

Niramala

enhancing relationship. bonding the community

A Newsletter of Varier Samajam, Mumbai

July - Sept. 2009

For Private Circulation Only

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SILVER JUBILEE 2009

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NIRAMALA

July-September 2009

enhancing relationships. bonding the community

Manoj Warriar

Editor

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OR to:L3/302, Poonam Pragati, Poonam Nagar
Complex, Off Mahakali Caves Road,
Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093.**Inside**President's Message, Page **4**Samajam News, Page **5**A Call to our..., Page **6**AGM Notice, Page **7**AGM- Schedule, Page **8**Nomination Form, Page **9**Auditors Report, Page **10**Income & Expenditure, Page **11**Balance Sheet, Page **12**All on Hinduism, Page **14**Silve Jubilee..., Page **16**Fun Corner..., Page **17**Smile, Page **18**Sand Mafia, Page **20**Narayaneeyam, Page **21**

NOTE: All views expressed in the columns of Niramala are of the respective writer's and Niramala will be in no way responsible for any claims or remarks expressed by the author of the article/review.

hello

The word Swine became the next common word on everybody's lips. Though mainly its usage is restricted to vent your anger on someone, it got popular with 'Flu' suffixed to it. Today a sneeze is enough to create a panic situation. Even a word like terrorist does not surmount any fear unlike 'Swineflu'. Don't panic or spread rumors. Be careful and take simple precautions. Hope it turns out to be 'Swine flew' on everybody's lips soon.

Finally, it's here. In a few days from now, we shall be celebrating the 25 years of Variar Samajam. It's indeed a glorious moment. Let us come together and make it a moment that will be memorable.

It's also time for review of the Samajam activities. It's the AGM time too. This issue is dedicated for the Annual General Meeting and Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Read about the financial status and plans for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. This issue also has an interesting article calling the younger generation to dedicate sometime for the future of the Samajam. An article on 'Smile' broadens the aspect of smiling. The next chapter on Hinduism continues along with Narayaneeyam. Add to it, is the Fun Corner and also learn some interesting facts.

As I said, in our last issue, the future of Variar Samajam is in the hands of the young generation. And, therefore, we all look forward for a better participation of youngsters to fuel the energy in the Samajam.

So, waiting to hear from you either in person or by writing to us. And yes, a belated Happy Onam too!

- Manoj Warriar

Office Bearers :

VARIER SAMAJAM, Mumbai.Regd. Office: AL/4/5/3 Sahajeevan Apartments,
Sector -16, Airoli, Navi Mumbai.□ **Ramachandran T. V.** - President Tel.: 65294448 □ **M. V. Madhava Warriar** - Vice President Tel.:26681624□ **T. V. Sekharan Kutty** - Secretary Tel.: 27564220 □ **T. Muraleedharan** - Jt. Secretary Tel.:25962169□ **Krishna Prasad S.** - Treasurer Tel.: 25584208 □ **T.V. Suresh Babu** - Internal Auditor Tel.:9819151394

SAMAJAM NEWS

From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

Special ONAM Greetings to you all, as we shortly come to the end of the current Silver Jubilee year of our Samajam, with our special Silver Jubilee function on 20th September 2009.

Our Samajam in Mumbai was formally founded in 1984 by a few members of our community (on the model of the Varier Samajam established earlier in Kerala). Since then, many committed and active members devoted time and made efforts to implement the objectives of the Samajam, even after facing many hurdles (that included time & resources). But, with the sustained efforts of many and the co – operation of members, our office bearers and other devout functionaries, together, have been able to establish a social network amongst us, in spite of many members living in far off places. To overcome this problem of distance, which disables us to have more cohesive activities, we have our area wise units functioning in different parts of this metropolis with our central unit as the core organization.

Salutations to you all dear members, our Samajam today is enjoying a prime place among the various Varier Organizations in India and I am sure the present Managing Committee and the future office bearers will make efforts to maintain this position and make our Samajam a more lively body, improve the social & cultural network amongst us. We have already begun coordinating & networking with various other Varier organizations in other parts of India. We have also proposed to become a member of the World Confederation of Warriors (WCW) that has been formed recently with the active participation of our Samajam. The WCW has major and separate objectives for the benefit of Varier community as a whole and even general public. As we complete our twenty fifth year, this year, our Samajam can look forward to work for better and larger purposes for our members.

On this occasion, we heartily remember and acknowledge with gratitude the honest efforts made, the services rendered by all our past & present office bearers and many others who, even without holding any official position in the Samajam, tirelessly contributed to keep our Samajam an active body all these years. There might have been certain inadequacies and set backs in certain projects undertaken in the past. But, such things are part of the functioning of any organization and we should only objectively review & assess them, making amends for future.

The present Managing Committee, as per regulations, will lay down office at the close of the forthcoming AGM, and a new committee will take over. It is our earnest desire that many from our younger generation, who have extraordinary capacities, endurance & wisdom should come forward to take the mantle of our Samajam and make it a pivotal body, a network centre among our members and to undertake special projects, missions for benefit of our members and make our Samajam a wanted and pet body by all our members.

Thanks and wishing you all every success.

sd/-

T.V. Ramachandran
President

SAMAJAM NEWS

STAR ATTRACTION- Silver Jubilee Function

Miss **PARVATI WARRIER** winner of Amrita TV- Superstar Jr. II, will attend our Silver Jubilee Function as a Special Guest. Our own Star Singer, **Miss Preethi R. Warriar**, is also likely to be present.

SPECIAL GUEST - Silver Jubilee Function

Dr. P. M. Warriar, Additional Chief Physician, Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal, has consented to come and grace our Silver Jubilee function as Special Guest.

OBITUARY

Shri Govinda Warriar, Ayaloor Variyam, expired on 11th August 2009 at his son's residence at Koparkhairne, Navi Mumbai, due to old age. He was 81, and is survived by wife, Smt. Thangam and son, Shri Suresh Warriar.

Variar Samajam, Mumbai condoles his demise and pray for his departed soul to rest in peace.



SILVER JUBILEE 2009

We salute the Convener and Founder Members of our Samajam for their thoughtful action in the year 1984 that gave birth to Varier Samajam, Mumbai. And chain (connect), our Member families, for years to come. *Let this Silver turn into Gold !*

A Call to Our Young Generation

by Shri T.V. Ramachandran

“A SMALL BODY OF DETERMINED SPIRITS FIRED BY AN UNQUENCHABLE FAITH IN THEIR MISSION CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY.” – Mahatma Gandhi.

The above is a quote from the writings of our beloved father of the Nation – Mahatma Gandhi. Read it just not once, but few times - then just think & reflect. What a magnificent statement of truth it is.

Every organization – big or small - and even a nation is created by the efforts of a small body of determined people having an ‘unquenchable faith in their mission’. Just look at our nation. Few people, with determined spirits, and an unquenchable faith in their mission, and who were identified as national leaders, could bring about the independence of India from the mighty British Empire and this achievement of Indian independence changed the course of the history of India.

Again it is a small body of people i.e. the administrators of the nation - the ministers and their administrative set up - which is bringing in the massive transformation of our nation to a world economic power – again changing the course of Indian history. Few industrialists with their faith in their mission have brought the industrial revolution in the country. It is thus always a few dedicated leaders of any organization that bring about the changes in the organization or establishment, the effect of which is enjoyed by the masses forming the body of the organization and this is true for every organization or body whether political, cultural or anything else.

Keeping the above statement as a cardinal truth, let us apply it to even our own organization, I mean our Samajam. A small body of determined spirits formed our organization, about twenty-five years back. Few other small bodies, i.e. our managing committees have kept it alive so far. But we are yet to achieve many things. What to achieve, how to achieve and why to achieve are indeed major questions. This can be answered again only by a small team of determined spirits from amongst us. Now who can constitute this team and why they should is again a question that can be answered only by a team having unquenchable faith in a mission – ‘to contribute something to the society’ – beyond one’s own needs & desires.

When I look around, I find this team is our new and young generation. A generation that has started life from a comparatively better pedestal than may of us who have crossed over to sixties & seventies of our life. A young generation which had the privilege of better education, employment opportunities, financial status, advantages of new technological developments, extensively wider knowledge of the world, and many other advantages over the generation of their parents and even earlier. This generation is not living just for a livelihood, they do look beyond, and one of the directions, I urge them to look at, is towards their social roots and how they can strengthen it and contribute towards creating a new dynamic society.

Our roots are broadly in India, deeper in our home state of Kerala and bonded in our community – the Variars- who are yet to show their significant presence in the society as a whole. A stage has to reach when if one says he is a Variar, he should be looked at with awe & respect. This can be done only by creating and providing beneficial assets and services to the society. To achieve this, we have to have a clear vision & commitment to work for our society. The current elder generation can provide the direction for vision – Rest; somebody competent has to take over – ‘A body of determined spirits having an unquenchable faith in their mission’. And to constitute this body is in the hands of our young generation Variers & I request them to come forward and work to change the course of history of the Variar community. Let us establish a name and position in the society. The entry for this is through our organizations and we welcome our new generation whole-heartedly to achieve their mission to change the course of history of Variers.



AGM - NOTICE

VARIER SAMAJAM

(Regd.), Mumbai

(Regd. No. 573/85 dt. 13.8.1985)

A1-4/5/3, Sahajeevan Apartments, Sector-16, Airoli, Navi Mumbai.

AGM Notice

2nd August 2009

To
All Members of
Varier Samajam, Mumbai.

Notice is hereby given that the TWENTY FIFTH Annual General Meeting of Varier Samajam, Mumbai, will be held at **9.30 a.m.** on **Sunday, 20th September, 2009** at Bombay Tamil Sangham Hall, 215 Mumbai Tamil Sangham Marg, Sion East (Opp. Sion Hospital) Mumbai-400022, to transact the following :

AGENDA

1. Inauguration & Prayer
2. Condolence Message
3. Welcome Speech & Presidential Address
4. Read & confirm the Minutes of 24th A.G. M held on 2nd October, 2008.
5. Present & approve the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2008-09
6. Appoint Auditors for the year 2009-2010.
7. Working Report of Samajam's activities during the past year.
8. Reports of activities by Area Representatives
9. Presentation of Annual Scholarships
10. Election of new Managing Committee
11. Any other item, with the permission of the Chair.

Members who have specific queries/suggestions on the working of the Samajam, are requested to inform the same to the Secretary in writing latest by **10th September'09**.

For & on behalf of the Managing Committee,
Varier Samajam - Mumbai

Sd/-

TV Sekharankutty

Gen. Secretary

Encls. Audited Accounts for 2008-09 & Schedule of Programmes

Note: If sufficient quorum is not present at 9.30 am, the Meeting will be adjourned by half-an-hour and will be held at 10.00 am with the available quorum.

AGM- Programme Schedule

SCHEDULE of PROGRAMMES on 20th SEPTEMBER 2009

09.30 AM	25 th Annual General Meeting
12.30 P.M.	Onasadya
02.00 P.M.	Silver Jubilee Meeting/Felicitations
04.00 P.M.	Tea Break
04.15 P.M.	Cultural Programmes (<i>For details, see page 16</i>)
08.30 P.M.	Dinner

Scholarships

Samajam's Cash Prizes & Devaki Memorial Scholarship will be given to Members' children topping SSC & HSC (3 streams) examinations held in March-April 2009. Copies of Mark Sheets duly attested by the Parent/Guardian should reach the Managing Committee latest by 19th September.

Drawing Competition for children will be held around 11.30 a.m. Names of interested children may please be sent to the Managing Committee on or before 19th September.

Nomination Forms for election of new Managing Committee Members should reach the Gen. Secretary latest by 19th September 2009.

Contributions

In view of extra expenses on account of Silver Jubilee Programmes, Lunch & Dinner, each Member family is requested to whole-heartedly contribute to the Samajam Fund (minimum Rs.500/-). Your full involvement and participation in the functions will make the programme a memorable event.

NOMINATION Form

Date:

To
The Gen. Secretary
Varier Samajam,
Mumbai.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the AGM Notice and Agenda item regarding Election of New Managing Committee, I hereby give notice that I am interested to be considered for the post of President / Vice President / Gen. Secretary / Joint Secretary / Treasurer / Internal Auditor / Committee Member*.

I hereby declare that if elected, I will work for the betterment of our Samajam.

Yours faithfully,

Candidate's Name:

Signature:

Address:

Proposer's Name:

Signature:

Address :

Seconder's Name

Signature :

Address :

**Strike out whichever is not applicable.*

Note: Filled up Nomination Form should reach the Gen. Secretary latest by 19th Sept. 2009.

AUDITORS REPORT

J.K. Dholakia
6 A Shalimar,
G Road,
91 Marine Drive,
Mumbai - 400 002

To,
The Members,
Variar Samajam
Mumbai

Sub : Audit for the year ended 31-3-2009

I have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Variar Samajam, Mumbai as at 31st March, 2009, and also the Income and Expenditure Account, attached hereto, for the year ended that date and report that :

1. The operations of the Samajam during the year under audit has resulted in a net surplus of Rs. 178.76 as against Rs. 6821.10
2. The Samajam has spent a sum of Rs. 18017.00 towards its objects, whereas it had spent a sum of Rs. 7311.63 towards establishment expenses
3. Life Membership fund of Rs. 96109/- has been transferred from Income & Expenditure Account, wherein Life Membership fees has been taken as Income till 31-3-2008
4. The total of the corpus Fund and the Earmarked Funds as on 31-3-2009 is Rs. 1156884.77 whereas the investment in ownership premises and Deposits with Banks is Rs. 980409.35

SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE, I REPORT THAT

- a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.
- b) In my opinion, proper books of accounts, as required by law have been kept by the Samajam so far as it appears from my examination of those books.
- c) The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account, under report are in agreement with the books of account of the Samajam
- d) In my opinion, and to the best of my information and according to the explanations given to me, the said accounts, read together with the points hereinabove given, give a true and fair view.

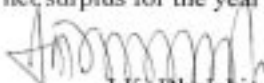
- i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs, of the Samajam as at 31st March, 2009

And

- ii) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the net surplus for the year ended that date.

Mumbai
Dated : 24th August, 2009





J.K. Dholakia
Chartered Accountant
Membership No. A-9786

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

VARIAR SAMAJAM, BOMBAY INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009 (SCHEDULE IX)

Expenditure	Previous year Rs.	Current Year Rs.	Income	Previous Year Rs.	Current Year Rs.
Expenditure in respect of Properties:					
Maintenance Expenses	168.00		By Interest on Bank Accounts & Term Deposits	26156.10	33051.39
Society Charges	3322.00		By Donations	4700.00	4699.00
Repairs			By Receipt from Cultural Programme	8447.00	-
ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES			By Advertisement Revenue	200.00	700.00
Printing and Stationary	500.00		By Life Membership Subscription	1806.00	-
Postage	1350.00		By Rent Received	24000.00	27500.00
Conveyance Expenses	250.00				
Misc. Expenses	1908.00				
Bank Charges	-	53.63			
Audit Fee & Other Services	2000.00	7311.63			
Annual General Meeting Exps.	32585.00	1500.00			
Depreciation on Furniture	791.00	38141.00			
Contribution to Public Trust Regn. Office	1696.00	712.00			
EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTS OF THE TRUST					
Educational (Scholarship paid)	2408.00				
Medical Relief	10000.00				
Talent Devt. Expenses					
Balance Carried to Balance Sheet	6621.10	18107.00			
		178.76			
Total Rs.	65309.10	65950.39	Total Rs.	65309.10	65950.39

As per my attached Report of even date

Mumbai
Dated : 24th August, 2009

 J.K. Dholakia
 Chartered Accountant
 Membership No. A-9786


For Variar Samajam-Bombay


 President


 Secretary


 Treasurer

Balance Sheet

VARIAR SAMAJAM, BOMBAY
Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2009
(SCHEDULE VIII)

Previous year Rs.	Funds and Liabilities	Current Year Rs.	Properties and assets	Rs.	Current Year Rs.
626,873.77	CORPUS FUND As per last Balance sheet	752315.77	IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Office Premises (Airoli) Additional FS	330000.00 95300.00	425300.00
125442.00	Add : Donation Recd. for Bldg Fund	48639.00	FURNITURE & FIXTURE Balance as per last B/Sheet	7117.00	
752315.77	OTHER EARMARKED FUNDS :	801154.77	Less : Depreciation	712.00	6405.00
	EDUCATION AID FUND				
20232.00	As per last Balance Sheet	20232.00	Deposit with MISEB Souvenir Income-Receiveable Rent Receivable TDS on Interest	1000.00 19500.00 6000.00 9864.00	
573.00	BENEVOLENT FUND As per last Balance Sheet	573.00	Cash & Bank Balances Cash on hands Balance with Banks	7386.00	15884.00
73771.00	EYE CAMP FUND As per last Balance Sheet	68996.00	Fixed Deposit with Thane Janata Sahkari Bank Canara Bank-Andheri Interest Accrued on them	100000.00 300000.00 17917.50	
500.00	Add : Recd during the year		Saving Account with Canara Bank, Andheri UCO Bank, Malad Thane Janata Sah. Bank	425303.50 10195.55 - 126996.80	
74271.00	Less Expenses during the year	68996.00			
5275.00		68996.00			
68996.00		68996.00			
					562495.85



R. V.



All on HINDUISM

- compiled by **SSR Warriar, Deonar/Govandi**

Preface

*I have attempted a note on Hinduism mainly for the children of school and college going age. This article has been compiled from various writings, discourses and information available from religious books and may not be authentic or accurate. However, it is meant to give a general overview about Hinduism. It will benefit anyone, especially the children, who are away from their home and are deprived of the rituals and practices followed by our elders at ancestral home and at various temple festivals. Moreover, due to the prevailing nuclear family system and obligatory stay at remote places due to employment etc., many of the children are not even aware of several customs that were followed by the Hindu tradition. The entire article is divided into 27 chapters. **This is the Second part in the three part series.***

10. ONE GOD – DIFFERENT PATHS

Hindus scriptures say there are four goals in civilised religious life:

Dharma – Righteous

Artha - Economic development

Kama - Sensual enjoyment

Moksha – Liberation, the ultimate goal. Moksha is achieved through union with God (yoga)

11. SCRIPTURES AND GURU – SASHTRAS

Hindu scripture is sometimes called sashtra. Since Vedic wisdom was first transmitted orally, it is also called *shabdabrahman*, spiritual sound. According to tradition, it was written down only when human memory began to deteriorate at the start of Kali Yuga (some 5000 years ago). Sashtra is the principle source of authority for most Hindus.

12. KAALA – TIME

The concept of eternal and cyclical time lies at the heart of Hindu worldview and is closely related to the concept of atman. The entire material world is subject to everlasting cycles of creation, sustenance and destruction. The universe is said to exist for a lifetime of Brahma, the creator (100 years). His one-year consists of 360 celestial days, each made up of 1000 maha-yugas (great ages). Each maha-yugas consist of four yugas (ages), i.e.: Satya yuga (17,28,000 yrs), Dwapara yuga (12,96,000 yrs).Treta yuga (8,64,000 yrs) and Kali yuga (4,32,000 yrs) – One maha yuga = 43,20,000 years). At the end of Kali yuga the final incarnation of Vishnu, Kalki, is scheduled to appear heralding the dawn of another golden age. We are now half way through the duration of this universe.

13. CREATION

Hinduism teaches that the material world is created not once but repeatedly, time and time again with its cyclical notation of time. Further, this universe is considered to be one of many like innumerable bubbles floating in space. Within this universe there are three main worlds, the heavenly planets, the earthly realm and the lower world. The administration, creation and destruction is the responsibility of the Trimurti, viz:

Contd. from Page 14

Brahma - the creator in charge of rajo guna – the quality of passion. Direct worship of Brahma is rare. Chanting of Gayatri mantra is considered indirect worship of Brahma as Gayatri is believed to be one of his consorts.

Vishnu - the maintainer in charge of sattva guna – the quality of goodness

Worshippers of Vishnu are called Vaishnavas.

Mahesh - the destroyer in charge of tamo guna - the quality of ignorance.

Worshippers of Shiva are called Shaivites

In addition Shakti, considered the personification of material energy, is also worshipped. Goddess Durga (sakthi), Saraswathi (learning) and Lakshmi (wealth) are the three forms of Shakti and are worshipped on different occasions. Navgrahas (nine planets of the Solar system) are also worshipped as Hindus believe that these planets have a great bearing on their day-to-day life including education, health, wealth and marriage etc.

14. AVATARS OR INCARNATION

It is believed that when evil (adharma) reaches its peak Vishnu descends on earth or take *avatar* to remove evil and restore Dharma. The 10 avatars of Vishnu (Dasavatar) are :

Matsya Kurma Varaha Narasimha

Vamana Parashurama Sri Rama Balrama

Sri Krishna Kalki. Kalki avatar is to descend in Kali Yuga, which is the Yuga now we are living in.

15. OTHER DIETIES – which are worshipped

Hanuman (Sankat Mochan) **Lakshmi** (Wealth)

Saraswati (Learning) **Ganesh** (Vighneswara)

Skanda (Subramanian) **Surya** (Sun)

OTHER DIETIES – which are rarely worshipped

Indra, Agni, Yama, Varuna, Vayu, Kubera, Soma (Moon)

16. RELIGIOUS LITERATURES

Hindu religious literature is divided into two main categories:

1. Shruti – that which has been heard.

2. Smriti – that which has been remembered.

Shruti is canonical, consisting of revelation and unquestionable truth, and is considered eternal.

Smriti is supplementary and may change over time. It is authoritative only to the extent that it conforms to the bedrock of shruti.

The Main Shruti texts are: The 4 vedas, 108 Upanishads, and the Vedanta Sutra.

The Main Smriti texts are: 1. Itihas (history or epics), 2. Puranas 3. Bhagvad Gita and 4 Dharma Sastra

17. VEDAS

There are four Vedas and are primary text of Hinduism. The Vedas contain hymns, incantations and rituals.

Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda and Atharva Veda

(To be continued)

SILVER JUBILEE- Programme Details

□ The proceedings of the day will start at 9.30 a.m. with our 25th A.G.M. in the ground floor Hall, followed by Onasadya at 12.30 p.m.

□ After lunch, at 2.00 p.m., all of us will move to the Air-Conditioned Auditorium, on the 2nd floor, where the Silver Jubilee Programmes will be held.

□ It will begin with Special Meeting and Felicitations. We will be honouring our Special Guests from outside Mumbai, past office bearers and people who have strived to start, nurture and build our Samajam, to its present position.

□ We will also be honouring our elders, who are 75 years and above, for their endurance and struggle they have faced, to survive in Mumbai, and to provide the next generation with better conditions to live. *(Kindly inform us with details of such elder persons in your family and locality)*

□ After a brief Tea break, at 4.00 p.m. we will begin Cultural Programmes, starting with Carnatic Vocal and Instrumental Music, Nrityashilpam (variety Dances), Ganamela, Mimicry, etc.

□ We will conclude the day with Dinner.

There will also be childrens' Drawing Competition before lunch, and as usual, distribution of Cash Prizes/ Scholarships to SSC & HSC toppers of March-April 2009. *(Kindly send the Mark Sheets of such claimants on or before 15th September 2009.)*

A **Silver Jubilee Souvenir** has also been proposed for release on the occasion. All are requested, earnestly, to try and obtain Advertisements in the Souvenir. Our Appeal for Advertisements is already in circulation. Kindly obtain the same from your nearest Committee Member.

Please Note: We will not have sufficient time available on 20th Sept. to give opportunity to all our children for performing in the cultural programmes. Therefore, we plan to organize a separate 'cultural programme' event for our members/children, in the near future.

Our Samajam is the organization of all of us together. Members' co-operation and involvement are key factors for any organization to succeed. Therefore, your participation, encouragement and support will go a long way in the successful conduct of our Silver Jubilee Function and future Programmes.

An appeal: We request each family to contribute at least Rs. 500, as donation, to meet our various expenses. Donation Coupons will be issued in advance, which will help us assess the number of persons likely to attend, so that Lunch & Dinner can be arranged accordingly.

LET US MAKE IT A MEMORABLE EVENT

FUN *Corner*

What is confidence?

A hypothetical situation where 20 CEOs board an airplane and are told that the flight that they are about to take is the first-ever to feature pilotless technology: It is also an crewless aircraft.

Each one of the CEOs is then told, privately, that their company's software is running the aircraft's automatic pilot system.

Nineteen of the CEOs promptly leave the aircraft, each offering a different type of excuse. One CEO alone remains on board the jet, seeming very calm indeed.

Asked why he is so confident on this first crewless flight, he replies: "If it is the same software that's developed by my company's IT systems department, this plane won't even take off"

That is called Confidence!

Are you FROM MUMBAI?

Once a man went to a Veterinary Doctor and said, "Doctor I have come on vacation for a month so that I can get myself treated fully within this period"

Doctor: I think you should go to the Doctor opposite to my clinic, see that board.

Man: No, Doctor, I have come to you only.

Doctor: But, gentleman, I am a Veterinary Doctor. I am an animal specialist. I do not treat human beings.

Man: I know very well Doctor and that is why I have come to you only.

Doctor: I cannot, because you speak like me, think like me, talk like me, which means you are a human being and not an animal.

Man: I know I am a human but listen to my complaints first:

Doctor: OK. Tell me.

Man: I sleep like a dog thinking about my workload whole night.

I get up in the morning like a horse

I go to work running like a deer

I work all the day like a donkey

I run around for 11 months like a bull without any holiday.

I wag my tail in front of all my bosses

I play with my children like a monkey, if I get time.

I am like a rabbit before my wife

Doctor: are you FROM MUMBAI?

Man: YES

Doctor: Instead of telling this long history you should have told me in the beginning itself that you are FROM MUMBAI . Come man, no one can treat you better than me.



SMILE

by
Menaka Warriar

The queue for the railway ticket at Andheri station was as long as the train on Platform No. 1... I was in no particular hurry to reach my destination and so my mind was left idle to wander. This was not the first time that I had been to the station. In fact, I am such a frequent visitor to the juice-wala at the corner of the booking office that he recognized me by face and often awaited my arrival with one kokum juice ready for me. But I had never bothered to notice the whitewashed walls which had turned cream on top and a bright brown and maroon on the lower areas or the number of pamphlets stuck on the walls (hiding the creaminess), calling for young talented actors and actresses of all age or the vacancy for a paying guest who 'must be single male'. I had barely noticed the stench of dirt mixed with dried spit and betel juice that permeated the place and least of all the beggar children right under the counter. We usually turn our face in the opposite direction when we see one of these children coming our way begging for alms and completely ignore the existence of the ones that don't obstruct our way.

But one child had my rapt attention for the 15 minutes that I waited in the queue. The girl must have been barely 10 years old and had a little infant of probably 5 or 6 months in her hand. She wore a ragged frock with frills. Her dirty brown hair was tied in a bun at the back of her head and her complexion was testimony to the fact that she had spent all her life on the streets. But her face seemed to have a strange sort of serenity; A silent radiance of a child who has been trusted with responsibility and is ably carrying it out. She walked past the long queues silently making sure a torn little blanket covered the infant sufficiently. When she reached the counter she spread another little rag on the floor with one hand and carefully lowered herself over it. She placed the baby on her lap and made sure it was comfortable. She then looked at the numerous people around her. I sensed a feeling of longing in her eyes as they cheerlessly scanned the crowd around. It seemed to me she was waiting for a miracle, yet unaware of what it is. But it did not matter. She then looked down at the baby and looked up again. But as she looked up this time, her face was contorted in to a frown and her mouth was wide open, as she droned on a rehearsed set of lines and looked up at the men and women passing by, with impassive eyes and outstretched hand.

Suddenly all the serenity and radiance was gone from her face. She became just another beggar girl who is intolerably loud and screechy. I could still not take my eyes off her. Barely anyone heeded her pleas for alms. But it did not matter. She went on with her pleas and I continued looking at her. She would stop every 2 minutes for breath and in those 2 minutes her face would return to the serenity that first attracted my attention. I was amazed

Contd. from Page 18

at the change in her facial features as her face moved from serene calm to contortion and back. Begging for alms was a daily job that she did without passion, merely for the sake of survival. There was no fun in it nor was there any skill or talent required, but it did not matter. This was what she had been conditioned to do since the time she was born. Fun and play were words that found no place in her dictionary. I did not realize it but there was a look of concern on my face. The child noticed me and glared at me as though she was offended by the attention. I quickly looked away but my eyes returned to her as she returned to her pleas for alms.

I was only 4 passengers away from the counter, when an older girl of about 16 stomped her way to the little girl, scolded in a language I did not understand and forcefully snatched the baby from her and walked away. The little girl just sat there and screamed and tried to call the other girl back. But to no avail. She curled up against the wall, hugged her knees and began to sob quietly. I looked around for the other girl and found her sitting at the opposite corner nursing the baby. I presumed the older girl was its mother. I looked back at the girl who was still sulking as if her favorite toy was snatched away from her. It was not as if she would never see the baby again but she felt the grief of having something so dear being snatched away from her and she felt it deep. A deep sense of loss that had known to swallow the greatest of men was reflected in the eyes of this little urchin who has never known the meaning of possession. There could have been several explanations to what had just happened. But it did not matter.

About half a minute later, the child looked up and wiped her tears. I was now only one person away from the counter. The girl looked around her, the feeling of longing again in her eyes. Her eyes locked with mine and I was transfixed. The thread was broken when the man behind urged me to buy my ticket quickly. I bought my ticket and began to walk back. Suddenly I remembered there was a bar of chocolate inside my bag. I looked back to find the child still looking at me. I took the chocolate out and gave it to her and smiled. There was nothing she could do but to take the chocolate. She then looked at it and the ends of her mouth curled upwards in to the most fascinating smile I ever saw.

About the Author: *Menaka Warriar is the daughter of Mr. Ravindran and Mrs. ShreeKala Warriar, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (W). She is the grand daughter of Late Mrs. Indira Warriar & Late Mr. TMK Warriar, Mr Athrasseri Madhava Warriar & Smt. Sathyabhama M. Warriar. Menaka is a literature student and is pursuing her MA in English Literature from SNTD University, Mumbai.*

Let a Warriar be idea Star Singer

Miss Preethi Warriar is performing extremely well and has now entered the second round-Theme Round- of the fourth stage in Asianet's Idea Star Singer -Season 4 singing competition, being aired at 8.30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Your support and encouragement (through SMS) will boost her progress and double her chance to clinch the title. So make a Warriar, a Star Singer.

SAND MAFIA - To *Kill* a River

by C V Sukumaran

At a time when rivers world over are at the receiving end of man's abuse, Bharatapuzha in Kerala is no exception. Even with a meagre length of 250 Kilometers, she is the longest river in Kerala. She is believed to have an aura of holiness about her, so Keralites regard her as the Ganga of Kerala, though she is a midget in contrast to the great northern stream. I found myself accompanying her one morning, a victim of sand mining, at Thirunavaya in South Malabar. The previous night's rains had left her slightly swollen. I saw them then, the miners, members of the sand mafia who lined their pockets by robbing the river. A dozen men, youngsters all, dipped themselves repeatedly into the river and every time they surfaced, with dolphin-like swiftness, they did so with fistfuls of sand. The newspapers of Kerala often cry foul over sand mining without avail. The mafia is presumably in cahoots with the powers that be.

Bharatapuzha, whose best days are behind her, once yielded water to the needy and now the greedy milk her for sand. In the mafia's dispensation, water has taken a backseat to sand. The river dries up in summer, thanks to sand mining, and the exposed riverbed looks like a potholed road with puddles of water here and there. Years ago, one had indulgently swum in the cool waters of the river at Thirunavaya with abandon. But last summer there was no river in sight. I located her eventually, but immediately rued the discovery. What one saw was a shallow, sluggish stream, drowned under weeds and garbage, like empty plastic bottles and cellophane bags.

For the poets, a river is a lovely maiden, streaming her way expectantly towards her lover, the sea. But alas, for many rivers the sea is a far cry now. They dry up miles short of their destination, thanks to man's waywardness. Like a villain in a movie who frustrates the heroine's attempts to reach her lover, man intercepts the river.

Once the hero in a Malayalam movie, standing on the bank of Bharatapuzha, assured his sweetheart romantically that his love would be as lasting as the river. A discerning hero should look for something more perennial than a dying river to swear by. Maybe the sand mafia can fill the bill!

(This article first appeared in The Times of India, dated 2 June 2009)

Interesting Facts

- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- The pupil of the eye expands as much as 45 percent when a person looks at something pleasing.
- The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.
- Dalmatians are born without spots.
- Bats always turn left when exiting a cave
- The 'v' in the name of a court case does not stand for 'versus', but for 'and' (in civil proceedings) or 'against' (in criminal proceedings).
- Men's shirts have the buttons on the right, but women's shirts have the buttons on the left.
- The reason honey is so easy to digest is that it's already been digested by a bee.
- Every time you sneeze some of your brain cells die.
- Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for your heart.

NARAYANEYAM *by Shri K. V. Narayanan Kutty*

DASAKA 4 STANZA 13

*Tathra vaa thava padethavaa vasan prakrithapralaya ethi mujthathaam
Swechhayaa khalu puraa vimuchyathe samvibhidya jagadandamojasaa*

SPLITTING OF THE WORDS

*Thathra Vaa Thava Pade Athhavaa vasan Praakrithapralaye Ethi Mukthathaam Swechhayaa Khalu
Puraa Vimuchyathe Samvibhidya Jagadandam Ojasaa*

PROSE CONSTRUCTION

*Thathra vaa athhavaa thava pade vasan praakrithapralaye mukthathaam ethi.
Swechhayaa jagadandam ojasaa samvibhidya puraa vimuchyathe khalu.*

WORD MEANING

Vasan residing *thathra vaa athhavaa thava pade* either there or in thy world *mukthathaam ethi* becomes emancipated *praakrithapralaye* during the complete dissolution of the universe *khalu* indeed *pura eva* earlier itself *vimuchyathe* he gets liberated *swechhaya* by his own wish *samvibhidya* breaking *jagadandam* the mass of universe *ojasaa* by his own power.

TRANSLATION

Residing either there itself or in thy abode the yogi gets emancipation when the *praakrithapralaya* (complete dissolution of the universe) occurs. Indeed he may also get emancipation earlier itself by breaking the mass of the universe by his own (yogic) powers.

EXPLANATIONS

Thathra vasan residing there itself i.e. in the *Brahmaloka* itself *athhavaa thava pade* or else in thy abode. Having reached the *Brahmaloka* the yogi can reside there or he may reside in the abode of *Vishnu*. We have just seen in the previous stanza that the *yogi* reaches the *brahmaloka*. Then the question may be asked how could the *yogi* then reside in the *vishnuloka*? The answer lies in the fact that the abodes of *Brahman Vishnu, and Siva* all are in the *Sathyaloka* which the *yogi* enters. He may reside there until the entire universe is withdrawn by *The Supreme Being* to Himself. This is called *praakrithapralaya* when nothing except the Lord remains. At that time the *yogi* also along with all other residents of the *Brahmaloka* enters the body of the *Parabrahma*. This is called emancipation or *mukthi*. After thus entering the body of the *Supreme Being* there is no birth or rebirth and that itself is the final bliss. The poet describes the alternative route also to the yogi to the salvation. The yogi need not wait till the *praakrithapralaya* to get liberation. He could, by his yogic powers, break the *Brahmaanda* and enter the abode. This route is further described in the next stanza.

NARAYANEYAM, contd.

DASAKA 4 STANZA 14

*Thasya cha kshithipayomahoniladyomahatprakrithisapthakaavritheeh
Thatthadaatmakathayaa vishan sukhee yaathi the padamanaavrittham vibho*

SPLITTING OF THE WORDS

*Tasya cha kshithipayomahoniladyomahatprakrithisapthakaavritheeh thttthadaatmakathayaa vishan sukhee
yaathi the anaavrittham padam vibho*

PROSE CONSTRUCTION

He vibho thasya cha kshithipayomahoniladyomahatprakrithisapthakaavritheeh thatthadatmakathayaa vishan sukhee the anaavrittham padam yaathi.

WORD MEANING

He vibho oh Lord who is complete in all respects *yogi the vishan* entering *kshithipayomahoniladyomahatprakrithisapthakaavritheeh* the sevenfold coverings consisting of the earth, water, fire, wind, ether, mahattathwa, and illusion *thasya (bramaandasya)* of that universe *tatthadaatmakathayaa* each in its own individual form sukhee enjoying the pleasures of those individual realms *yaathi* the yogi goes to *the anaavrittham padam* thy world which becomes revealed.

TRANSLATION

Oh Lord who is complete in all respects! Entering the sevenfold covering of the *brahmaanda* consisting of the earth, water, fire, wind, ether, *mahattathwa*, and the illusion, entering into each taking its own form and enjoying the pleasures of those realms, the yogi goes to thy abode which is then revealed.

EXPLANATIONS

He Vibho! This is intended to show that every living being ultimately wants to be one with the Lord in order to be complete. Once that union takes place there is no returning back to the mortal world. The slow journey of the *jeeva* of the *yogi* is shown here. The *yogi*, having attained the *yogasiddhis* is able to change his form to anything he likes. *The brahmaanda* is having seven layers of covering. The yogi enters the first layer changing his form to the form of earth. Thereafter he enters the layer of water changing into water and so on. *sukhee...* In each of these layers the yogi enjoys the pleasures peculiar to those layers. *Tadaathmakathayaa vishan* The yogi with his *sookshmasareera* enters into each of the seven layers having adopted the form of that layer. In other words he becomes one with that layer for the purpose of enjoying the pleasures of that layer. Then after breaking the layer of illusion, which is the final layer, the yogi is able to see the abode of the lord. He then enters that abode from which there is no going back to the births rebirths etc. Thus we have described the process of attaining nirvana by the two types of yogis namely the one who does not have any desire in him and the other one who, at the time of relinquishing this body wants to enjoy the pleasures of other worlds. Both eventually attain nirvana, entering into the world of the Lord.

NARAYANEEYAM, contd.**DASAKA 4 STANZA 15**

*Archiraadigathimeedrisheem vrajan vichyuthim na bhajathe jagatpathe
Sachidaatmaka bhavadgunodayaanucharantamakhilesha paahi maam*

SPLITTING OF THE WORDS

*Archiraadigathim eedrisheem vrajan vichyuthim na bhajathe jagatpathe sachidaatmaka
bhavadgunodayaan ucharantam anilesha paahi maam.*

PROSE CONSTRUCTION

He! Jagatpathe! (Jeevah) eedrisheem archiraadigathim vrajan vichyuthim na bhajathe. He! Sachidaatmaka! Anilesha! bhavadgunodayaan ucharantham maam paahi.

WORD MEANING

He jagatpathe Oh! Lord of the universe. *Vragjan* having attained *eedrisheem archiraadigathim* such type of path with the first step being the form of Fire *jeevah* the yogi *vichyuthim na bhajathe* does not get befallen *He! Sachidaatmaka Snilesha*. Oh! Lord of the house of the Wind who is the Supreme Truth namely *Brahma paahi* please protect *maam* me *ucharantham* who is reciting bhavadgunodayaan the greatness of thy virtues.

TRANSLATION

Oh! Lord of the universe! Having gone through such type of path the first step of which is the Fire, the yogi does not become befallen (again to the repetition of birth and death) Oh! Lord of the house of The Wind! Who is the Supreme Truth namely the Brahma itself! Please protect me (from the internal and external diseases) who am constantly reciting the greatness of thy virtues.

EXPLANATIONS

He! jagatpathe! This epithet is used to indicate that everything in this universe is happening with the wish of The Lord and the *Jeeva* attaining nirvana also happens only according to His wish. *Vichyuthim na bhajathe* The *jeevaatman* does not become befallen Here the *Jeevatman* means the yogi who has chosen to discard the body of his own free will through the *yogasiddhi* and has entered the various worlds being taken there by the various deities such as Fire, Day, Uttharayana etc.. The Jeevatman here has chosen the path of *Ashtaangayoga* and has completely identified himself with the Supreme Being through his yogic *siddhis*. Those who choose the path of *karmayoga* have to have to realize the Supreme Being through the good work to be done through various births and rebirths. This is what the poet means by saying *Archiraadigathim eedrisheem vrajan jeevah. Sacchidaatmakah* This epithet is used to indicate that those who have reached the abode of the Lord will never return, the reason being that the Lord is the personification of Supreme Truth in the form of *Brahma*. Having described this much the poet concludes the *DASAKA* with the prayer to the Lord to protect him from all the interior and exterior diseases. *Bhavadgunodayaan uccharantham* Here the poet points out that he is especially worthy of protection because he has been glorifying the virtues of the Lord all the time. This indicates the devotion of the poet towards the Lord... Indeed it has been made clear by the Lord through various actions that he protects all devotees from all sufferings. Once again the Poet uses the epithet *Anilesha* to describe the Lord. This has special significance here because the sufferings of the poet are the results of *vaathakopa*

To be continued

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