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"One person can make a difference."  
- Nelson Mandela

### PRIATHARSHY THAVANATHAN GRADE: 10

Priatharshy Thavanathan's busy academic career is balanced by her love of music and dance. This winner of the Grade 10 Overall Achievement Award owes her success to her parents, whose "support and encouragement motivated me to succeed . . . If every child has such supportive parents, all children would succeed. Priatharshy draws her inspiration from her mother: "She influences me by talking to me about her life, her hardships, her successes and her failures. Her admirable personality makes me want to be like her in every way." This winner is aiming for a career in the medical field, which will enable her to loyally serve both Canada and Sri Lanka. Currently, she attends Worburn Collegiate Institute.



WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .  
"Well done is better than well said."  
-- Benjamin Franklin



## OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

2002

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



### JEEVANA PREMACHANDRAN

#### GRADE: 11

Jeevana Premachandran counts meeting Adrienne Clarkson at a Youth Forum in Ottawa, and her involvement as a secretary with the TDSB SuperCouncil among her many accomplishments. Jeevana, who is the recipient of both the Grade 11 Community Achievement Award and the Grade 11 Achievement Award credits her family, teachers and guidance counselors for her success. She is inspired by her two older sisters and has "always looked up to them and have always wanted to achieve the same things that they have achieved. This way I have always had a challenge to

WORDS TO LIVE BY ...

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm"

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

face and this has pushed me to my success and to the place where I am right now." This talented student who believes that happiness is everything is currently attending Rosedale Heights Secondary School.

### THULASI SHANMUKANATHAN

#### GRADE: 12

One of Thulasi Shanmukanathan's many accomplishments includes completing a six-year bilingual certificate, making her fluent in English, Tamil and French. Despite her busy academic career, she has also found time to volunteer and maintain a part-time job during the school year. Thulasi attributes her success in school and life to her father, "... who was always there for me. He was the one who stayed up all night to help me with work. He always pushed me to do my best even when I didn't think that I couldn't do it myself." Thulasi's outstanding performance has won her both the grade 12 Academic and Overall Achievement Awards. An aspiring doctor, Thulasi is currently completing her final year at Agincourt Collegiate.



WORDS TO LIVE BY ...

"Think before you speak."

-- Anon



### ASHWIN BALAMOHAN

#### GRADE: OAC

One of Ashwin Balamohan's many meaningful achievements includes organizing various charity events as his school's Tamil Students Association co-president. The fruits of his labour "convinced me that a vision can become a reality with a little hard work and a lot of planning." He attributes his successes in life to his parents who "gave me confidence in myself [and] revealed to me my potential and helped me to bring it out." This talented musician hopes to one-day make a meaningful contribution to society while doing something he loves. Ashwin is the recipient of the OAC Overall Achievement Award. He is currently attending University of Toronto, pursuing studies in Engineering.

WORDS TO LIVE BY ...

"Some people dream of worthy accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them." -- Anon





## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

“HONOURING AND RECOGNIZING A TAMIL WHO HAS EXCELLED IN HIS OR HER CHOSEN FIELD AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE INSPIRATION TO OTHERS.”



Dr. Ambalavanar Sivanandan is a renowned social activist in England. For the last twenty six years, he has been Director of the Institute of Race Relations, which he helped to transform from an organization divorced from the experience and needs of Britain's black community into a vital think-tank accessible to all those committed to combating racism. He has lectured throughout the world on racism and issues relating to the Third World and pioneered the history of black working-class struggle in this country. His concepts and ideas on institutional racism, cultural politics, anti-racist education and the economics of immigration have passed into common usage.

Dr. Sivanandan was born in Sri Lanka but left for Britain in 1958. In 1964, he joined the Institute of Race Relations as a librarian. Later on as he became Director of the same institution, he was the founding editor of the "Race and Class" magazine. However, he is best known for his own writings, which include "A Different Hunger" (1982) and "Communities of Resistance" (1990). "When Memory Dies," a novel set in Sri Lanka, won the Commonwealth Writers Prize and the Sagittarius Prize in 1998.

Among his other accomplishments, he has acted as consultant to a number of organizations, including the World Council of Churches, the Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, the Greater London Council, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work and the UN Commission on Human Rights. He chaired the inquiry into racism at the Greater London Arts Association in 1986. He has become the most influential black political thinker in Britain. His writings have shaped the outlook of a whole layer of black activists.

"By writing I am fighting injustice. My way of fighting is through my writing. Relations between humans are being divided into race, class and religion by writing I am fighting for better relations between humans."

- Dr. Ambalavanar Sivanandan, Directions Spring 2002 issue.



## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

2002

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

“

RECOGNIZING TAMILS WHO HAVE  
PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL  
IN THEIR CHOSEN CAREERS.

”



Dr Parvathy Kandasamy's outstanding performance for the upliftment and for the Rights of the Tamil community in Canada is quite extraordinary. She is a very dedicated, hardworking and sincere community worker who has been working for the Tamil Community in Canada on Prevention of Violence, Elimination of Racism and Safety for the various groups of the Tamil Community. She holds a B.A in Tamil and Linguistics from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She pursued her B.Phil in Linguistics in 1973, In 1981 she obtained her PH.D in Linguistics from Monash University in Australia. In addition to these degrees she holds a certificate in Cross Cultural skills for Human Service Professionals, Centre for Addiction and Mental and the Faculty of Social Work from University of Toronto.

She has received numerous awards and scholarships. Some of them includes the Mayor's Community Safety Award, the prestigious Senior Fullbright Fellowship from Stanford University, California and the Monash Graduate Scholarship to do her PhD. She has received various professional training in her field that have contributed to her success. Some of the training includes Mental Health Reforms, Women Abuse, Case Management, Child Abuse Prevention, Addiction and much more. She has also held academic positions such as Lecturer and Head of the Department, Language and Cultural Studies at the University of Jaffna. She was a key part of the Editorial Board of Cintanai - a magazine of the Faculty of Arts in University of Jaffna. She has also been a visiting professor in Tamil at Stanford University.

Her community involvement includes Community Theatre Work, Elimination of Racism through Etho racial Seniors Project (University of Toronto) and much more. She has used theatre methods to educate the public on various issues such as Prevention of Abuse among Women, Youth, Children and Seniors. Dr Parvathy has also written a number of awareness articles on Prevention of Women Abuse, Seniors abuse and Youth Violence. She is also a founding member of Vasantham.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## A Walk Down Memory Lane...

### Part 6- Movie Moghuls

S.S. Vasan a magazine publisher-turned-film distributor came into films in a big way when he took over a sinking studio in Madras and calling it 'Gemini'.



He firmly believed that a motion picture was, and should be a vehicle of pure entertainment for the viewers, and little else! It was not the duty of the filmmaker to educate or lift the masses nor should a cinema house be converted into a class room. His first production 'Madana Kamarajan' (1941) based on a popular folk tale created in such fashion was a box office success, and set the trend for his future productions.

The Gemini Symbol was the twins blowing a bugle and the slogan had it when the bugles blew there was a good show! "Mangamma Sabatham" (1943) based on a Pan Indian folktale was a major box office success directed by the lawyer-turned-film make T.G. Raghavachari (Acharya).

A.V. Meyyappan was another successful South Indian movie Mogul. Hailing from a business community known as Nattukottai Nagarathars. Meyyappan was earlier in the business of distribution and production of gramophone records.



He entered movies as producer in 1935 with "Alli Arjuna" (1935) and after facing many reverses hurdles and crises he made his way to success as producer, studio-owner and director. It is here, a saucer-eyed comedian T.R. Ramachandran became a star with the film. Bearing a remarkable resemblance to the famous Hollywood comedian Eddi Cantor, Ramachandran enfolded long innings as a successful comedian and played here in box-office hits like A.V. Meyyappan's "Vazhkkai" (1949) and K.J. Mahadevan's Chaplinesque film "Rajee En Kanmani" (1954) inspired by Charlee Chaplin's famous classic "City Lights". A new face name V.K. Ramaswami, youngman playing an elderly man's role created a fine impression in this film and went on to achieve remarkable and long standing success as a talented character actor with a wide range of histrionic ability. After nearly half a century Ramaswami is still going in Tamil Cinema. Baby Kamala, a remarkable talented Bharathanatyam dancer playing the hero's sister shot into limelight with her song and dance numbers in this film. Patriotic songs written by the legendary Tamil Poet Subramania Bharathiar were used with great impact in this film. Two song and dance numbers in praise of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi by Baby Kamala poured immensely popular giving "Naam Iruvar" a patriotic tint. A Kannada film "Harichandra" (1943) was under production of his studio in Madras. Acting on the encouraging advice of his

brilliant innovative audiographer V.S. Raghavan. Meyyappan launched an experimental production of 'dubbing' a few rolls of the Kannada film into Tamil. (Dubbing is the popular name in India for the changing of sound tracks inclusive of spoken word and songs from language into another) India being a country of many languages this 'translated pictures' called dubbed films is commercially popular. The 'dubbed' version produced by Meyyappan in Tamil from the original Kannada, fared well at the box office as the original Tamil version

- Courtesy of Intamm

## BABA

Starring: Rajnikanth, Manisha Koirala, Ashish Vidyarthi, Shatrughan Sinha, Sanghavi  
Direction: Suresh Krishna  
Music: A.R. Rahman

### Story:

Baba (Rajnikanth) grows up as an atheist, and a Good Samaritan. His mother is an ardent devotee of Baba who lives in the Himalayas and is supposedly 2000 years old. Chamundeswari (Manisha Koirala) stays in Baba's neighbourhood, and both of them fall in love.

Soon, however, Baba runs into some conflict with a local politician and his son (Ashish Vidyarthi.) Men are hired to kidnap and beat up Baba and his body, assumed lifeless, is thrown down a mountainside. A saint finds him and nurses him back to life. Baba becomes a devotee of this saint, who also has magical powers. He offers Baba seven boons. After returning to Chennai, Baba uses a couple of these boons irresponsibly in an effort to see whether they really work. Baba cleans up society of corrupt politicians and installs one of his associates to lead the state. Later he goes back to a religious life in his mountain abode.

The only roles of any significance in this movie are those played by Rajnikanth, and Ashish Vidyarthi. The general opinion of this movie is the same as the Telugu movie where he plays the protagonist against real life politician. This movie should be entertaining and fun to watch. Although the background of the story is a little different, it is still a story of a man endowed with the heavenly strength, and from the mountains have become accustomed to the human world. The character of Manisha Koirala, although overshadowed by the lead female role, is quite ornate, and she really does not play a key role in the plot of the film. It would be a pity if this movie become a blockbuster in a film industry which is begging for its first blockbuster of the year.



# POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

By: Kavitha Ganeshamoorthy

Many youngsters face the tough challenge of choosing the most appropriate institution for their post-secondary education. Most students and parents seem to promote enrolling in the more popular institutions such as University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, York University, Seneca College, etc. They claim that these institutions have a certain prestige that goes with the name. However, there is a wide assortment of Canadian universities and colleges that are also similarly prestigious but are rarely talked about in the South Asian community.

For the purposes of your further education, and information, we have chosen a few universities and colleges to enlighten those students who are heading out into the world of post-secondary education.

## UNIVERSITIES

### **BROCK UNIVERSITY (St. Catherine's, Ontario)**

Brock University boasts a friendly educational environment. Its programs have been touted as one of the best in Canada. Brock has a strong program in the Health Sciences, Mathematics, Business, and Social Sciences. All the Social Sciences and Humanities courses all have small seminar discussions, for a better understanding of each course. Brock also has a quality Education program, and allows for concurrent education to those who are interested in pursuing a profession in education. One of the specialties at Brock is that it also has a Pre-medical information course to help future medical students with the information needed for further medical studies. In addition to the academic excellence of this university, the campus is alive with academic and social activities. A former student of Brock, Stephen McAllister declares that his "experience at Brock was an immensely pleasing one. I found that there was great interaction between the professors and myself. They actually took the time out to inquire about my welfare. In addition to that, the Work-Study program helped me to earn money, and attend classes at the same time. It made it easier for me to be able to financially support myself."

### **LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY (Thunder Bay, Ontario)**

Although Lakehead University is situated in a rather remote and rustic environment, this mid-sized university offers a range of respected programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels of study. It has average size courses in Business Administration, Engineering, Forestry, Science, Environmental Studies, Social Sciences, Humanities, Nursing and Social Work. For those interested in going on to be educators, Lakehead also provides an excellent Bachelor of Education program. It is also one of the few universities in Canada to have an Aboriginal Studies program. The campus affords a friendly and comfortable environment for all types of students. Sathishkumar Vallipuram, a former graduate of Lakehead, states that "the small program of engineering at the university was a bit of a surprise in the beginning, but later I found that it promotes a camaraderie between colleagues and faculty members. Diversity is welcomed with open arms. I can only speak from my own experience, but I can say that Lakehead has an excellent engineering program, that was extremely challenging, and versatile towards my needs."

### **WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY (Waterloo, Ontario)**

Wilfrid Laurier University is one of Canada's foremost small universities, with a strong sense of community. The university offers undergraduate programs in arts, science, music, music therapy and business. The faculties of arts and science, as well as the school of business and economics, have a cooperative education option that enables students to enhance academic study with employment experience. First-year students are offered weekend programs for students and parents, inter-residence council, registration and orientation week, seminars and workshops on academic topics. "I found the accessibility at the University extremely pleasing. The level of expectation and success, especially in the computer science department, was extremely high. The professors were always willing to give me their time, and patience. Overall, the level of competitiveness pushed me towards doing extremely well. The students and staff there were extremely friendly and welcoming. The co-op education helped me further my contacts, and eventually my career in computer science," claims Anthony Mueller.



### **QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (Kingston, Ontario)**

Queens' University is one of the top universities in Canada. It ranks right up there with University of Toronto. Queens' has the top program in the Sciences, Mathematics, Business, Education and Law. It has a high level of prestige and success. First year students consistently have the highest average of any Canadian university. In addition to its academic excellence, Queens' also has over forty interuniversity teams, fifty intramural activities, twenty-eight recreational clubs, and eight competitive clubs. Maria Garces explains, "The reputation of Queens' is only one of the things that is great about this university. The level of academic excellence that is emphasized here pushed me to work harder in order to attain the level of success that I have so far. If I had not been pushed, I do not think that I could have gotten to my fourth year in one piece. I appreciate the encouragement I gained from peers and professors. It is an extremely supportive and educative environment. They breed success here."

### **RYERSON POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY (Toronto, Ontario)**

Ryerson is Canada's leader for relevant professional education. Ryerson has the largest undergraduate Faculty of Business in Ontario. There are six unique Ryerson degree programs: Early Childhood Education, Occupational and Public Health (Occupational Health and Safety option), Graphic Communications Management, Image Arts, Radio and Television Arts, and Retail Management. Ryerson recently introduced its new Graduate Studies Faculties, among which are Communication and Culture, Environmental Applied Science and Management, and Spatial Analysis, Engineering - Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, and Mechanical. The physical structure of Ryerson will be soon changing from a high-school type environment to a structure that is more fitting a university. Sanjana Sharma, an alumnus of Ryerson, asserts, "The hands-on approach to the program really helped me out. I was part of the Radio and Television Arts Program, and I found that the placements job-relevant field was extremely beneficial for me as a person, and also for expanding the horizons of my career. The environment was exceptionally comfortable for learning, and promotes a variety of experiences."

## **COLLEGES**

### **GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE (Toronto, Ontario)**

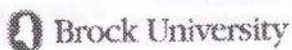
George Brown is a college community at the heart of Toronto. With three campuses at the heart of downtown Toronto, George Brown is unique among Canadian colleges. George Brown, students acquire the skills and make the connections that will help them realize their career dreams. The college offers a wide range of programming - Business, Technology, Community Services and Health Sciences, Fashion and Creative Technology, Graphic Communications, Language Training, and Hospitality/Tourism. "It felt to me that they promote a more hands-on type of education. I learnt a lot from my teachers who were always willing to help. The environment was just extremely lively, and made it easier for learning," says Wendy Giberson.

### **HUMBER COLLEGE (Toronto, Ontario)**

Located in the west end of Toronto, Humber College is one of Canada's largest and most respected community colleges. Humber College offers over 150 full-time diploma programs. Some of the more reputed programs include accounting, business, computer studies, hospitality and tourism, mathematics, media arts, technology, and writing. This diversity, coupled with Humber's humanistic, student-oriented philosophy, annually attracts over 12,000 full-time student and 28,000 part-time students. Says Rosie Leung "The transition here from high school wasn't very hard. The environment they create here is almost as community oriented as a high school. I found that everyone from the administration to the teachers to the students displayed an enthusiasm that I think makes this place unique."

### **ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE (Kingston, Ontario)**

If a profession in Law Enforcement or the Military is your goal, then this is the college for you. The Royal Military College aptly trains you for all facets of Military life. It is a very prestigious institution, and is highly respected for the calibre of its education and its graduates. Academically, the Royal Military College offer university level education in the Arts (Humanities, Social Sciences, Military and Strategic Studies, Business Administration), Sciences (Chemistry, Math, Computer Science, Physics, Space) and Engineering (Chemical and Materials, Civil, Computer, Electrical and Mechanical.) "A high academic and physical standard is expected of all its graduates. Initially, I found the life there extremely tough to handle, but with a lot of time and effort I was able to raise my level of physical and academic ability to match the College's expectations," declares Milpreet Singh.





# ஊன்றுகோல்

பி. ககன்யா

இரவு முழுக்க அவனுக்கு தூக்கம் வரவேயில்லை. பலப்பல யோசனைகள். அதிகாலையில் சிலந்திவலை போல படுக்கையை விட்டு எழும்போதே "நாளே இந்நேரம் என் மண்ணை நோக்கிப் பயணம் செய்து கொண்டிருப்பேன்." என்ற நினைவு மனதில் வசந்தம்போல் வீச ஜன்னல் திரையை நீக்குகின்றான்.

காலை நேரம் ரம்மியமாகத்தான் தெரிந்தது. குச்சி குச்சியாய் வெறுமையாய் தெரிந்த மரங்கள் எல்லாம் மெல்லத் தளிர் விட்டு வசந்தத்தை எதிர் நோக்கத் தொடங்கிவிட்டன. ஜன்னலைக் திறத்ததும் கனத்த குளிர் காற்று நெஞ்சை சிலிர்க்க வைத்தது.

முன்பெல்லாம் இந்த மொட்டை மரங்களோடு தன்னை ஒய்ந்துப்பார்ப்பான். எல்லாம் முடிந்து விட்டது போன்ற ஒரு பிரமை அவன் மனதில் ஏற்படும். அதன் பின் வசந்தங்கள் வரும் போகும் அதை எல்லாம் ரசித்துப் பார்க்கும் அளவிற்கு அவன் மன நிலை இருந்ததில்லை. இந்த ஏழு வருடங்கள் எப்படி ஓடிப் போய்விட்டதோ தெரியவில்லை.

ஆனால் இன்று இந்த வசந்தத்திற்கு ஒரு தனித்தன்மை. எல்லாம் அழகாய் தெரிவது போன்ற மாயத் தோற்றம்.

எத்தனையோ துயரங்களுக்கும் போராட்டங்களுக்கும் மத்தியில் தளக்கென்று இதயத்தில் கட்டி ஆழத்தில் புதைத்து வைத்த களவுக்கோட்டையில் இருந்து, அந்த காதல் பறவை மெல்லச் சிறகடிப்பதை அவனால் உணரமுடிந்தது.

எத்தனை துயர்கள், சுமைகள், தன்னைச் சுற்றிய பாசவலைகளையெல்லாம் பிரித்தெடுத்து இவையெல்லாம் தாண்டுவதற்கு மனோதையம் கொடுத்த அந்த ஒரு வார்த்தைதான். தான் கொண்ட காதல், காதலுக்கும் அப்பாற்பட்ட தனித்துவம், ஒரு புனிதமான ஆத்மாவின் கீதம் தான் அவனை அங்கே போகச் சொல்லித் தூண்டிய சக்தி.

வசீகரன், பெயருக்கேற்றாற்போல் வசீகரமானவன் தான். நண்பர்களால் செல்லமாக வசீ என்று அழைக்கப்பட்டவன். படிப்பில் மட்டுமல்ல பண்பாகப் பேசுவதிலும் இனியவன். யாழ் பல்கலைக்கழக இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு விஞ்ஞானப் பிரிவின் மாணவன். யுத்தத்தின் கொடுமையால் தந்தையை இழந்து இரண்டு அக்காமாருக்கும், இரண்டு தங்கைகளுக்கும் ஒரே ஆதரவு அவன் தான். பெரிதாக தந்தை எதையும் தேடிவைத்துப் போகாததினால், வருவோர் போவோர்க்கெல்லாம் "அவர் சுகமாப் போய்ச்சேர்ந்திட்டார், இந்த நான்கையும் நானெந்தக் கடலில் தள்ளுவேனோ, எப்படிச் கரை சேர்ப்பேனோ" என்று அழுது புலம்பும் அம்மா. அவளுக்கு இந்த மண்ணின் வாசனையில் ஒரு பிடிப்பு ஏற்படும் போதெல்லாம் "ராசா உன்னை நம்பித்தான் இந்தப் பெண் குஞ்சுகள் இருக்குது. ஏதாம் ஒன்றென்றால் சிதறிப் போயிடுங்கள்." என்று அவளின் ஆதங்கம் வெளிப்படும்.

வசீயைச் சுற்றி எப்பவும் ஒரு மாணவர் கூட்டம் இருக்கும். ஆற்றலுடையவன் என்பதனால் மாணவர்கள் அமைப்பின் தலைவனாக விளங்கினான். பல கருத்தரங்குகள், போராட்டங்கள் நடத்திய போது

போது தான் சக மாணவி ஜான்சியின் நட்புக் கிடைத்தது. ஜான்சி மற்ற மாணவிகளை விட ஒரு தனித்தன்மையுள்ளவளாய் விளங்கினாள். அதற்குக் காரணம்இ அவளின் யதார்த்தமான பார்வைஇ எதையும் ஆழ்ந்து சிந்திக்கும் திறன், மற்றவர்க்கு ஓடி ஓடி உதவிசெய்யும் மனப்பாங்கேயாகும். கருத்தரங்குகள் நடத்தும் போது வசீக்கு பல ஆலோனைகள் கூறுவாள். அவனுக்கு அவளின் நட்பு ஒரு பலமாக இருந்திருந்தது. அவன் வகுப்புக்கு சமூகமளிக்க முடியாத வேளையில் நோட்ஸ் எழுதிக்கொடுப்பாள். விளங்காத போது விளக்குவாள். விளங்காவிடினும் விளங்குவதுபோல, திருப்பிக் கேட்க ஈகோ இடங்கொடுக்காத நேரத்தில் எதற்கும் என் நோட்ஸ்வை வைத்திரு வசீ என புன்னகைத்துவிட்டுப் போவாள்.

அவளின் கையெழுத்து முத்துக்கள் கோர்த்தது போல அழகாக இருக்கும். "எப்படி ஜான்சி உன்னால் இப்படி அழகாக எழுத முடிகிறது?" எனக்கேட்டால் "கையெழுத்து அழகாயிருந்து பிரயோசனமில்லை. தலை எழுத்திருக்கே" எனப் பேனாவால் தன் தலையில் இரண்டுமுறை தட்டி அழகான சிரிப்பொன்றை சிரிக்கும் அவளிடம் "ஏன்? என்ன காரணம்" எனக் கேட்க மனம் துடிக்கும். அவளின் அந்தரங்க விடயங்களில் நுழைவது அநாகரீகம் என மனம் மறுக்கும். எப்படியோ படிப்பை பாதிக்காவண்ணம் போராட்டங்களில் ஓடியாடி வலுவூட்டி அவர்கள் நின்ற வேளையில்தான் மாமாவிடம் இருந்து அந்த செய்தி வந்தது.

குறாவளியில் சிக்குண்ட குடைபோல போராடிப்பார்த்தான் தன் இலட்சியங்கள் சின்னாபின்னமாகின்றதே என்ற நினைப்பில் உயிர் போனாலும் அது நடவாது என கோபம் கொண்டு இரண்டு நாட்கள் வீட்டிற்கு வராமல் பைத்தியக்காரன் போல் திரிந்தான். "தம்பி மாமா உன்னை கனடாவிற்கு வரட்டாம். ஏஜென்சி கொழும்பில் நிற்கிறானாம். உன்னை எப்படியாவது அனுப்பி வைக்கட்டுமாம். படிப்பு குழம்புகிறதென்று யோசிக்க வேண்டாம், அங்கும் படிப்பைத் தொடரலாம் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறார். மாமாவின் யோசனையின்படி போறதற்கு வழியைப்பார்." எவ்வளவு சாதாரணமாக அம்மா சொல்லிவிட்டா!.

இரண்டு நாள் கழித்து வீட்டிற்குள் நுழைந்ததும் மயான அமைதியாக இருந்தது மூலைக் கொருவராய் கண்ணீர் விட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தனர். அவனுக்கு இப்பொழுது பல விடயங்கள் விளங்கியது. பெண்களின் எதிர்காலத்தைப் பயங்காட்டி அம்மா மாமாவிற்கு பல போதனைகள். அம்மாவின் கண்கள் அழுதழுது சிவந்திருந்தது. அவளைப் பார்க்க அவனுக்கு பரிதாபமாக இருந்தது. பெரிசாக எதையும் எதிர்பார்க்காத ஒரு சாதாரண அம்மாதான் அவள். பிள்ளைகள் வளர வளர அந்த வளர்ச்சியில் நெஞ்சில் சுமையாக ஏதோ ஒன்றைச் சுமப்பது போன்ற ஒரு பரிதவிப்பு அவன் செயல்களில்த் தெரிந்தது.

கண்களை முந்தாணைச் சீலையில் துடைத்தபடி அவன் பக்கத்தில் வந்து அமர்ந்து "இரண்டு நாளா எங்கே போயிருந்தாய்? ஐந்து சீவனும் எப்படி துடிச்சுப் போயிருக்கும் என்று தெரியாத கல் நெஞ்சனடா நீ. என்ற அக்காளும் அவளின் ஐஞ்சு பிள்ளைகளும் அநாதையாய் நிற்குதெண்டுதானடா உன் மாமா எங்களுக்கு உதவி செய்துகொண்டு இருக்கின்றான். அவன் சொல்றதிலை என்ன பிழை? அவனும் ணம் கட்டி மூன்று பிள்ளைகளும் பெத்தாச்சு. இனியும் எங்கட



## ஊன்றுகோல். . .

சுமையை அவனால் தூக்க முடியுமா? பொறுப்புகள் கூடக் கூட சலிப்புத்தான் என்று அவனது கடிதமே கூறுது. “அடிக்கடி சிக்கனமாக செலவு செய்யக்கா. இங்க குளிருக்கையும் பனிக்கையும் காசு வெட்டியள்ளுதில்லை உழைச்சுக் கஷ்டப்பட்டு அனுப்புறது. இங்க செல்வி வேலைக்குப் போகப்போறனென்று நிற்கிறான். எனக்கு விருப்பமில்லை பிள்ளைகளை ஒழுங்காக வளர்க்கமுடியாது. ஒரே யோசனையும் வருத்தமுந்தான்.” கடைசியாக வந்த கடிதத்தில் என்ன எழுதியிருக்கிறான் தெரியுமா? சொல்லச் சொல்லக் கோளாமல் செல்வி வேலைக்குப் போறாளாம், பிள்ளைகளைக் காப்பகத்தில் விட்டுவிட்டு. இதையெல்லம் பார்க்கும் போது கடன் பட்டாவது வசீயைக் கூப்பிட்டு விட்டனென்றால் எனக்கும் சரி உனக்கும் சரி நிம்மதி” என்று எழுதியிருந்தான்.”

“மாமா சொல்றதும் சரிதானடா! செல்வியின் அம்மாக்காரி எல்லோருக்கும் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு திரியிறா தன்ர பிள்ளை அங்க கஷ்டப்பட்டு உழைச்சு அனுப்ப இங்க நாங்க கொழுக்க தின்று கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். இதனால் மருமகனுக்கும் மகளுக்கும் சண்டையாம். கட்டையில் போற வரைக்கும் நாம் அவங்க காலைச் சுற்றிச் கொண்டிருப்போம்.”

“அவங்க பாக்காட்டி இருக்கட்டும் நான் படிச்சிற்றனென்றா எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரு வழி பண்ணமாட்டனா?” “நீ சொல்லிப் போட்டாய். படிக்க சீவிக்க பணம் வேணுமே! எது என்னிட்ட இருக்கு வித்துச் சுட்டு உன்னைப் படிப்பிக்க? அதுகள் கரை சேராட்டியும் பரவாயில்லை. காய்ச்சின கஞ்சியை குடிச்சப் போட்டு என்ற காலடியில் கிடக்குங்கள். ஆனால் நீ . . .” என்று தாய் முடிக்கும் முன்னமே தன் தலையை நிமிர்த்தி எதையோ சொல்ல வாயெடுத்தவன் தாயைக் சுற்றி சூழ்ந்திருந்த சகோதரிகளைப் பார்த்ததும் மனதுக்குள் இனம் புரியாத வேதனை. பனியில் பூத்த மலர்களாய் கண்களில் நீர் சொட்ட “வேண்டாம் வசீ நீ எங்களைவிட்டிற்று எங்கேயும் போகாதே. நீயில்லாமல் இந்த இரண்டு நாடும் நாங்கள் பட்ட வேதனை சொல்லி மாளாது.”

வாழ்விழந்த தமைக்கக்காக ஒரு தம்பி இத்தனை காலமாய் செய்த கடமையை நான் செய்யாவிடில்? இரவு முழுக்க யோசித்ததன். முடிவு.. தனக்கு ஒன்றென்றால் உயிரையே கொடுக்கும் உறவுப் பூக்களுக்காய் கனடா புறப்பட்டத் தயாரானான்.

ஜான்சியிடம் தன் மனப்பாரத்தை முதலில் இறக்கி வைத்தான். “எந்நேரமும் குண்டு பாயும் மண்ணில்க் கூட எவ்வளவு சந்தோஷமாய் பிரச்சனைகளை சமாளித்து வாழ்ந்தோம் இதுகளை எல்லாம் விட்டுப் போறதென்றால்.. ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் ஏதோ ஒரு வகையில் பிரச்சனைகள் தான் வசீ. நம் இலட்சியம், கனவுகள் எல்லாம் அவர்களுக்குப் புரியப் போவதுமில்லை. புரிந்திருந்தாலும் முழுமையாக வரவேற்கப் போவதுமில்லை. வாய்ப்பு வரும்போது தரும்பு போலக் கைப்பற்றி முன்னேறி நினைப்பது இயலாமையில் ஏற்பட்ட தாய்மை உணர்வு. அது தவறு என்று செல்வதற்கில்லை வசீ. எந்தத் தாயுமே தன் பிள்ளைகள் நல்லாயிருக்க வேண்டுமென்று தான் நினைப்பாள்.”

“நீயென்ன நினைக்கிறாய் ஜான்சி?”

நீ என்பதற்கு ஒரு போதும் இல்லாத அழுத்தம் கொடுத்தது அவன் கண்களில் தெரிந்தது. அதைக் காட்டிக் கொள்ளாமல் “நானென்ன நினைப்பது? ஒன்றை இழந்துதான் ஒன்றைப் பெறவேண்டுமென்றால். யார் யாரைத் தடுக்கமுடியும். நீ நல்லாய் இருந்தால் போதும்? என்றான்.

போவதற்கு முன் ஜான்சியின் வீட்டிற்குப் போனான். எதிர்பாராத அவன் வருகையால் பரபரப்படைந்தான். தென்னோலையால் வேயப்பட்ட சின்னவீடு. அந்த எளிமையிலும் பளிச்சென்று சூழலின் வறுமை வீட்டினுள் தெரிந்தது. உள்ளே நுழைந்ததும் நேர் எதிர் சுவரில் தாய்நாட்டின் சுதந்திரத்திற்காக தனது வாழ்நாளை அர்ப்பணித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் ஒரு தியாகத்திபத்தின் படம். அதற்கு கீழே மாலை போட்ட ஒரு இளைஞனின் படம். கண்கள் பனிக்க பெருமையுடன் “ஒரே தம்பி” என்றான். அம்மாவையும் தங்கையையும் அழைத்து அறிமுகப்படுத்திவிட்டு “கொஞ்சம் பொறுத்தால் எங்கள் வீட்டுத் தலைவர் தள்ளாடிக்கொண்டு வருவார்” என்றான் சிரித்தபடி.

“தம்பி கொஞ்சம் பொறுங்கோ காப்பி போட்டுக்கொண்டு வாறன்” என்று தாயும் தங்கையும் குசினிக்குள் நுழைந்ததும் தன் சட்டைப்பையில் இருந்த கவர் ஒன்றை எடுத்து ஜான்சியிடம் கொடுத்து “நாளை என் பயணம். நான் போனதும் பிரித்துப் படி.” “ஓகோ! நானும் ஒன்று தாறன். ஆனால் இதை நீங்கள் கனடாவில் காலடி பதித்த பின்பு தான் பிரிச்சப்படிக்க வேணும். எத்தனை நாட்கள் என்றாலும் பரவாயில்லை சத்தியம்.” தம்பியின் படத்திற்கு பின்பு இருந்த கடிதத்தை அவனிடம் கொடுத்தபோது அந்தக் கண்களில் என்னென்னவோ கலவைகள். அவ் அர்த்தங்களை இனங்காணமுடியாமல் பிரிந்தவன் தான். எட்டு வருடங்கள் உருண்டோடி விட்டன!

இழுத்தடித்து கனடா வந்து சேர கிட்டத்தட்ட மூன்று மாதமாகிவிட்டது. பல தடவை அந்தக் கடிதமே கனமாக கடிவாளமிட்டது அவன் சத்தியம். முதல் போய் சேர்ந்ததும் நெஞ்சம் படபடக்க . . . பிரித்துப் பார்த்தவனின் கனவுகள் கற்பனைகள் . . . பொசுக்கென்று அவன் நெஞ்சுக்கூட்டுக்குள்ளே அடங்கிப் போய்விட்டது.

ஜான்சி . . . உன்மையிலே நீ ஒரு ஜான்சி ராணி தான். பலதடவை படித்துப் பார்க்கத்தான். அவனுக்கு அவள் மேல் என்றும் இல்லாத ஒரு பிடிப்பு ஏற்பட்டது.

வசீ!

உன்னை நேசிப்பது போலத்தான் நான் இந்த மண்ணையும் நேசிக்கிறேன். நீ நல்லவன் வசீ. ஒரு மேதையின் தன்னடக்கமும், ஒரு ஞானியின் பக்குவமும் உன்னிடம் இருக்கும் போது அது எனக்கும் இருக்கக்கூடாதா? என நான் நினைப்பதுண்டு. ஏதோ ஒரு தேடலுக்காய் ஒவ்வொரு திசையிலும் பறக்கின்றோம். பறக்கும் வரை பறப்போம். உன் நெஞ்சில் எனக்கென்று ஒரு இடம் இருக்கிறதென்பதை நீ சொல்லாமலே நான் உணர்வேன். அதையிட்டு நான் பாக்கியசாலி. உன்னை நான் மீண்டும் சந்திப்பேனா? யுத்தங்களும் சத்தங்களுக்கும் இடையில் வாழும் நமக்கு உயிர் நிரந்தரம் இல்லை. இது நான் உனக்கு சொல்லியா யவேண்டும்? நீ உன் கடமையைச் செய். - என்றும் உன் ஜான்சி”



## ஊன்றுகோல். . .

அதன் பின் கர்ம வீரனைப் போல தன் கடமைகளில் மூழ்கிவிட்டு நினைத்து . . . கஷ்டப்பட்டு வந்த கடன்களை அடைக்க முயன்றான். படிப்பைத் தொடரவேண்டும் என்று வந்தவனின் எண்ணம் கனவாகிப்போய்விட்டது. உழைப்பு . . . உழைப்பு . . . இரண்டு வருடங்கள் அக்காமாருக்கும் ஊரோடு மாப்பிள்ளை பார்த்து மணமுடித்துவிட்டு தாயையும் இரண்டு சகோதரிகளையும் ஸ்பொன்சரில் வரவழைத்தான். அவர்கள் வந்தபோது ஏதேச்சையாக அந்த செய்தியை சொன்னார்கள்.

"அண்ணா! உன்னோடு பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் படித்த ஜான்சியை வன்னியில் கண்டன்."

அவன் புருவத்தை நெரிந்து . . . ஆவலாக "எங்கே கண்டனீங்கள்?"

"இடம் பெயர்ந்து வந்து வன்னியில்தான் இருக்கினம் செல் விழுந்து வெடித்ததில் ஜான்சியின் வலது கால் முழங்காலோட போயிற்று. எனக்கு ஆனிரை நிலையைக் காண கவலையாகப் போயிற்று. அவ சிரித்துக் கொண்டுதான் கதைக்கின்றா. பாதிக்கப்பட்ட வலியே முகத்தில் இல்லை. தகப்பன் குடிச்சக் குடிச்சச் செத்துப்போயிற்றாராம். தாய் தங்கச்சியோட செல்லி மாமியின் அம்மா ஷீட்டிற்கு அருகில்தான் இருக்கினம். பிள்ளைகளுக்கு கதை ரிபூசன் சொல்லிக் கொடுக்குறா. நல்லா கதை கவிதை எழுதுவா. அங்க ஜான்சிக்கு நல்ல ஆதரவு. நாங்க வசியிட்ட போறம் என்று சொன்னோம். சுகம் கேட்டதாகச் சொல்லச் சொன்னா."

சுற்றும் உலகம் சுற்றிக் கொண்டேயிருக்கும் என்பது போல நெஞ்சில் அமுங்கி அமுங்கி எழும் அவள் நினைவு இப்போது எங்கிருக்கிறாள் என்று அறிந்து கொண்ட பின் ஆர்ப்பரிக்கத் தொடங்கியது.

அவள் விலாசத்திற்கு எத்தனையோ கடிதங்கள் போட்டான். ஒன்றுக்கு மட்டும் பதில் வந்தது. அவனுக்கு தெரியும் அவள் அசாதாரணமானவள் என்று. "வசீ! நான் உனக்குத் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை. இந்த மண் என்னை சுமையாக நினைக்காது. ஆனால் நான் உனக்கு சுமையாவதிற்கு என் மனது இடங்கொடுக்குதில்லை. காலம் முழுக்க நீ சுமைதாங்கியாக வேண்டுமா? எம் மண்ணில் எனக்கு ஊன்றுகோலாக நீ இருந்தாலாவது மனம் பூரிக்கும் அதைவிட்டு அந்நிய மண்ணில் வேண்டாம் வசீ உன் விபரீத ஆசை" ஜான்சிக்கு. . . நான் ஊன்று கோலாக . . .

அந்த ஒரு வார்த்தை . . . அந்த நினைவே சுகமாக இரண்டு தங்கைகளுக்கும் ஒவ்வொன்றாய் தக்க வாழ்வை அமைத்துக் கொடுத்து அவர்களின் வாழ்வில் அன்னை பூரித்து நின்ற போதுதான் வசீ தன் மன எண்ணத்தை அவளிடம் வெளியிட்டான்.

"அம்மா நான் ஊரோட போய் வாழப்போறன். அந்த ஜான்சிக்கு ஒரு நல்ல வாழ்க்கையைக் கொடுத்து அவளுக்கு துணையாக இருக்கப் போறேன்." ஒரே மகனுக்கு இப்படி ஒரு வாழ்க்கை அமைவதை அவள் மனம் ஏனோ ஏற்க மறுத்தது. கண்ணீர் விட்டாள். ஆனால் அவளது மன உறுதி தன் கண்ணீருக்கு முன் வேலையற்றது என்பதும் அவளுக்கு தெரியும். தாய் மண்ணில் அடிபட்டு, மிதிபட்டு அவலவாழ்வு வாழ்ந்த ஆயிரமாயிரம் பேர்களில் அவளும் ஒருத்தியல்லவா! வசீயை அணைத்து உன் ஆசைப்படியே செய். நான் மறுக்கவில்லை என்றான்.

அதனால் தான் இப்போ வசீ ஆகாயத்தில் பறக்கப்போகின்றான். வன்னியில் வாடும் அந்த முல்லைக்கொடிக்கு ஊன்றுகோலாயிருக்க.

Suganya is a grade 12 student at West Toronto Collegiate.

Many Many thanks goes to our former co-editors of *Directions*  
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*Directions* members who are attending post secondary institutions.

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Congradulations to all those who are attending universities/colleges  
Good luck to you all!





# Good Yarns

Gowry Selvaratnam



## Nectar in a sieve

Author: Kamala Markandaya

Category: Fiction

Publisher: Signet Classic printing (Penguin) (2002)

Paperback 185 pages

First published by The John Day Company, 1954

ISBN: 0-451-52823-9

Nectar in a sieve is all about poverty, starvation, and struggle for survival in primitive village in South India, a post-colonial country under many guises in the late 40s. Unfortunately theme of this book is still not out of date almost after fifty years its been written, ironically this book is set in India, major food exporters and milk producers in the world. Statistically there is more food in the world than the number of people needed feeding but not distributed efficiently to reach those needed desperately but rather most powerful rich countries spend billions to drop bombs on the poorest countries ritually and leaves them destitute. Having written this novel Markandaya is giving voice to those voiceless people and makes their cries heard millions of miles away and demands action.

The author in this novel observes the effect of starvation to tell the readers through the heroine Rukmani as follows

"It happened to me too, but I could not see myself, only what happened to others: saw their flesh melt away and their skin sag and sink between their jutting bones, saw their eyes retreat into their skull, saw their ribs curve out from under the skin; and what withered the young bore doubly hard on the old and they were emaciated twice over."

Rukmani is the heroine of this beautiful poignant novel. What could be so beautiful about poverty and starvation? Without a doubt, Rukmani's courage and bravery and the way she tells her story that touches the very core of the reader.

Rukmani gets married when she's twelve to a tenant farmer, as a child bride. Her husband Nathan was a poor match; her family married her below her. She was the eldest daughter of a head of the village. Who became poor by giving dowry to his three daughters, Rukmani was without beauty and dowry, Nathan was poor in everything but love. Rukmani soon learns to plant seeds and reaps, earn a living, and make a home along with her husband and become the center of the household. She bore her husband Nathan a beautiful baby girl, named her Irawaddy after a river. Wealth of her beauty will not prevent her being a liability therefore they wanted assets to assist them with their farming and care for them when they grow old rather than rob them of everything they have in the name of dowry.

'Nature is like a wild animal that you have trained to work for you. So long as you are vigilant and walk warily with thought and care, so long will it give you its aid; but look away for an instant, be heedless or forgetful, and it has you by the throat.'

This is a passage in the novel where Rukmani's optimism proclaims her hope and certainty of continuity by keeping nature under her control she believes nothing can beat human effort and challenge.

Markandaya brings the primitive village in south India into live and those people in it by creating unforgettable characters like Kenny, a doctor from the west who chooses to serve poor Indians with whom he has a love hate relationship. He leaves for homeland England when he can't take anymore of their superstitions and believes but he comes back soon after, his relationship with them is complex but mutual understandings and acceptance of the difference is there.

Kunthi is a character Markandaya introduce in this novel for more than one reason. She is Rukmani's friend but later become the enemy and a measure to test Rukmani's marriage that makes the marriage stronger in an ironical way.

With Kenny's help Rukmani bore Nathan five sons. In the mean time she finds a good match for Irawaddy but her husband send her back to her mother when he waited long enough and discovered that she is barren and no use to him if she can't give him sons. Rukmani takes her to Kenny to seek help but she finds out that she is going to become a mother once again. Irawaddy becomes depressed; all she managed was staring at the empty horizon day after day.

When Rukmani's eldest son Kuti was born, Irawaddy's world brightened up and she took him under her wings as if he was her own child.

Industrialization takes sons away from the farms to mush of Nathans' and Rukmanis' dislike. A new tannery in the village promised good wages and jobs, Rukmani's sons Thambi and Arjun make it clear to their parents of their preference to work for the tannery rather than the farm. They earned enough money, which proved Rukmani that she was wrong about the tannery and her sons earned her enough to feed the whole family. It didn't last long. Thambi and Arjun were at loggerheads with their bosses for demanding more money for their work and replaced so they decided to take up jobs in the Island of Ceylon in the tea plantation despite their parents' disapproval and they left their parents and the farm for good.

Kenny helps Rukmani's third son Murugan to find a job in the city to work as a servant to a doctor.

He took Selvam the fourth son to work on a new hospital building that he builds to help the poor and Selvam accepted the offer as a blessing but also worked with his father when he could on the farm.



## Good Yarns . . .

Monsoon destroyed their livelihood then the drought followed by famine.

Landowner was constantly pestering them for what they owe them for the land, Rukmani sold pots and pans and garments to pay him. Endeavor begins to thrive on this poor family like any other in their village when there was nothing left to eat.

In this passage below Rukmani describes ultimate pain of hunger

"Sometimes from sheer rebellion we ate grass, although it always resulted in stomach cramps and violent retching. For hunger is a curious thing: at first it is with you all the time, waking and sleeping and in your dream, and your belly cries out insistently, and there is a gnawing and a pain as if your very vitals were being devoured, and you must stop it at any cost, and you buy a moment's respite even while you know and fear the sequel. Then the pain is no longer sharp but dull, and this too with you always, so that you think of food many times a day and each time a terrible sickness assails you, and because you know this you try to avoid the thought, but you cannot, it is with you. Then that too is gone, all pain, all desire, only a great emptiness is left, like the sky, like a well in drought, and it is now that the strength drains from your limbs, and you try to rise and find you cannot, or to swallow water and your throat is powerless, and both the swallow and the effort of retaining the liquid tax you to the uttermost"

Rukmani's depiction of hunger is not hard to comprehend: we see it often enough on our television's screens. Markandaya is not only making the story more poignant but alert the reader to become more aware of the inconsistencies of this world and she leaves the rest up to the reader's compassion and imagination to change the world. While reading this novel you become Rukmani and a mother whose struggle is beyond limit and you feel a lump in your throat and unable even to cry when you can't save Kuti from starvation and death, suddenly there is light end of the tunnel when Irawaddy becomes a prostitute to earn enough money to feed the infant. You feel a kind of relief when this happens because there is nothing standing in her way of determination and selflessness.

Kunthi is a prostitute unlike Rukmani she would seek the easier option to keep herself and her family alive, she is also a character you end up sympathizing with, and she began her

career well before the famine when people had other than hunger on their mind and she confronted Rukmani with her philosophies and defended herself. Nathan steals the last stock of rice Rukmani buried in a secret place to feed Kunthi's children whom he fathered. Rukmani forgives him and she would loose nothing she has at any cost when what she has is so little.

Irawaddy's wages fed Kuti but later she gave birth to a son who was an object of curiosity for the villagers who had pink skin and too different to be accepted as normal. Kuti lost his sight and later died of malnutrition despite his beloved sister's ultimate attempt save him.

This novel is divided into two parts; Book one ends when nature suddenly blessed them with a good harvest everything were well for a while until they were forced to leave their land. Rukmani and Nathan left for the city to live with their son Murugan.

The journey took them forever on a bullock-cart and they got lost and to make matters worse they got robbed. They meet Puli who helped the couple to trace Murugan's whereabouts but they were met with the news that he left the city. They seek shelter at a temple; Nathan gets weak and Rukmani care for him continuously. Puli is an orphan with no fingers on his hands to work, but he knew how to negotiate his way through life since he's been in the street from birth, he met enough people and his knowledge and wisdom guide him to earn him money enough to eat. Rukmani and Nathan grow fond of Puli, he is their guide and teaches them the strange ways of the city.

Puli took them to a stone quarry where they could get a job of breaking stones to earn enough money to eat and return back to their village. They earned enough money. Nathan fell ill while breaking stones and dies. Rukmani adopts Puli and return to her village where she could be with Selvam and Irawaddy once again.

Gowry completed HND Computing in 1998 at the University of East London and is presently working in the Art and Theory department at the same institution. She is also Direction's London correspondent.



2002

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# Interview with Dr. A. Sivanandan

## continued... Part 2



Dr. Ambalavanar Sivanandan

Interview with Dr. A. Sivanandan - Part II  
by Gowry Selvaratnam

Ambalavanar Sivanandan came to Britain from Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in 1958 and became a librarian in the Institute of Race Relations in 1964. Later became the Director of Institute of Race Relations and founder editor of the 'Race and Class' magazine. Since then he had written many books on Third World and Black issues. 'When Memory Dies' is his first novel (1997), won the Sagittarius prize and short listed for the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

**Q:** In your essay namely 'Liberation of the Black Intellectual' you've explored burdens of representation of black intellectuals when it comes to the sense of belonging and uncertainty. You had written, "On the margin of European culture, and alienated on his own, the 'coloured' intellectual is an artefact of colonial history, marginal man par excellence. He is a creature of two worlds and of none. Thrown up by a specific history, he remains stranded on its shores even as it recedes. And he comes into is not so much a twilight world, as a world of false shadows and false light." Then you conclude the essay by saying that black intellectual can only liberate himself by getting in touch with his blackness through his culture and his people. Did this work for you?

**A:** Absolutely. The 'Liberation of the Black Intellectual' (Sivanandan, 1977), was originally entitled 'Alien Gods' (1974). 'Alien Gods' was very important taking-stock exercise; to see, from my own experience, the place of a black intellectual in the fight against racism. Looking back, in writing that piece, I also came to a consciousness of my role, my immediate role in the struggle. There was my role on the streets with the Black Unity and Freedom Party, but also my role in my job. This led me to consider my role at the Institute of Race Relations. So far, I had found that, as librarian, I could provide the material that ordinary black people required to understand their own lives and how to change them, and to help them find the experiences of other like-minded people all over the world. Now, because that experience was then cast in the light of my own self and who I was, I asked myself: what's my role in this place and what's happening here?

**Q:** Please tell Directions readers about your work in the early days and your magazine 'Race and Class' and how that changed the world we live in?

**A:** I was the librarian and the library was only open to members of the Institute and its council. This was a period of political activity on the streets, with grassroots groups such as the Black Panthers, Black Eagles and various other self-help groups emerging. They were asking all sorts of questions and they had

nowhere to go, so I opened the library to all these kids from off the streets and people from these groups. They wanted to understand what the hell was going on around them. They wanted know about the impact of the immigration acts. Why were they being discriminated against in schools and jobs? Why were black children disproportionately receiving educationally subnormal schooling? Where can we read Malcolm X, his writings aren't in the public libraries? They had all these questions, so I began to get the journals and newspapers that would answer them. I would get journals from Third world countries about the war in Vietnam, about Indochina, about the movements in

Indonesia and so on. I began to provide this literature in the Institute of Race Relations for the people from these various black groups who would come after the Institute was closed. I would stay on and I, as the librarian, provide the material they wanted and they, as the kids from the streets, gave me information and a new consciousness. It was a two-way process: I was contaminating them with literature and they were contaminating me with their experience.

I already had a politics, the politics of anti-colonialism: the politics of left-wing groups in Sri Lanka, an understanding of the Indian national movement and the National Congress and how that affected Sri Lanka, and of broader Third World struggle for independence. My experiences up to then had been, the experience of the movement for colonial freedom. Now I was getting an experience, even if only at one step removed, of the fight against racism in the inner cities and the ghettos, in the favelas of this country. These kids were giving me an understanding of what was going on and I began to get involved with the Black Unity and Freedom Party (BUFP). The institute was getting press cuttings about racial incidents from all over the country and those were part of a politicising influence.

The Third World has been lost to view in the last 15 or 20 years - lost a view in the deliberations of the Left because in today's global factories, the low-paid workers who do the dirty jobs are literally out there in the Third World and not here in public view or, if here only as invisible migrant sweatshop and service workers. The Left in the West has failed to understand the changes that are going on in terms of the qualitative leap in the level of productive forces, they failed to see that our standard of living depends upon the exploitation of an international working class. Instead they say 'farewell to the working class', elevate the new social movements of women, blacks, gays, green, etc, as the agents of change and treat the Third World as an object of Western charity.

Look for the rest of the interview in upcoming issues of Directions!



# The FORUM

## A Child's Wish

by Marine Balendra

When I sleep is when I dream  
You and I, one wonderful team  
We're holding hands, walking  
side-by-side  
I know you're near me, but yet you  
stride

Where do you go?  
You're beginning to drift  
Like a phantom, moving ever so  
quick

When will I meet you?  
Is it when I die?  
Why do you fade from me?  
Do you not hear my cries?

Come hither from the heavens  
I want to see your face  
Your skin so sweet,  
Your soft embrace

I wake up trembling,  
Eyes wet with tears  
My hands are shaking,  
Realizing my fears

Oh, Mother, why has thou  
forsaken me?  
I was but a child of only three  
How could I survive without your  
warmth?  
Who shall I turn to, who'll give me  
support?

On the streets is where I live  
Where I beg and where I give  
My friends are paupers, my home  
a road  
I have made a life that is much  
less adored

People walk pass me like they're the  
stunning elite  
But I know in their hearts, they're all full  
of grief  
Seeing a child on the streets is a fear  
It is like seeing their own child whom  
they hold so dear

Sometimes I get money,  
Sometimes I get food  
I share this with my friends  
Not doing so is crude

I say a prayer for you each night  
That you and I shall one day set sight  
Until this magical day arrives  
I will live and give and miraculously  
strive

*Marine is a 3rd year science student  
at the University of Toronto at  
Scarborough.*

ஈரச் சுவடுகள்

பி. சியாமளி

என் இதயம் உன்னுள்  
துடிப்பாகி  
உன் பார்வை என்னுள்  
ஒளியாகி  
என் சோகம் உன்னுள்  
சுமையாகி  
உன் இன்பம் என்னுள்  
மெல்லிசையாகி  
நண்பா! நாம் வாழ்ந்த நட்புக்கு  
இலக்கணம் வகுத்தோமே  
அந்த ஆத்மார்த்த நாட்களை  
எண்ணிப் பார்க்கின்றேன்  
ஆடிக்காற்றில் அலைக்கழித்த  
சருகு போல்  
அகதியாய் அல்லலுற்ற போதும்

ஆனந்தமாய்  
ஒற்றையிலையில் உண்டு  
ஓட்டைப்பாயில் உறங்கி  
வன்னித் தென்றல் தாலாட்ட  
வானமே கூரையாய்  
வாழ்க்கையே கேள்விக்குறியாய்  
எத்தனை சுமைகள்  
எத்தனை சோகங்கள்  
வசந்தமில்லா வாழ்விலும்  
வண்ணங்கள் கண்டோமே!  
ஏன் நண்பா!  
உன் தொலை தூரப்பயணத்தில்  
தொலைத்து விட்டாயோ  
என் முகவரியை?  
கடல் கடந்ததும்  
காய்ந்து விட்டதோ நட்பு?  
புகலிடந் தந்த வாழ்வில்  
பூரித்து விட்டாயோ?  
சொகுசான வாழ்வில்  
சொக்கித்தான் போனாயோ?  
தொலைத் தொடர்பால்  
உன் ஸ்பரிசத்தை  
தொட்டு விட முயன்றேன்  
பதிவு நடாவில் விட்டு மனதை  
பாலை வனமாக்கி விட்டாய்.

அலைகடல் போல் ஆர்ப்பரிக்கும்  
உன் அடங்காத சிரிப்பலைகள்  
அடங்கிப்போனது போல்  
அதிர்ந்து நிற்குதா என் மனசு  
அங்கு என்னென்னவோ உலாவுதுகள்  
என்று - இங்கு என்னென்னவோ  
செய்திகள் சொல்லுது.  
கொள்கையில்லா கூட்டங்கள்  
கோடாரிப் பாம்புகள்  
நீயும் அந்த பொல்லாத  
கூட்டத்தில் புள்ளி மானாயோ?  
குருஷேஷ்திரப் போர்  
அடிக்கடி முழுதாம்  
எந்த விடுதலைக்காய்  
நம் மண்ணின் மைந்தர்கள்  
வீட்டில் பூச்சிகளாய்  
வெந்து வீழ்கிறாரோ!  
நண்பா! நான் என்றும் உன் குசேலனா  
ஒரு பிடி அவலோடு  
உன் வரவிற்காக கால் கடுக்கக்  
காத்திருப்பேன்  
ஆனால் நீ என் கிருஷ்ணனாய் இருக்கும்  
வரை.

*Shiyamali is a grade 11 student at  
West Toronto Collegiate*



## Point

## Counter Point

# Hard work and determination may be the only necessity for SUCCESS!

Shiyamini Rajendra

Success! Ahh, there is a word that is in every youngster's mind today! But how does one achieve this aspiration? The majority would pronounce that the means to success is an education and further reveal education to be the completion of a college or university degree. Of course this is quite comprehensible. Education never goes to waste. However, the education we are contemplating is something that costs considerably more than a few hundred dollars. On average, a year of university education costs, at least \$5,000, and that translates to \$20,000 for four years. Who said money grows on trees? Yes, there are government loans, grants, and scholarships, but how about countries where there is little of this to go around, or for those who do not have the top marks required to qualify for a scholarship? So, while not everyone can get a diploma or a degree, this does not necessarily mean the rest are unfortunate. "Where there is a will, there is a way."

One thing you have to keep in mind is that when you receive higher education, you become more knowledgeable and whether you are intelligent or not has little to do with getting a post secondary education. One who is intelligent will remain intelligent, while one who is less knowledgeable can become more knowledgeable through life's experiences and self-learning. Getting ahead in life requires genuine hard work and ample time, but it does not necessarily matter that you be the next Einstein. You will learn on your every attempt, when you learn to recognize what was at fault on the previous attempt.

There are numerous ways to get ahead in life, especially living right here in Canada, where the opportunities are countless. First of all, you must discover what you are good at or even interested in, and what is that motivates you. You may have an artistic talent, have a business instinct, people skills, leadership skills, or are innovative, etc. Keeping this in mind, now decide what you see yourself as in the future. If you're not able to make the decision right away,

take your time. Regardless, start planning slowly but surely. When you are planning, make sure your goals are specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and seriously take into account the amount of time you need to spend to achieve your goals.

Getting a part time job revolving around that field of interest may be one of the best ways to begin. Another option is through volunteering. You never know where it will take you. Just keep your goal in mind. Something to remember is when you have plan for your future; you must not leave room for any distractions. These distractions can come in many forms; the objective is to get yourself recognized for the good qualities and special skills you have. You have to possess the eagerness to learn and prove yourself. Take Kavingnar Kannadhasan for example, he only completed 8th standard (grade 7) yet he wrote novels, biographies, religious works, commentaries, poetry and plays and received great recognition. In some cases even if you do not know the ABC's of the language, it is quite possible to become literate through voluntary learning.

Once again, make sure you don't have second thoughts and loose confidence in yourself, because no one can guarantee everything will turn out favorably the first time. Even those who graduate from college or university don't have a hundred percent assurance that their degrees or diplomas will secure a decent job. In fact, the unemployment rate after six months of graduation for postsecondary graduates for the current year is 5.5%.

Higher education may lead to success, however it is also possible to earn a decent living or to make your mark in this world when you have a goal and are determined to work hard to reach that goal. As you are on your journey to make your dream a reality, make sure you don't waste too much time because your time is precious. Be WISE (Willpower, Initiative, Stamina, Enthusiasm) and soon you'll be at your destination!



# Higher Education Leads to True Success

Vasheeharan

Is higher education the only way to achieve success? Before one can answer this question, one must define success. In today's society, success has become an alternate term for money. An individual's success is rated by how much money he/she earns. This is only half true. Real success is two-fold, half of which is financial success. The other half is social success. For one to be truly successful, both elements must be present in one's life. The best way to accomplish this is through higher education.

Financial success is definitely necessary for one to survive in this world. One needs a continuous flow of income, high enough to meet the standard of living in western society. A higher education will provide this source of income. For example, according to Statistics Canada, the average salary of a person with a university degree is \$42,054. Professionals such as engineers, doctors and lawyers have salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$300,000 and more. Comparatively, individuals with college education/vocational training earn an average of \$25,838, while high school graduates earn an average of \$22,846. This is not to say that people without degrees don't earn six figure salaries. Those who do are mostly entrepreneurs, and they are usually a minority. Very few entrepreneurs succeed financially because over 90% of all business start-ups fail within the first five years in Canada. It is even less likely for people without higher education to climb the corporate ladder into middle and upper management positions that have high earning potential. More often than not, management positions require a degree or diploma with significant work experience. Consequently, people who forfeit a higher education are limiting themselves when it comes to career advancement. It is also much easier for an individual with a higher level of education to find a job than an individual without it. Most companies now require employees to have diplomas/degrees for jobs that didn't require them fifteen years ago. Employers realize that workers with a higher level

of education are capable of adapting to, and remaining competitive, in a rapidly changing technology-driven market. Financial success is only 50% of true success. The other 50% is social success.

Social success of an individual is rated by how he/she is viewed by society. Status and respect are two entities that are bestowed upon an individual by society. Everyone is part of the social fabric, and whether they like it or not, society labels them. These labels tend to stick with one for his/her lifetime, and can have profound affects on their individual lives. In most societies, Tamil society in particular, higher status is attained by higher education. When one indulges in a conversation with a Tamil elder, one of the first questions that get asked is: "What are you studying?" or "What university do you want to go to?" If you respond with answers such as "Medicine" and "U of T", you get positive reactions. If you say you want to be a "Bus Driver", you're usually going to get a negative reaction. These reactions are actually society passing out judgements on you. Personally, one might think driving a bus is suited for him/her, but Tamil society has been structured in such a way that higher education brings higher status and respect. Similarly, higher education brings social recognition on an international level. For example, If a doctor from a third world country and a millionaire from a third world country came to Canada, how would they be viewed? A doctor will still be a doctor, while the currency exchange rate will determine if the other individual is still a millionaire. A degree/diploma is not affected by economical, political, cultural or religious changes. Higher education has no boundaries. Finally, on an individual level, higher education brings greater personal satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment and pride. This is evident when one writes professional designations, such as Dr, P.Eng, and CA beside one's name. I don't know anyone who writes dollar signs beside his/her name, do you?



# CAREER profile

Hema Jeganayagam

As young people, deciding on a career can be extremely difficult and confusing at times. There is a wide range of careers or professions open to the youth of our generation. Many individuals from our community are forging new paths and excelling in their chosen field. They illustrate to us, that our

Born in Saskatoon, Anusha Aruliah moved to Ontario where she grew up and attended school for most of her life. She thought for a long time about doing her Ph.D, but then gradually decided to enter law. "It was a complicated decision," she states. Going through school as a child, law was definitely an interest to her yet she was always open to many other options and possibilities. She graduated with a BA Honours degree in Philosophy and Political Science and then pursued her Masters in Political Science, all from the University of Toronto. She then entered law school at the same institution, and is now a recent graduate. The great thing about entering law she states is that you can come from any background, with any degree and yet enter law school with the LSAT exam and decent marks. Both her parents were very encouraging and supportive of her

decisions at all times. They always encouraged her and helped her plan what she was good at. "Yes, it was tough," Anusha admits about getting to where she is now but she always managed to keep up to date with her work. She constantly kept herself occupied by getting involved within her school and participating in many extracurricular activities while juggling her schoolwork at the same time. When asked for the reason she went into law, she explained, "It's really important to understand how the system works if you want to work towards social justice. You affect real change in law and social justice with a better understanding of the law itself. I wanted to do good and this is a way I can do that. It's rewarding and it's the right." Anusha now works as a lawyer. Her advice to the youth is to follow your dreams and be proud of the decisions he made. At the moment Siri is working for Net Test Canada Inc., as a Development Engineer. Although he is not yet a professional engineer, one who needs to have at least 4 years of experience, he is on his way to becoming one. When asked what his goal in life was, he stated that he would like to be a part of making the world a fairer and more equitable place for all people. He believes that everyone should have the opportunity to be able to do and grow to the best of their abilities. Siri gave an interesting reply when asked what one can do to take part in making the world fairer. He replied, "From the smallest things we buy, be it materials, food, furniture, we should be well aware of how products are manufactured and where they are made. For example a rug itself we buy may be one that was stitched by a child in a third world country, Hema is a student of the University of McMaster."

**Anusha Aruliah**  
Lawyer



**Siri Velauthapillai**  
Development Engineer

Siri Velauthapillai was born in Jaffna, moved to Zambia at the age of 7 and after two years, settled in Canada. He attended school at Weston C.I. and is now a fresh graduate from the University of Waterloo where he completed his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Computer Engineering. As with many young children, Siri's dream at a young age was to become an astronaut. However, throughout the years he gradually realized the reality that such a career would never suit him. His interest towards computers began to grow when he received his very first computer as a young boy. He began playing many computers games, fiddled about with his device constantly, and was quickly able to adapt to it. Through his high school years he came to realize that he was interested in the computer field. His parents encouraged him at all times and were very





# HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE THE WORLD???

If you immediately had the power to make a difference in this world, what three things would you do first?  
Explain what you would say to the world leaders and how you would carry out this change.

Ladies and gentlemen, our mission is to ensure that poverty is eliminated. Poverty is insidious. It destroys aspirations, hopes, and happiness. We can only do this by spreading prosperity in the world. What is prosperity? Prosperity is the ability of an individual to provide shelter, nutrition, and other material goods that enable people to live a 'good life.' Our mission is to be the purveyor of freedom and justice and democratic capitalism. No man, woman, or child should be denied their fundamental right of freedom, and security. No family should live in squalor. No child should go to bed hungry. But how must we go about ensuring that prosperity spreads to the rest of the world? I have outlined three proposals.

Our first initiative is to squash the seeds of global terrorism. We must understand that these freedom-haters seek to deny hundreds of millions their unalienable right to freedom and continue the despotism of years past. Only by ensuring that this small but influential network of freedom-haters is destroyed can we go on to pursue nobler ends.

Our second initiative is to bring about democracy to the world. We must in Martin Luther King's words, 'Let freedom reign.' Freedom and democracy go hand-in-hand, and when people are free to pursue their dreams, society benefits as a whole. Furthermore, we must extol the virtues of hard work, dedication, honesty, thrift, trustworthiness, and an instilled respect for education and for cultural values, which play a crucial role in the economic development of a nation.

Our third initiative must be to bring capitalism to the world. We must extol the virtues of capitalism and the infinite riches it has brought to the world. Capitalism has reduced human misery and suffering. Witness East Asia, which has become the envy of the developing world. By embracing capitalism, the once destitute Asian Dragons have, in a few short years, attained a standard of living that rivals any Western nation today.

We must see to the extension of freedom and prosperity to every corner of the globe, and I believe that these three proposals will be instrumental in achieving that end.

*Senthuran Vettivelupillai is a grade 11 student at R.H. King Academy*

இவ்வுலகை மாற்றும் சக்தி இறையருளால் எனக்குக் கிடைக்குமாயின், முதலில் தமிழிழப் போரினை நிறுத்தி. தமிழர்கள் அனைவரும் சுதந்திரக்காற்றை சுவாசிக்கச் செய்வேன். இதனைச் செயல்முறைப்படுத்த முதலில் உலகிலுள்ள நாடுகளுக்குத் தமிழரின் போரினைப் பற்றி அறிவூட்டுவேன். தமிழரின் வரலாறு, சுகந்திரப் போராட்டங்கள் இவ்வினாவின் இம்சைகள் முதலியவற்றை விளக்கப்படுத்தி இப்போராட்டம் முற்றிலும் நியாயம் என்பதை உணர வைப்பேன். அதனையடுத்து இந்தியா போன்ற நாட்டுத் தலைவர்களுடனும் இலங்கை அரசாங்கத்துடனும் பேச்சுவார்த்தை நடத்தி நம் மக்கள் இதுவரை இழந்த அனைத்தையும் மீளப்பெற்றுத் தருவேன்.

இரண்டாவதாக, உலகின் பல பாகங்களிலும் நடைபெறும் இனவெறிப்போராட்டங்களுக்கும் சுதந்திரம் என்ற பெயரில் நடைபெறும் யுத்தங்களுக்கும் முற்றுப்புள்ளி வைப்பேன். சமாதானக் குழுக்களைப் பல திசைகளிலும் அனுப்பி வைத்து, மனித வாழ்வின் உயர்வைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டுவேன். அணுவாயுதங்களினூடாக அழியும் அப்பாவி உயிர்களின் பரிதாபத்தைக், கஷ்டத்தை போரிடும் குழுக்கள் தெரிந்துணர்வதே சமாதானத்திற்கு வழி வகுக்கும். இறுதியாக, உலகின் நான்கு திசைகளிலும் உணவின்றி, மருத்துவ வசதியின்றி, கல்வியின்றி அநாதரவாக வாழும் பல சிறார்கள்க்கென பணத்திட்டம் ஒன்றை ஆரம்பித்து, அதன் மூலம் அச்சிறுவர்களுக்கென ஒரு ஒளியான எதிர்காலத்தை உருவாக்குவேன்.

இச்செயல்களெல்லாம் உலகத்தலைவர்களின் ஆதரவின்றி, ஒத்துழைப்பின்றி நிறைவேறுவது கடினம். ஆகையினால் தலைவர்களுக்குரிய எனது உரையில் வாழ்க்கையின் தத்துவத்தை, அதன் அர்த்தத்தை உணர்த்துவேன். சமாதானம் தமிழிழத்தில் மட்டுமன்றி உலகெங்கிலும் உருவாக வேண்டுமெனவும் ஆயுதங்களால் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் அழிவதைக் காட்டிலும், ஒற்றுமையாக, விட்டுக்கொடுக்கும் மனப்பான்மையுடன் வாழ்வதே மேல் எனவும் எடுத்துரைப்பேன். அதுமட்டுமன்றி, இப்போராட்டங்களால் பாதிக்கப்படும் மழைமழைகளின் அர்த்தமற்ற எதிர்காலங்களை விளங்க வைப்பேன். மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட அனைத்தையும் வலுவாக எடுத்துரைத்து, உலகத் தலைவர்களின் ஆதரவைப் பெற்று என்னால் முயன்ற அளவில் பூலோகத்தை இன்பமயமாக்குவேன்.  
*Jathishinie Jegathiswaran is an O.A.C. student at Woburn C.I.*



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