

Licence No. 331 dated 15th October 1935.



THE UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

ALWAYE
MARCH 1956

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Editorial	1
2. <i>Is life possible on other planets</i> —Johnson K. Samuel, B. Sc.	4
3. The Bronte Sisters with special reference to Jane Eyre and Wuthering Height—Miss Saramma Luke, M. A., Dept. of English	7
4. Lines Composed over the Red Sea—C. A. A.	13
5. U. N. O. (The Child of Ten in the International Field)—K. Krishnan Unni, Cl. i, Gr. ii.	14
6. Heaven is All Agog—M. J. Daniel, Cl. iv, Economics	17
7. Portuguese and the Zamorins—M. Neelakanta Menon, Cl. iii, Gr. Economics	20
8. College Societies	22
9. Revolution and Reconciliation—An Ecumenical Student Conference	28
10. A Peep into the Beyond—K. Jacob	30
11. A Letter	34
12. Stamp Collecting—Mathew Chacko, Cl. iii, Physics	35
13. Games and Sports as a Nation Building Activity—M. J. Daniel	37
14. College Day (Presidential Address)—Dr. A. J. Boyd, Principal, Madras Christian College	41
15. The College Day Sermon—Dr. T. I. Poonen	43
16. Speeches Delivered at the Farewell Meeting held in the College on 27th February— I. Sri T. S. Venkataraman II. " A. K. Baby	48 53
17. College Notes	54

1. വിരഹത്തിൽ—എൻ. കെ. മേനോ, ഗ്രാസ് ii, ഗ്ലോസ് i	1
2. ഗ്ലോസികളെഴുതുന്ന മനുഷ്യൻ—സി. ഐ. മേനോ, ഗ്രാസ് iii	2
3. കലാഭാവം—റി. കെ. സുകുമാരൻ, ഗ്രാസ് iv E	4
4. ഹൃദയത്തിന്റെ കരുപ്പിടം—രാമൻകുട്ടിനായർ, വി. എ. കെ. മേനോ, ഗ്രാസ് ii, ഗ്ലോസ് i	5
5. സമീകരണം—കൃഷ്ണകുമാരി, ഗ്രാസ് iv	8
6. ജന്മിന്റെ വിവരങ്ങൾ—വി. സി. കമ്മാ	9
7. നീക്കം ഹൃദയം—കെ. എം. അബ്ദുൾകരീം, ഗ്രാസ് i, ഗ്ലോസ് i	10
8. കൊച്ചു മുഖം വലിയ ഹൃദയം—കെ. എം. മോഹനമൂർത്തിനായർ, ഗ്രാസ് iii	14
9. സമാധാനം—പുത്തമംഗലം സുകുമാരൻ, ഗ്രാസ് ii, ഗ്ലോസ് iii	17
10. ഗവകളിൽ—ജ. റി. ബേബി, ഗ്രാസ് iii, Phil.	17

1. Beti-ki-Thalas—K. E. Chandy, Class iv.	1
2. Mauth-ki-Pukar—P. Viswanath, Class iv.	3
3. Mera Desh—A. H. Philipose, Senior B. Sc.	6
4. Goa-ki-aar-ek Bhamki—R. Rajappan Unni	6
5. Koel—P. Muraliedharan Nair, Class ii.	8
6. Viswasanthi—A. P. Abraham, Class iii.	8

EDITORIAL

Educational Reform

Probably the most important subject which engages our attention now is the new scheme of education proposed by the Central Government and which is coming into force immediately. For a long time it has been felt that the School Final Examination is of too low a standard for the aspirants to University Education. Besides, many of the students who come into the University have neither the physical nor mental development needed for a University Student. Very young boys of fourteen and fifteen, having passed the School Final Examination, find themselves in Colleges, mixed with the older and more mature students of the degree classes. The whole thing was felt to be unhealthy and bad for the rising generation. Several commissions appointed by the Government, had made their recommendations, to remedy these and other evils. And the Pre-University class, to follow immediately after the School Final, is the present remedy, accepted by all Indian Universities. The details are not yet clear, but one thing is decided: there will be no admissions into the junior Intermediate class next year.

The original idea was that this class must go with the High School. But no High Schools are now ready in our land, to take up the work. Hence for the present, this has to be done by Colleges. But if this is the case, is not the reform robbed of all its value? It seems that we have merely reduced the Intermediate Course by one year, and added one year to the B. A. Degree Course. But it is hoped that this would be a merely temporary measure. The class will ultimately go to the High School, and in the meanwhile the Colleges would try to keep the Pre-University students separate from those who take the degree courses, and they will also be given an introduction to the University standards of teaching and study.

The place of English

It seems that the real problem facing the University Student now is the medium of instruction. In the High Schools, the vernaculars have already replaced English as the medium. This is as it should be. But unfortunately this has led to a lowering of standard in English, and the present average student emerging from the High School finds it difficult to follow the lectures delivered in the University classes. The new scheme makes an attempt to remedy this evil, by greater emphasis being given to the study of the English language.

We are now in the midst of the controversy regarding the place of English in our national life. Many leaders are of opinion that English

should not be given up, as it is already in the field, as the one European language which contains vast treasures of knowledge, and is of international value. A new suggestion is now in the field, that every student of the High School should learn three languages. The All-India Council of Secondary Education has adopted a resolution to recommend this Scheme. This would give a better chance for both Hindi and English. As to the medium of instruction in the University, until Hindi is equipped enough, it would be impossible for that language to re-place English. Many important leaders of thought, and some State Governments have already expressed strongly their view that it would be most unwise to give up English. The Mysore Government have unequivocally stated their view that the elimination of such an international language, which has bestowed so much benefit on India and contributed to her progress, would be ruinous. Sir C. V. Raman also has given his strong and well-considered opinion that to give up English would be a serious mistake. In the light of all these strongly-expressed views, let us hope that the Government of India will take a decision on the subject, which will be to the best interests of the country.

Farewell to Sri. V. M. Ittyerah.

It is with great regret that the College Community has received the news that Sri. V. M. Ittyerah will leave at the end of the present academic year and that he will not be on the Staff of the College from next year onwards.

A close friend and associate of the late Sri. K. C. Chacko, Sri. Ittyerah was one of the first persons who shared with that great soul the idea of founding the Union Christian College. To think of starting a College with no endowment funds and no sure or steady sources of income seemed to be a foolhardy enterprise in those days. But the small Group to which Sri. Ittyerah belonged were willing to be fools for Christ's sake and they gave their all for the realization of the vision they had seen.

Ever since the day in 1921 when he came to the Alwaye Hill with a friend to clear the jungle around the old, dilapidated, and uninhabited building in which the Union Christian College was to have its first home, Sri. Ittyerah has been the common friend of all in the College Community. He is the last member of the original Group to retire from service in the College. With his transparent sincerity of purpose, his desire to be of help to all, his unself-conscious enthusiasm, his humility, and his cheerfulness, fill. As teacher of History and the Head of the Department of Economics, as Superintendent of Messes, as Superintendent of Hostels of the College, as Superintendent of Works in the College, as Bursar, as Principal, as Staff Adviser to the Student Christian Fellowship, as

organiser of relief for the poor and needy neighbours of the College, as President of different Games' Associations, as a Leader of Worship and Bible Study, as a lover of children, as a friend of all, Sri Ittyerah has been a live wire in the whole fabric of the College, and it is very difficult to imagine the Union Christian College without him.

Mrs. Ittyerah has been the ideal helpmeet to her husband in all his varied activities in the College and elsewhere. Her presence was perhaps the most important personal factor that enabled the College to admit women students in 1939 and to start a Women's Hostel. In addition to being the Warden of the Women's Hostel during its very difficult early years, she has been a source of great Christian influence in this institution. As the very successful Editor of the *Balamithram*, she has been inspiring an increasing number of young people all over the country. Her simple affection and her spontaneous and generous hospitality have endeared her to all who have come in contact with her.

The College Community will be very much poorer after Mr. & Mrs. Ittyerah have gone away to live elsewhere. We shall, however, take comfort in the hope that they will visit the College as often as possible. Mr. Ittyerah will continue to be wanted as a Senior Advisor to the younger generation in the College, and we feel confident that his interest and prayers will always be with this scene of his activities during the last 35 years.

As we most reluctantly bid farewell, we wish Mr. & Mrs. Ittyerah and their children the best of health and prosperity, and a life of continued usefulness wherever they may be.

In Memoriam

The College Community has had a sad bereavement this year. After a period of illness during which she had an operation and deep X-Ray treatment at the Vellore Hospital and the Madras General Hospital, Mrs. C. P. Mathew passed away on 17th October 1955. The funeral service in Alwaye, led by the Most Rev. Yuhanon Mar Thoma assisted by the Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Athanasius, the Rt. Rev. Philipose Mar Chrysostom, and many priests, was attended by the Staff and students of the College and a large number of people from outside belonging to all communities. Mrs. Mathew's fortitude in the face of great physical pain was an inspiration to all. Almost till the last moment she continued her well-known interest in social service activities among the poor and needy around the College. Her passing away has meant a great personal loss to many. We offer our sincere condolences to Mr. C. P. Mathew and to all the many friends and relatives who have been bereaved.

IS LIFE POSSIBLE ON OTHER PLANETS?

(JOHNSON K. SAMUEL B. SC.)

Much has been said and read about the flying saucers. Many people are under the impression that we are being visited by intelligent beings in flying saucers from some other planets. At the same time there are scientists who hold that the flying saucer is a terrestrial phenomenon with no connection, whatsoever, with other planets. We shall leave those things aside and see whether the existence of life is possible on other planets from the limited informations that we have gathered and the inferences that are formed about those distant worlds. Human brain has refused to be baffled by the inaccessibility of the celestial bodies.

The innumerable substances that we find on earth are the results of different combinations of some of the hundred varieties of atoms that are known to us. These atoms are found in the sun and the stars, wherever they may be in the universe. The presence of the atoms in the sun and the stars is detected by analysing the spectra of light coming from them. We know that the chemical laws are based on the structure of the atoms. So far as the structure of the atom is unaltered the laws that prevail on the earth are the same everywhere in the universe. Hence the chemical compounds that are found on earth can exist everywhere under the same conditions. This must be true about the living organisms also in all the universe. *Though the forms of life may differ, the individual cells which constitute the living matter must have the same chemical composition as on earth.*

Carbon plays a very important part in the living organisms. It has the unique property of combining with itself and other elements

to form molecules containing large number of atoms. These complex molecules form the basis of all living matter. The simplest sugar or carbohydrate contains six carbon atoms in the form of a chain in one molecule. More complex sugars are obtained by the combination of these molecules. Thirty to forty such groups are found in the starches in living plants.

Complex molecules break up easily when the temperature is raised. We may safely assume that living structures cannot remain without getting dissociated if the temperature is much more than 65°C (149°F). The temperature must neither be too low. Though low temperature does not dissociate living matter it cannot promote any development of structures. That is evident because vital processes are wholly dependent upon the energy from the parent sun. Only an insufficient supply of energy is implied when we say that the temperature is low.

The necessary carbon for carbohydrates and fats in plants on earth is taken from the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. During the process, oxygen is given out. The body of every living structure is continually using up energy. This energy is supplied to it from the energy produced by the combustion of the absorbed carbon. For the combustion, oxygen is again absorbed and carbon dioxide is given back to the atmosphere. So an abundant supply of oxygen is absolutely necessary for the continuance of life unless there is some other source of energy for the development of the structure. Also, it has been found that water in the form of liquid or vapour is essential for all the vital processes like fertilization.

We saw the necessity of moderate temperature. Temperatures on the stars are very high. Only the simplest compounds are found on the coldest stars. So there is no possibility of the existence of life in the stars and we need search for life only on the planets and their satellites.

Retention of the atmosphere around a planet depends largely on its radius. It is possible that a planet may retain an atmosphere if it has a great radius. Also, the higher the temperature of the planet, the less is the possibility of finding an atmosphere, because molecules of the atmosphere are greatly helped by the heat to escape into the outer space in course of time. Considering the radius or size, most of the known satellites and the planet, Pluto, can be excluded from the investigation of the atmosphere because they are too small to retain an atmosphere.

Now let us take the case of the moon, the satellite of our earth. The maximum temperature on the moon is 120°C . (Temperature is measured with the aid of a bolometer or a thermocouple). It has been found that none of the atmospheric constituents except a few heavier gases can be retained at this temperature. When we look through a telescope, the edge of the disc of the moon is seen as clearly as the other parts. This sharp definition of the edge indicates the absence of the atmosphere because the edge will be obscured if the case is otherwise. There are other evidences also to show that the moon is completely devoid of an atmosphere. Another fact is that the moon is a waterless world. Because moon is our nearest neighbour in the universe, we are enabled to make a closer study of it than any of the other celestial bodies. Had there been an observer on the moon with a powerful telescope

turned towards the earth, he could have easily guessed the presence of the oceans and vegetation here. He could have seen the changes that occur on earth, the building of the new great cities etc., which he would have taken as evidences of human activity. No such evidence of human activity is observed on the moon. We see it as a mountainous world with large crevasses and craters on it. No type of life is existing on the moon.

Similar is the case of the planet, Mercury. The maximum temperature on it is estimated to be more than 400°C . It is curious to note that Mercury always turns the same face to the Sun while it is revolving round it. So there is sunlight on one half all the time and perpetual darkness prevails on the other half. In contrast with the high temperature of the sunlit face, the temperature of the other face is extremely low because it never receives sunlight. Also, the planet is not found to retain any atmosphere. So we cannot expect any life on that planet.

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are the major planets of the Solar system. There is much in common among them and they may be discussed together. They are very huge planets compared to others and for that reason (large radii) there is the possibility of their retaining the atmospheres. This has been observed to be true. The center of their discs is brighter than the edges. These faint, blunt edges are essentially due to a considerable thickness of atmosphere. The temperatures of these planets are very low. Of these four planets, Jupiter is the nearest to the Sun and its temperature is measured to be minus 140°C . Saturn has a temperature of minus 155°C and Uranus minus 180°C . Neptune is the farthest from the Sun and it must be still

colder. The depths of the atmospheres of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are estimated to be 6000, 16,000, 3000 and 2000 miles respectively. We can easily imagine the enormous pressure experienced on the surface of the planets. The pressure is enough even to solidify hydrogen and helium. There will be a thick coating of ice around the crust because all the water vapour will be condensed into water and then to ice at that low temperature. At the bottom of the atmospheres near to the ice coating there will be gases like hydrogen in the solid or liquid form to a great depth. The gaseous outer layer is found to consist of hydrogen, helium, argon and the poisonous gases Methane and Ammonia. It is not possible for life to exist under these circumstances.

Now we come to Venus. Venus sometimes comes between the earth and the Sun and then we can see its disc projected on the Sun's disc. From its appearance it has been conclusively proved that Venus has an atmosphere. The surface of the planet is covered with a thick layer of clouds. So the Sun's rays cannot penetrate to its surface. The rays are reflected or scattered in the atmosphere itself. So we cannot see the true surface of the planet. The observed temperature of Venus is 50° to 60°C . Though the sunlight does not pass through its atmosphere, the infra red radiations can reach its surface. So the temperature of the surface must be much more than the observed value. The main constituent of the atmosphere is found to be carbon dioxide. The layer of clouds does not contain water vapour. The clouds are supposed to be mere dust particles formed as the result of dust storms. So we can conclude that the surface of Venus is a desert with no sea, lake or rivers. No

oxygen is detected in its atmosphere. So vegetation or any type of life is out of question on the surface of such a world where sunlight cannot reach.

The last planet to be considered is Mars. It has an atmosphere beyond all doubts. The temperature of the planet at noon comes to about 10°C and falls rapidly during night to about minus 90°C . White caps are seen at the poles of the planet which melt during the summer and clouds are formed in its atmosphere. Since the ice caps are found to melt completely, the deposit of ice cannot be taken to be more than a few inches thick. Thus the water from an ice cap will not be more than that in a moderately large lake. Evidently there is water vapour in its atmosphere though its quantity is very small. By our methods, oxygen is not found to exist in its atmosphere. Perhaps its amount may be too small to be detected. At the end of the last century, some astronomers claimed that they saw a network of canals on the Martian surface which could be definitely taken as the work of intelligent beings. But now with the aid of powerful telescopes, it has been proved that the so-called canals are not even continuous. Also there is no possibility for those systems of canals to exist on Mars where the only sources of water at present are the polar ice caps. Some seasonal changes of colour are found to occur on the planet. It is explained as the seasonal growth of vegetation. If there is a little amount of free oxygen, the presence of some vegetation is definite because on the earth, as we have already seen, such a chemically active element like oxygen is existing free in the atmosphere only because of the chemical activity of the vegetation here. Merely a small amount of oxygen—if at all there is—makes the higher forms of life improbable. Perhaps Mars may have been the

home of animals and intelligent beings, in the past ages. The possibility is not much for them to exist there now in the present state of affairs. Even the apparent vegetation is doomed to extinction in the near future. Mars may be taken as a planet of spent life.

The above observations are not to be taken as final. They are only tentative. For the present, we need not pass a decision on the matter once for all. We shall wait and let the competent and deeply interested scientists say the last word on it.

THE BRONTE SISTERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JANE EYRE AND WUTHERING HEIGHTS

(BY MISS SARAMMA LUKE, M. A., Dept. of English)

The contribution made by the Bronte Sisters to English Literature in the eighteen forties has a unique flavour—a strange pungent mingling of wild romance and domestic realism, of cosmic poetry and local detail. They are belated romantics who derive from no school, nor have any succeeding writers produced works of similar tang. Their originality, which gives them a just claim to be considered major English writers, is definitely traceable to certain circumstances of their lives. A study of these circumstances, is perhaps essential for a true understanding of Brontes' works. For they belong to that class of writers whom it is impossible to understand except through the medium of biography.

The Bronte Sisters were the children of strained conditions. Their father Patrick Bronte was an Irish-man transplanted to the north of England. He was appointed to a curacy at Wetherfield in Essex.

Placid completeness one would little expect from such conditions of parentage, as the Bronte sisters had and little enough of placid completeness do we find in the

39 years of the life of Charlotte Bronte. One cannot divide it into periods. It was a life of experiences rather than of opportunities. It was a life of emotions, it was a personal, individual life, lived intensely. When Charlotte was five years old, her mother died leaving six children, the eldest only eight years old, in the parsonage of Haworth on the Yorkshire moors. Three years later, the little motherless thing was sent to that extraordinary school, so vividly described in "*Jane Eyre*" where she endured a brief but most unhappy school life, ended the next year by the death of her two elder sisters and by her own grievous illness. From the age of 26 for nearly two years she was English teacher in a school in Brussels. When she was 31, *Jane Eyre* was published. When 32, her only brother Branwell, an idler, an opium-eater and a drunkard, died. Three months after that Emily, the elder of the two remaining sisters, died. Five months later, Anne, the youngest and the last of the sisters passed away, leaving Charlotte alone to comfort her half-mad father. It all reads some-

what unlike a placid story of happy living. It would even seem that happiness was not the desire of Charlotte Bronte. It is life, rather than delight, that she longed for. Life was worth living only when it offered opportunity for intense attachment, as would make her willing to die for the object of her emotion. The conjunction of intense feeling with a narrow range of experience explains the frequent violence and excess in her books. This intense personal life went into the novels, and has made *Villette* and *Jane Eyre*, as distinct and definite personalities as Charlotte Bronte herself. It would be easier to draw a picture of the soul-life of the struggling teacher-governess of Haworth from the story of *Jane Eyre* than from the records of authentic history.

The characters in Charlotte's novels are live creations, and their appearance marks a distinct era in the history of the novel. Before their appearance, we had had personages in fiction. In *Jane Eyre* for the first time the intensity of life-craving, which dominates a woman, who loves, is presented in the pages of the novel; and the outcry of her longing becomes audible to the world. The story of *Jane Eyre* is well-known. She is a heroine of the inner life. When Charlotte Bronte sets out to depict a stern struggle of the soul of a woman, she throws aside the external excellences given to heroines by time-honoured custom. The heroine of her novel is small, dark, plain, almost insignificant in appearance. She made her heroine a governess, poor, plain and small, like herself to prove to the world,

how unimportant a mean presence is, if the spirit within be great. She perhaps wished to freshen and deepen the conception of physical beauty itself. Jane becomes more beautiful to the eye—or to the right eye—when her spirit stands up and shines out. Rochester, the husband of the mad wife who has persuaded himself that because of his madness he is at liberty to marry again, is the hero. It is as if in the interest of the intenser life Charlotte counted all external things but as dross. The influence upon the heroine in *Jane Eyre* are not from the outside. She is moved, stirred, aroused, solely by the strength of her own emotion. The one thing, thrilling through *J. E.* and *Villette* is intensity of interests—interest in a system of life, in nature, in one's own soul-life, and in emotion as emotion. When *Jane Eyre* was finished, passion entered into the novel and passion spun the plot. The birth of *J. E.* meant a revolution in English literature, as disturbing and as fruitful as the publication of the *Lyrical Ballads*. Its success was due to the spontaneous appreciation of readers rather than to the approbation of critics. The romance, the passionate intensity, the transparent sincerity and the fresh, powerful, often poetic style of *J. E.* were the qualities, which assured its success. It is the wedding of romance to realism. But the realism is unlike that of Miss Austen, and the romance has small affinity to that of Scott. It is the realism, not of the quiet English country mansion, but of everyday life; it is the romance, not of the knight of armour but of elemental human nature.

THE CHAMPION ATHLETES OF THE YEAR (MEN'S SECTION) (WOMEN'S SECTION)



Philipose Panicker



Mary K. Mathew

Marine Engineer A. S. Abraham,
an old student of the CollegeM. J. Daniel, Class IV Economics
who won prizes in the Essay Competitions
conducted by the Alwaye Rotary Club and
the T. C. Sports Council

SRI ABID ALI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, IN THE COLLEGE



Charlotte Bronte lacked that comprehensive imagination, the wide knowledge, and the visionary idealism of the poet. Her realism was all irradiated by a vivid imagination, but the light played only upon what she herself had seen and heard and known. She could not create out of airy nothing. *J. E.* is a transcript of the life of Charlotte Bronte. It begins where Charlotte's memory began. She complained that ordinary society was "wretchedly insipid" compared with the visions of her fiery imagination. Within their dream-world, the Bronte sisters were as gods, self-endowed with the power to grant every wish and to still the secret longings of the soul; outside was the harsh reality—dull people, social disappointments, the intractable situations of everyday life. The Brontes drained themselves of life to nourish their imaginary universe. They lived for an illusion, and perhaps they died for it. In this world of exotic magnificence, so unlike the grey, sombre reality in which she lived, Charlotte licensed her imagination to rove unreprieved. Her spirit all air and fire, was more enterprising, and her troubled conscience recognised the insidious siren-song of imagination. Her nature was vehement and emotional. The Bronte girls could only gaze at the world through vicarage windows. It is the special glory of Charlotte Bronte, that out of her extremely limited material, she made a novel, at once intensely romantic and profoundly real. The passions of humanity, she knew, were capable of creating both heaven and hell. Though she could only look through the windows,

she had a light within, which made the glance a revelation. The poor little governess Jane Eyre lives in a lonely house, and meets only a handful of human beings and yet from these unpromising elements, there grows a romance which enthralled men of the world like Thackeray.

Charlotte Bronte says that *J. E.* is not herself except in bodily appearance; nevertheless there is much of her own experience reflected in that of the governess. The forces of personal passion remained dormant in her until she formed the strange attachment for Monsieur Heger, Principal of the school to which fate seemed to have directed her in Brussels. In M. Heger, she encountered for the first time, an intellect stronger than her own, and masculine power of judgement and strength of will. At last she could compare the imaginative experience with reality. Out of this passion checked by invisible though impassable barriers, sprang the impulse that enabled her to give something entirely new to Literature. She had written the whole perilous stuff of her love for M. Heger right out of her heart into her book of *J. E.* and Fairfax Rochester. Thus the novel became a vehicle for passion in her hands, life-like in intensity, for C. B. was the first novelist to take as her subject matter, a woman's day-dream of romantic love and turn it into literature.

There is interest in a system of life in the novels of Charlotte Bronte. The characters live their own lives. *J. E.* for example, is a story of spiritual and in-

intellectual revolt. The life, of the novel of J. E. and of Villette, is the soul-life of the women, Jane Eyre and Lucy Snowe. We live that life with them. The intensity of the soul-life fills the books with an energy of assertion of life, which is the essence of individuality. She asserted in J. E., that conventionality is not morality, nor self-righteousness religion. She asserted the right of the individual man, of the individual woman, to make final decisions on the most momentous questions. She defiantly questions. She stands apart, demanding. Charlotte Bronte had in her mind the conception of the ideal social order and the equality of the sexes. Thus we find in J. E., an assertion of individual will, a fine capacity of individual emotion and all this in conflict with the world opposing.

Charlotte Bronte was unflinchingly sincere, and whatever of coarseness there may be in her works comes from her photographic fidelity to the life she knew. But the tendency of the books, was always towards a higher purpose and a sterner morality. In J. E., for instance, love, after a great struggle, is sacrificed to duty. The characteristic defects of the Bronte novels are due to the fact that their range of experience was so narrow. Charlotte Bronte's greatest defect, the want of humour, must be put down to the account of nature rather than of circumstances. She is always desperately in earnest and has no lightness of touch. She cannot believe that there are occasions when a smile is more effective than a sermon, and a jest more crushing than a blow. Her faults, which lie in the

direction of over-emphasis and exaltation, are those of force and flame, not of dullness or weakness.

Many influences moulded the character of Emily Bronte. The first of these was her early familiarity with death. Her mother died when she was little over three. When she was seven her sisters Maria and Elizabeth died within six weeks of each other. The church-yard where they were laid beside their mother adjoined the parsonage. How often must Emily's childish feet have stumbled at graves! She loved the scenery of Haworth. She loved the moors and the nooks of beauty which they enfolded. She loved even more that obscure monotony of the open spaces, with the pageant of the sky over all. Here was nature, here was freedom. To her the attachment to her home was a passion. Her whole affections were focussed upon home—the home of her childhood. She never had a friend. She was never to have a lover. She was inscrutable and remote, brooding over her inner visions. Happiness flowed in upon her from the homely round of duty, the eager pursuit of knowledge and the glory of summer skies.

This home lover was at heart a visionary, a natural mystic. Mysticism is not a philosophy, it is an experience. That experience or immediate union with the Divine, that blind experience had been Emily's. In maturer years, she longed to be alone for an hour, free from earthly cares, and joys and restless thoughts, that her spirit might stretch its wings, "bask in the sunshine of the sky and be alone

with God." More often the trance came upon her with the rising of evening winds and the onset of stars.

Mysticism apart, the inner experience of Emily Bronte was incomparably rich. And it was out of that inner experience that she wrote "Wuthering Heights" Charlotte Bronte could not understand how W. Heights produced its horrifying effects on the readers, for she knew so well what had gone into its writing and from what a homely background it had sprung. She says, "Wuthering Heights was hewn in a wild workshop, with simple tools out of homely material" and she but speaks the truth.

"Stronger than a man, simpler than a child, Emily's nature stood alone." The book she wrote, stands alone too. Wuthering Heights is a novel of extraordinary power, going far with her poems, to justify the opinion of Arnold that the author's soul

"Knew no fellow for might
Passion, vehemence, grief
Daring, since Byron died."

But it is a book not to be read with pleasure. The first picture of the Heights is revolting from its brutal inhumanity. The book is spoilt because its author had not known how to humanize it. "The action is laid in hell," said Dante Rossetti of this novel, "Only it seems places and people have English names there." A harsh critic might say that the construction of W. Heights is clumsy, and its characters so repulsive as to justify Rossetti's saying that the scene is laid in hell. The clumsiness of construction is due to Emily's initial error in choosing

the autobiographical method and her fidelity in clinging to it. The style is certainly bookish but it is a pure and manly style. Its chief fault is that it is too even: all the characters speak alike. But none of these things is vital. The greatness of W. Heights lies elsewhere.

Emily looked deep into the well of loneliness in her heart, and saw there unavowable secrets, of which her impulse as a writer, drove her to unburden herself. It is said, that her imagination was kindled by the weird stories her father used to tell of the Ireland of his youth. She found Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, in the hidden depths of her own soul. She was herself Heathcliff. She was herself Catherine Earnshaw. Thus she has put herself into the two chief characters of her book. W. H. is a love story, perhaps the strangest that was ever written and the lovers remain chaste. Elsie Harrison in her book "The Clue To The Brontes" says, "Knowing nothing of earthly passion, but being a connoisseur of the Divine, she used the thing she knew, for the description of the love of which she was ignorant." That is the inversion which gives W. H. the significance which no other novel can have. It stands alone in English literature, for, it is Methodist passion employed as the means of expression for the love of a man and a maid. Catherine thus speaks to the lover of her soul "He is more myself than I am.....My great thought in living is himself. If all else perished and he remained, I should still continue to be and if all else remained and he were annihilated, the universe

would turn to a mighty stranger. He is always in my mind . . . as my own being." All the Brontës understood the quality of religious passion as the legacy of their father's and mother's own inheritance but it is only in Emily that the thing becomes pure and untrammelled of the flesh. She had no earthly idols, so that *W. H.* reads as a scrap of history torn from the communion of the saints of old, and flung into the face of the modern world to startle its dainty self-restraint. In Emily was confined the very essence of the passion of Redeeming Love. She was a mystic and her genius reached the vision of ultimate reality, the Supreme Experience. She knows the anguish felt on the return from the union with the Infinite.

"Oh dreadful is the check—intense
the agony
When the ear begins to hear, the eye
begins to see;
When the pulse begins to throb, the
brain to think again,
The soul to feel the flesh, and the
flesh to feel the chain."

Alone among the Victorian novelists, Emily challenges comparison with *Dostoyevski*, so says S. D. Neill in his "Short History of Eng. Novel". *W. H.* is perhaps less a novel than a *psychological drama*, in which the characters are personified powers, that stormed and despaired in Emily Brontë's own being. Such insight into human experience as she had is rare. It is beyond analysis—it is genius. To her also belongs the credit of writing a *metaphysical novel*. She would

have felt a mental hunger for love rather than a physical need. Rejecting the creed of eternal damnation so dear to the age, she saw salvation in the gospel of Love and Forgiveness. The book has something in common with a *morality play*. Love, cast out by pride and jealousy turns to hate and seeks revenge, perverting all the forces of life and creating despair and misery, until Love reborn of pity redeems past wrong through hope and joy. Such romantic passion must necessarily end in death, since life is too frail to endure ecstasy. Passion and reason follow disastrously diverse laws. E. B. understood the nature of these conflicting impulses within the human soul, and realised that the most terrible impulses can often only be suppressed at the cost of endangering the structure of personality.

Somerset Maugham remarks that he can think of no other novel in which the pain, the ecstasy and the ruthlessness of love have been so powerfully set forth. *W. H.* has great faults but they matter as little as the fallen tree-trunks which impede the Alpine torrent in its tumultuous course. *W. H.* cannot be likened to any other book. One can read it a score of times and its terror and glamour are only the more irresistible. There is no tale that so increases its own wonder, so prolongs and intensifies its thrill.

Emily died at thirty and seems mostly to have practised the gospel of silence and contempt, living in nature, the imagination and the pieties of home. It was her almost animal passion for place, her almost pagan adoration of life, the violence of her clutch at it, that makes the

death of Emily Brontë even now as an imagined spectacles, intolerable. In Charlotte's terrible words "she was, torn, panting and reluctant, from a happy life". Her secret was not meek, religious resignation, not even stoic endurance but acquiescence, a rapturous acceptance of all that life is. In *W. H.* her genius is there, her passion, her tolerance and her adoration of Life.

We can notice some likeness between Charlotte's Rochester and Emily's Heathcliff. Both men are swarthy, violent, hard-featured, fierce, passionate and mysterious. Rochester is the dream of the woman of normal instincts. Heathcliff, like Rochester, is a woman's dream of an elemental man; but he is a hundred times as much alive. In his relation with Catherine Earnshaw he is genuine, and herein lies the essence of the book.

Emily Brontë gave Heathcliff her own masculinity, her violence and her savage temper. It is characteristic of Emily that she does not waste a moment, on the idea of a union outside the law, such as Rochester proposes to Jane Eyre. Such a solution is never even named; and the lovers are never united. In life they are parted for good; Heathcliff hopes that they shall meet in death. The tragic effect would have been spoilt by any other solution. A society with more Janes and Shirleys would be the stronger with better feminine brains presiding over more passionate natures. The two sisters were the first English women to exhibit this truth by creative methods, and that perhaps is their significance in the historical perspective. They have left the soundest and most imaginative statement of claim from the feminine standpoint.

LINES COMPOSED OVER THE RED SEA By C. A. A.

i
In the beginning was water
Infilled with Life unspoken;
The spirit of Yahweh moves it still
For I saw it the other night
When the sea came to sudden life
With an inward compulsion, like
A monster at the moment of Creation.

ii
The sea is the Lord's
And the fullness thereof—
The height and depth

The variety of life and death,
The sea-gull in his angelic plumes
Leviathan in his primeval gloom
The Word of God called them all.

iii
The destiny of man is shaped in water,
For there is a death by water
As of old when Pharaoh's wheels
And Israel's past alike were caught
In the great divide Yahweh willed,
And the fairest death by will
Where altar-fire and water meet.

The sea knows the secret of Sinai
For she dies in her giving
And lives in her dying;
The raging foam and the rainbow sprays
The dearest stillness dwelling deep,
A parable of life on elemental scale,
The peace that passeth understanding.

When time is gathered like
The rivers in the sea
And wheeling gull turns no more,
Then shall the sea-bed dry again
The broken bits of chariots seen,
All fish with fresh wings soar
To the glassy sea of the gathered blue.

U. N. O.

The Child of Ten in the International Field.

By K. KRISHNANUNNI, CL. I, Gr. II.

Ten eventful years have passed since the United Nations Organisation came into being. What has it done during this period to promote world-peace and human welfare? This is the question now in the minds of most people. Before answering this, however, a few things about the origin and function of this body should be mentioned.

What is the U. N. and what was the background for its foundation? The U. N. had its origin from the Atlantic Charter, which declared the intention of the Big Powers to constitute an international organisation based on the Four Freedoms of the charter. The proposed organisation was to be an agency to solve international problems and to prevent further wars. The organisation was to work not only in the political field, but also in other fields contributing to human welfare.

Long before the U. N. there have been international agencies working in various

spheres. One of the earliest of such organisations was the International Red Cross Society. This was to be non-political in its scope. It may be considered as an ambulance organisation working for human welfare in all countries. The Rotary Club founded in 1905 is another of the earlier international bodies. While the Red Cross Society works for the benefit of the sick and wounded the Rotary International seeks to promote friendship among peoples of different nationalities.

After the first World War the League of Nations was founded. The first thoughts on the foundation of such an organisation were present in the famous Fourteen Points of Woodrow Wilson. After the war the Paris Peace Conference accepted these and the League of Nations began its work at Geneva on 1st January 1919. This was an almost powerless political organisation, though built on a democratic basis. The League had a

useful purpose but it sadly failed in making the world safe for democracy. And the second World War came. This was the death knell of the League of Nations.

After the war in the place of the League came the United Nations. From earlier experience the statesmen of the world had learned that a purely political organisation was not enough. It needed a political aspect as well as aspects of health, education and culture.

The political agencies of the U. N. O. are the General Assembly and the Security Council. Each of the member nations has a representative in the lower body, the General Assembly. The Security Council consists of twelve members of whom five, U. S. A., U. K., U. S. S. R., France and Nationalist China are now the permanent members. Every year the Assembly elects seven members to the Council. This Council is the supreme body of the U. N. All the quarrels among nations and the international problems worth notice are first introduced in the General Assembly. But if it is one deserving urgent consideration it could be introduced in the Security Council first. For a resolution to be passed in the General Assembly it must have at least two-thirds majority. But if it is to be passed in the Security Council there has to be unanimous agreement. This power for veto enjoyed by the permanent members is a point for serious criticism of the U. N. Owing to this power these nations can condemn any move unfavourable to their own interests though that move might be helpful to human welfare as a whole.

Another point against the U. N. is that it has no power to compel member nations to act according to its resolutions. In some cases at least that is a pity. Take for instance the case of racial injustice in S. Africa. The U. N. appointed a committee to investigate this; but the South African Government did not help the committee in any way. When the report was published and the U. N. condemned their policy, the South African Government took no notice of it.

In the various fields of human welfare there are many agencies related to the U. N.—in the Economic field two important agencies, the economic and Social Council and the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East [ECAFE], in the educational field the now-famous United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural organisation [UNESCO] in the field of agriculture the Food and Agriculture Organisation [F. A. O.] and in the field of public health the World Health Organisation [W. H. O.]. These organisations are directly under the control of the U. N. Procuring finances for these and giving loans to member nations are the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund. There are other agencies co-operating with the U. N., but not under its direct control. The International Labour Organisation, the International Court of Justice, the Universal Postal Union, the International Tele-communication Union, the International Meteorological Station and International Red Cross Society are some of these.

The Economic and Social Council works for the economic development of under-developed areas. The ECAFE is a branch of this council working in the Far East. In Japan, where industrial production had fallen very low during the post-war years, the production is now rapidly increasing. Similarly, the traces of the ravages of the second World War are gradually fading from other countries of Far East. Though the respective governments worked hard towards this goal, a good part of the credit must go to the ECAFE.

The UNESCO works for the educational, scientific and cultural development of mankind. Under the leadership of this organisation the experts from many countries meet and discuss problems concerning the mode of education, scientific progress, and cultural development. By their advice new methods of education are being undertaken by governments. Besides advising governments, the UNESCO awards scholarships to go and study in foreign countries. In the field of science their work is praiseworthy. The UNESCO also works for the cultural development of mankind. It is with their co-operation that cultural delegations from one country visit other countries.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation works for the development of agriculture and growth of more food. The necessity for such an organisation can be clearly seen from vital statistics. While the population of the world has increased by nine million, from pre-war days, there has been no corresponding increase in

the production of food during the same period. With the help of the researches conducted by the F. A. O. numerous methods to grow more food are being discovered. The Japanese method of cultivation which is now tested in many parts of T.-C. State is one of these. With their help numerous wastelands and marshes have been reclaimed for cultivation.

The World Health Organisation tries to improve the health of the people. In every member nation the W. H. O. has its branch. Medical missions and up-to-date hospitals of the W. H. O. are numerous. In any area where a special kind of disease is common the W. H. O. establishes training centres for doctors and nurses to fight that particular disease. In addition to these they help governments to establish medical colleges and provide them with learned staff. (The former principal of the Medical College, Trivandrum, was sent by the W. H. O.).

Procuring finances for all these organisations is the work of the International Bank. It can be said to be the finance ministry of the U. N. India has taken loans from the Bank for the Bhakra-Nangal Project. The retrieving of wasteland with tractors is also being done with their help. The International Monetary Fund also gives money to nations for the same purposes as does the Bank. India has received some help from the Fund for the working of the community projects.

Another important organisation directly under the U. N. is the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF). It works for the development of children's interests.

The International Labour Organisation (I. L. O.) is a continuation of the I. L. O. of the pre-war days. It is not under the control of the U. N.; but it gets money out of subscriptions from member nations. The I. L. O. works for the maintenance of the rights of labourers. In the Human Rights Covenant of the I. L. O. which can be considered as the moral Magna Carta of the citizen of the world, these rights are clearly stated. After I. L. O.'s decision on work in factories no member nation can employ children for more than six hours a day. In the same way the I. L. O. has passed many decisions concerning labour.

The International Court of Justice at the Hague is also an associated agency of the U. N. The judges of this court are elected by the U. N. General Assembly. The Court was founded before the First

World War. The Court and the I. L. O. are the only important allied agencies of the League of Nations which survived the second World War. The Court deals not with quarrels between individuals but with quarrels between nations.

The U. N. should not be judged without taking into account the work of its allied agencies. In my opinion, if only the political successes and failings of the U. N. are taken into account then the failings will be undoubtedly more. But if the works of the associated agencies also are taken into account I think that the successes will be more than the failures. The U. N. is ten years young and it has many years of good work ahead.

Let us hope that the U. N. will eventually lead us to a period when "war-drums shall beat no longer," and battle-flags shall be unfurled no more.

HEAVEN IS ALL AGOG!

By M. J. DANIEL, (Class iv, Economics)

The greatest of all empires existed in Heaven! All those who had passed away from this material world found a welcome and a home in that ever-growing kingdom with its polyglot population. They were readily acknowledged as its full citizens. The great King reigned from His imperial throne. He was the fountainhead of all justice. And there was only a small Council to assist Him. Unaffected by the touch of time the reign

went down through the sweep of ages. The Commonwealth reached such lofty heights that its tranquillity and grace no tongue could relate.

After the passage of aeons a new thought came to the king's mind. Being wedded too much to a democratic ingenuum He resolved to bestow full freedom on all His subjects. Representation was to be effected through the ballot, for it was the only suitable form.

The King and His Councillors met in a conclave and the date of the first election was fixed.

The citizens were also eager to adopt that new and curious device. There was endless talk on it. They interpreted it in a thousand and one ways. Active and militant electioneering began. Nominations were submitted in right earnest. Press, platform, and pulpit were equally engaged. A vast quantity of propaganda, some true, some exaggerated, much out of proportion inevitably mingled the truth with fiction. Behold! factions and strife, hooliganism and gangsterism all prevailed unabashed. Divisions and conflicts of opinions made themselves apparent. The abode of peace was all agog!

The election was soon over and the storm subsided. Those who had won the game, intoxicated with power, mirth and laughter asserted themselves over the defeated and hushed minority who had had the fisherman's luck. The King was a little embarrassed by that strange and trifling phenomenon. But, not too much, for though little did He foresee that the perversion of His precious offer would be the most sinister of all political dangers, He had carefully reserved to Himself the right and power for final judgment in all matters! Being unaccustomed to a sedentary habit He gave an impression of labouring under no delusion.

The representative assembly met with the King as its president. Ministers were appointed and ambassadors were sent to all countries. The machinery of govern-

ment was soon set in motion. The weariness of His age-long watch and ward on the one hand, and the comforting confidence He entrusted with the new ministry on the other, induced the King to sleep in. But when He woke up breaking the gossamer web of His dreams He was perturbed, for the premier had in his exultation, ignorance and folly, quite lost his head. Forming the most impossible schemes and nourishing the most extravagant desires, the ministry had embarked on a new schema which challenged the status quo of the nation by threatening to turn the gamut of its life upside down.

The news spread like fire through all heaven and the rant and twaddle of the press forecast the calamities which might in a few days utterly ruin the rich heritage of so many ages of wisdom and glory. There was cause for righteous indignation. It raised a storm of Olympian hatred in the minds of all those who were able to feel. It struck terror in the heart of the nation. The King felt the pulse of His nation and found it sick. He determined to dissolve the accursed ministry. The whole nation was divided into two rival camps of rigid moral discipline and licentious freedom. One demanded the expulsion of the ascendant party and the other its continuance. But the king approached it amicably and asked to see the premier.

"We shall advise you to resign." Started the King "Why? I don't find any reason why I should not remain in my office until the stipulated time is over", retorted the minister a little nonchalantly.

"Remain in your office!", Exclaimed the king.

"It is impossible; my subjects do not like it"

"But there are some who still support me", said the minister. The king was firm. "There may be a brute minority who do not see with their eyes and do not hear though they have ears. You must accede to what we say and be it clear to you that you will not be allowed to continue in office. Ignorance is not an excuse for sin, and remember that one has to lie in the bed one has made", said the king.

But neither the compelling reason, nor the coercive power of the king penetrated the impenetrably cloistered mentality of the minister. With a choleric resentment the unwise and incipient upstart uttered a stern 'no' and walked out of the room. He went posthaste to his official residence. There he discussed the matter with his colleagues. They dwelt on it for a long while. "Then why did the king give freedom to us?" Asked the leader. "And after having given us freedom He has no right to intervene," said one.

"Is it so?" asked another, "But that is the best part of the joke!"

"No," cried one. "You are putting the whole thing the wrong way round. He gave us freedom since there was no reason why He should not! There is

every reason for Him to believe that the recipients being at full liberty would choose the best way and not a disastrous path to ruin. Freedom is the essence of practical morale and good reasoning."

"That's it. Then must we resign?" enquired the leader.

"Aye, that is necessary in the present situation", said one member.

"I am particularly disgusted too with the backsliding members of my party and I am fed up with the whole issue; I think it is good to set free myself as soon as possible" the leader said thoughtfully.

All of them agreed rather reluctantly, to submit their resignations the next day. The ministry was dissolved. It was like a flash in the pan, a still-born child of the incipient democracy in Heaven! But re-election ensued and the strife was at an end.

It is pleasant, occasionally to see the tedium—what is euphemistically described as the even tenor of life—relieved by an impressive display of errors, by the removal of the dull yoke of uniformity. "To err is human, to forgive divine." And if none makes any mistakes there will be nothing in the world to laugh at! Moreover, mistakes are inevitable when people wise and otherwise live together and work together. If we regard laughter as a blessing, let us then pay a tribute to error too!

*The following extract is from an address delivered by Dr. W. P. H. Coolhaas at the Royal University of Utrecht on 3rd Oct, 1955. The speaker refers in highly appreciative terms to Dr. T. I. Poonen, one of the former professors who worked in this College, and we are proud to publish the same in this magazine:—

"In India more is already remembered on the sojourn of the Dutch than is superficially seen chiefly in mortuary monuments whereof the most beautiful are to be found in Surat. Whoever takes the trouble to visit across the lagoon in a small boat the former Dutch leper asylum of Travancore, where the wall revetment of Delft tile stones still exists, has the chance to meet in the neighbourhood an old man who, though he never saw nor spoke to a Dutchman, understands our language. He learned that language because he is one of those very

few learned persons dwelling dispersed in all the lands of Asia, who knew that for studying the 17th and early 18th century history of their people, the treasures of the colonial section of our state archives form the richest collection of sources. The scientific works of our Company's servants are also known to him and he also narrates further that he considers that the Dutch of the Company's times deserve thanks for two reasons; they were the protectors of his co-religionists—the Syrian Christians—who are generally called 'Thomas Christians' and the appearance of the Dutch contributed—as everywhere else where the Company appeared in Asia—towards preservation of the rights of the established powers against the agitators and plunderers."

THE PORTUGHESE AND THE ZAMORINS

M. NEELAKANTA MENON, *Class III, Group Economics.*

Owing to the fall of Constantinople the door for the western nations to trade with India through land was closed, and so the leading countries of Europe, Spain and Portugal, began to explore the possibilities for a sea route to India. In their adventures, one Bartholomew Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope, Columbus discovered "the new world" and Vasco Da Gama arrived at Calicut by discovering a new sea route. On that occasion Gama got a state reception from the Zamorin of Calicut. He returned to Portugal with a large amount of spices and other costly materials. But soon, because of the influence of farsighted patriotic

courtiers and the pressure of Arab traders in Calicut, the Zamorin forbade the entry of Cabral, the leader of the second Portuguese mission. Cabral thereby became angry. He failed in his attempt to destroy Calicut by becoming an ally of Zamorin's rival, the Raja of Cochin and so returned to Portugal. On knowing the latest developments King Da Manuel of Portugal and Vasco Da Gama decided to take their revenge on the Zamorin. So the latter decided to lead another expedition to Malabar. With his Portuguese ships he reached Calicut and did atrocities about which an Arab traveller wrote "an ugly, barbarous, uncivilised act."

After destroying a part of Calicut Vasco Da Gama proceeded to Cochin. The Raja of Cochin accepted the sovereignty of the Portuguese King and Gama in return offered all help to the Raja provided that he would allow Portugal to construct a fort in Cochin. Soon after this Gama died.

The Cochin-Portuguese alliance on the one side and the Zamorin along with his subordinate kings and lords on the other prepared themselves for a war. The main difficulty for the Zamorin was his lack of armaments. Both parties met at a battle near Edappalli. A division of the Zamorin's navy was sent by sea to attack the Cochin fort. The Zamorin's forces could not withstand the mighty Portuguese without firearms. Faria Y-Souza describes this battle as "a preliminary raid before a great war."

Fortune however, favoured the Zamorin. Two Italians quarrelled with the Portuguese in Cochin and came to the Zamorin's help, whereby Zamorin's men could understand the technique of making guns and cannon.

Now, the balance of power became equal and both parties were ready for a great war. About fifty thousand soldiers got training in fighting with guns. A big fleet was marshalled by an able commander Kunjali Maraikar. The army marched to Cochin and the navy was divided into five divisions and stationed at five different places, namely Cananore, Tellichery, Calicut, Tanur and Ponnani. Able commanders led each division. Maraikar's naval plans were unknown to the Portuguese in Cochin. When the Zamorin's army attacked Cochin from Edappalli, a Portuguese naval fleet started for besieging Calicut. On knowing that, the naval divisions of the Zamorin became very active. When the Portuguese fleet reached Calicut, it was surrounded by five naval

divisions and the Portuguese suffered a dismal defeat. Kunjali Maraikar soon died due to a fatal fall. Alfonso De Albuquerque was then the Portuguese Governor General of Cochin. At Edappalli the Cochin-Portuguese united front met with a signal failure. These two failures brought Albuquerque to a decision to leave Cochin and make his headquarters in Goa.

Thirty years passed since Albuquerque left Cochin. Da Martin was the Governor General of Goa. The Zamorin came to a mutual agreement for help with Adityavarma, the King of Vadakkumkood, a southern neighbour of Cochin. He was also an enemy of the Cochin State. This aggravated the feelings of the Cochin Raja. But at this juncture the timely arrival of Da Martin gave great relief to him. Martin knew that Vadakkumkood was a pepper-growing country and a country of innumerable temples with ample wealth. The greedy Governor wanted to take this wealth and so he made an alliance with the Cochin Raja in order to help him to invade Vadakkumkood. The Raja of Vadakkumkood was a valiant commander.

At that time the Zamorin was attending the Mamankam at Tirunavaya. He decided to help Vadakkumkood in its war with Cochin. His able and valiant army chief Mangattachan and the naval chief Kuttyali Maraikar were making a common programme of action. Da Martin came into conflict with his naval commander De Souza and the latter fled to the Zamorin's side for the sake of his life. At Tirunavaya the Zamorin, Mangattachan, Maraikar and De Souza were making a plan of invasion along with the Zamorin's loyal kings and lords. On knowing Cochin's attack on Vadakkumkood Mangattachan and Kakkat Kandan

Nambiti started with about ninety thousand soldiers to help their ally Vadakkumkoor. About hundred ships started from Calicut under the guidance of Kuttyali Maraiakar and De Souza.

With the help of Portuguese officers, the Cochin army marched to Vadakkumkoor. The army was led by Virakerala Varman, the crown prince of Cochin. At first victories were on their side. In the end Vadakkumkoor succeeded by the military shrewdness of Aditya Varman. But by sheer ill fate this able prince died by a shot from the Cochin army. The shattered army of Cochin retraced their steps back to their home.

Once again Cochin reorganised her men and marched against the state of Vadakkumkoor. Bribing the local lords and army commanders of that state they got an easy victory. The young prince of that state, along with his mother and other members of the royal family, escaped to Kadaturuthy. After their victory the Portuguese resorted to such shameful actions like attacks on women and children and looting rich tem-

ples. At this juncture Mangattachan along with his large battalion arrived at Vadakkumkoor. A fierce but decisive battle took place at Vaduthalai. With the able guidance of Mangattachan the Zamorin's army achieved a decisive victory over the so-called mighty alliance of Portugal and Cochin.

Kuttyali Maraiakar with his fleet arrived near the Cochin fort on the day of the famous battle of Vaduthalai. But because of the mighty Portuguese cannon firing from the Cochin fort, the navy could not land on the shore. A few days later, a Portuguese fleet arrived from Goa. Under this situation Maraiakar with his large fleet escaped to Calicut through the Laccadive islands.

Da Martin on knowing this terrible failure became dejected. But he was not brave and strong enough to renew the war with the Zamorin. So he took the adage that "discretion is the better part of valour," as his motto. He retired with most of his officers to Goa. Anyhow after this failure, there is no record of a battle in which Portugal took the opposite side of the Zamorin of Calicut.

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Various Clubs began to function from the beginning of the year. In addition to the usual programme we had several co-curricular activities. The area between the Skinner hostel and the Principal's house is being levelled for a full-sized cricket-ground. A portion of the work is done by the students. Special mention should be made about the members of the New Hostel and Junior Day Scholars' Association. From the income derived from this work, the Junior

Day Scholars had an excursion to Coimbatore where they visited the C. S. & W. Mills, G. D. Naidu's Industrial Institute, Agricultural College, Engineering College, Forest College, Central Studio & several other interesting places.

The Ministry of Education has to be thanked for enabling our Basket-ball and Volley-ball teams to go to Madras and play several friendly matches. We played against Presidency College, Christian College, Arts College, Y. M. C. A.

THE COLLEGE UNION COMMITTEE



Sitting: T. B. Ninan M. A. (Principal); T. C. Cherian (Secretary); P. Narayana Pillai (President); Rebecca Simon; Rev. Dr. K. C. Joseph (Treasurer);
Standing: M. V. Antoo; Veeran Pillai; G. Padmanabha Menon; K. M. Philip

CAPTAINS OF COLLEGE TEAMS (1955-'56)



Sitting: V. Pappu (Football); Philipose Panicker (Tennis); Verghis George (Cricket); K. I. Abraham (Hockey);
Standing: T. S. Ninan (Volleyball); T. N. Govinda Pillai (Athletics); M. V. Markose (Badminton); A. K. Oommen (Basketball).

THE S. C. F. DRAMATIC CLUB



Bottom row: M. C. George; K. M. Philip; P. P. Skariah M. A.; Mathew K. Ninan;
P. J. Mathew (Director).
Middle row: E. T. Baby; P. J. Johnson; M. V. Jacob; J. Jacob.
Top row: K. E. Chandu; Mathew Chacko; K. O. Verkey; P. A. Zachariah;
T. O. Pareed Pillai.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE DRAMATIC CLUB



Standing: K. M. Gopalakrishnan Nair; P. K. Vasudevan Nair; T. O. Pareed Pillai;
Mathew Chacko; P. J. Joshua; K. M. Philip; P. J. Mathew; T. J. John.
Middle row: M. C. George; A. M. Chacko B. Sc.; P. A. Zachariah; K. George.
Bottom row: Zachariah P. A.; George Idicula M. A.; P. J. Mathew.

College, Medical College and Royapettah Y. M. C. A. The Hockey team had a very useful trip to Malabar & played matches in Cannanore, Tellicherry and other places. Several of our outstanding players were selected to the University teams. In the University Hockey team, we had the largest contribution. These tours and the many practice matches have considerably improved our standard in all the games but our isolated position is a handicap to us in several respects.

C. P. ANDREWS.

The Cricket Club

President—Sri T. B. Ninan, M. A.

I am happy to mention that our Club was entrusted to a Veteran Cricketer, namely Sri T. B. Ninan, our Principal. As the President of the Club he has been taking very keen interest. The Club began its usual practice from the beginning of the year. A number of matches were arranged with neighbouring teams. In the Tripunithura Cricket Tournament, we were unlucky to be defeated by the Tripunithura Princes' team. For the Inter-collegiate Tournament we trounced the Mar Thoma College team but were defeated by the Maharaja's College, the Winners of the University Final. However, there are some very good junior players, who I am sure will do very well next year and bring credit to the College. With all good wishes to the next year's team,

VERGHIS GEORGE (Captain).

The Hockey Club.

President—Sri George Zacharia, M. A.

I am happy to say that All our Hockey

players took a real interest in the game. Regular practice matches were played every week and from the beginning of August friendly matches were arranged with outside teams. During the Pooja holidays we had an enjoyable and useful tour to Cannanore, Tellicherry and other places. In the Inter-collegiate Series we defeated the C. M. S. College and the N. S. S. College and in the Semifinal we lost to Ernakulam College after a draw. Our defeat was purely due to ill-luck. We had indeed very good players like K. R. Sugathan, K. E. Mathew & P. J. Mathew who represented our University this year. I have to thank the Principal, Physical Director & President for all their valuable help.

K. I. ABRAHAM, (Captain).

The Foot-ball Club.

President—Sri V. M. Ittyerah, M. A.,
B. Litt (Oxon).

This year also Football was the most popular game in the College. About fifteen matches were played with outside teams and in most of the matches our opponents found that we were too strong for them. Before the Inter-collegiate Tournament we were faced with several mishaps. Our star player Sri M. M. Kunju Mahammed had a very serious accident and the veteran goalie Sri M. M. Mani had to leave the College. Our anchor player Sri K. I. Abraham is selected as a member of the University team. While wishing all success to the next year's team, I am sorry that the Club is losing Sri V. M. Ittyerah, our active and enthusiastic President, who is retiring as

the end of this year. But my only consolation is that Sri C. P. Andrews, our Physical Director, is still there to give the best assistance.

V. PAPPY, (Captain).

The Basket-ball Club.

President—Sri T. B. Thomas, M. Sc.

(Dunelm) A. Inst P.

In spite of the rains, we began practice from the re-opening of the College. Not a single day has passed without a regular game. We participated in the Loyola College Tournament, the Thevara College Tournament and the University Inter-Collegiate Tournament. Everywhere we were thrown out in the second or third round. But I am sure that this will not be repeated next year because there are some very able junior players and they will be a good team by next year, thanks to the brilliant coaching given by the Physical Director and the valuable help given by the President.

A. K. OOMMEN, (Captain).

The Volley-ball Club.

President—Sri P. P. Skariah, M. A.

As usual, the Volley-ball Club began its activity from the beginning of the year.

We had a number of friendly matches with outside teams. We wanted to keep up the Volley-ball tradition of the College and hence the maximum interest was taken by the Physical Director, President and members of the Club. During the Onam holidays we went to Madras and played against several Colleges. Out of the six matches played in Madras, we won four and lost two. In the Fr.

Berthalamew Tournament at Thevara, we lost in the semifinals against Mar Ivanios College after a hard struggle. In the Travancore University Tournament we were beaten by the St. Berchman's College, the University Winners. I am very glad to mention that Sri K. G. Gopalakrishnan of our team was the best player of the University team. This young enthusiastic player will soon have an important place in our State team or even in a more important team. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank Sri C. P. Andrews and Sri P. P. Skariah for all their valuable help.

T. S. Ninan, (Captain).

The Badminton Club.

President—Sri K. P. Mathew, M. Sc.

This is the year when Badminton was given an important place and the credit goes to our active president. Regular matches were played and our team participated in Fr. Peter Thomas Memorial Tournament at Thevara. We are now conducting the Inter-hostel matches, the most interesting and active part in the activities of the Club.

M. V. MARKOSE, (Captain).

The Tennis Club.

President—Sri T. C. Joseph, M. A.

We started with 45 members who were assigned to four Courts. A week after the formation of the Club Sri T. John was nominated as the Secretary of the Club. The membership increased to 60 at the end of the second term. Sri Philipose Panikker was elected as the Captain of the Club. Several friendly

MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY TEAMS



† Sitting: P. J. Mathew (Hockey); K. R. Sugathan (Hockey); K. E. Mathew (Hockey).
‡ Standing: K. G. Gopalakrishnan Nair (Volley); K. I. Abraham (Football).

THE COLLEGE HOCKEY TEAM



Bottom row: K. E. Mathew; K. C. Philipose Tharakan.
Middle row: George Zachariah M. A. (President); K. R. Sugathan; T. S. Ninan M. A. (Principal); K. I. Abraham (Captain); C. P. Andrews B. A.; D. P. E. (Physical Director).
Top row: J. Jacob; P. J. Mathew; N. Sukumaran Nair; A. P. Avirachen; Tomy Verghis; V. T. Verghis; Easaw Zachariah; M. J. Kuriachen; Mohamed (Peon).

HOLLAND HOSTEL SPORTS TEAM
WINNERS OF THE COLLEGE ANNUAL SPORTS



(continued from page 6)

The Sports Club.

President—Sri C. P. Andrews, B. A.,

D. P. E.

As in previous years, we had a successful Inter-class Athletic meet early in the second term. All the Men & Women competitors worked hard. After a keen fight Class III knocked off the Trophy. The College Annual Sports was held on 23rd January. It was a gala day for all the students. Keen rivalry and competition was evinced by all units. For most of the time nobody was sure which unit would win the Championship. Only the last few items decided the Winner. The Holland Hostel won the Championship with Chacko Hostel as a close second. Among the Women Students, the College Hostel trounced the Day Scholars. Sri Philipose Paniker and Kumari Mariamma K. Mathew were the Individual Champions. Our College team is proceeding to Trivandrum for the University Athletic Meet and we wish them all success.

Sri P. M. George who was the Captain of the Club for the first two terms deserves all congratulations for the successful training given to all athletes. Our

President has been always a source of inspiration and help to us. I have to thank the Principal and the members of the Athletic Committee for nominating me as the Captain of the Club early this term.

T. N. GOVINDA PILLAI, (*Captain.*)

The College Social Service League

President : Sri George Zachariah.

Secretaries : .. P. J. Mathew.

11 Pathrose P. Mathai.

The League has a two-fold purpose : to instil in the students a spirit of Social Service and to render some tangible help to the poor people around the College. This help takes the form of getting patients treated in hospitals or sanatoria, thatching the huts, distributing clothes, giving financial aid to the needy etc. A foot-ball club has been organised for the poor boys in the neighbourhood. We intend taking these boys on a picnic. The mess servants are provided with newspapers and weeklies. Occasionally educational films are shown to them. A few night classes also were held. At the end of the year we arrange a foot-ball match for them. On the Independence Day a sports tournament was conducted and prizes, mostly contributed by students, were distributed by Mrs. A. Ittyerah. We raised a sum of Rs. 230/- for the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. Old clothes and footwear were collected for the victims of the devastating floods in the north. A study circle was organised. Four study classes on Gandhian philosophy were taken by Sri P. Gopinathan Nair of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. This year we have collected 1200 books from the students and the staff and we have formed a library for the use of the servants of the College. We derive a monthly income from every hostel mess, the

students foregoing a part of their food once a week. The annual variety entertainment which is the main source of income for the League was conducted on two nights in November. We had a record collection this year. It is very gratifying that a good number of students and teachers take interest in the work of the League.

GEORGE ZACHARIAH,
President.

The College Union

President: Sri P. Narayana Pillai.

Secretary: „ T. C. Cheriyan.

The Annual Report of the College Union 1955—'56.

The activities of the College Union began with the elections to the various posts of the College Union held on 6th July 1955. M/s. A. Alikunje of Class iv, and L. Prathapavarma of Class iv were elected as President and Secretary respectively. To represent various classes M/s. M. V. Antoo of Class iv, G. Padmanabha Menon of Class iii, A. Veeran Pillai of Class ii and K. M. Philip of Class i were returned at the polls. Women students were represented by Rebecca Simon of Class iv. Rev. Dr. K. C. Joseph, M. A., Th. D. (Toronto), representative of the members of staff, acted as the treasurer.

On 20th July 1955 Sri Thaikatte Subramannia Iyyer, Senior Advocate of Supreme Court, inaugurated the College Union with a thought-provoking speech.

Before the beginning of the 2nd term Mr. A. Alikunje and Mr. L. Prathapa Varma resigned their respective posts. In their place Mr. P. Narayana Pillai of Class ii and Mr. T. C. Cheriyan of Class ii were elected as the President and Secretary respectively.

This year the College Union held four ordinary debates and two parliamentary

debates. The subjects for the ordinary debates were:—

(1) “ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ഭാഷയിൽ പഠിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്”

(2) “English should be continued as the medium of instruction in our universities.”

(3) “നമ്മുടെ ഇടയിൽ യുവ നിയമിതികൾക്കു മാത്രമായി പാലയം ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്”

(4) “ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ഭാഷയിൽ പഠിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്”

The subjects for the parliamentary debates were:—

(1) “നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ നിലവാരം ഉയർത്തേണ്ടതാണ്”

(2) “A Bill on educational reforms.”

At the first parliamentary debate Sri K. P. Gopala Menon, M. L. A., kindly acted as speaker and helped to establish a good tradition in parliamentary debating. We are very grateful to him for his help.

We are grateful to Sri Paul Varghese of the Always Fellowship House who helped us with the regular debate—training classes which were a new feature of this year's activities. We also sent representatives for the inter-collegiate debate.

Sri Abid Ali, Central Deputy Labour Minister, addressed a meeting of the College Union and explained to us the policies of the Govt. of India. We are grateful to this distinguished visitor.

A meeting of the staff and students of the College was held on 27th February 1956 to bid farewell to Sri V. M. Ittyerah who is retiring from service in the College at the end of the present academic year. A farewell gift was given to this revered teacher in token of our love and respect for him.

The College Union held competitions in the following items:—

(1) Essay-writing (English, Malayalam and Hindi).

(2) Elocution (English and Malayalam).

(3) Malayalam Verse Competition.

(4) Music.

(5) General Knowledge Test.

(6) Short story-writing (English).

(7) A debate Tournament.

The trophies for these were awarded on the College Day held on 24th February 1956.

T. C. CHERIYAN,
Secretary.

The Student Christian Fellowship

Report for the Year 1955.

The Student Christian Fellowship is affiliated to the S. C. M. of India which in its turn is affiliated to the World Christian Federation. During the year 1955, the Fellowship had nearly 300 members consisting of students and members of the Staff. The aim of the Fellowship is to bring students to Jesus Christ and His Church. The Fellowship sought to fulfil this aim through a programme of activities which consisted of promotion of Church life through corporate worship; study of the Bible; distributing Christian Literature; publication of pamphlets and booklets; special lectures on religious and social subjects by members of the staff and other senior friends; missionary training; conducting Sunday Schools for children, etc.

A revised version THE PRAYER FELLOWSHIP was brought out at the beginning of the academic year by the publication department of the Fellowship. It has been made more useful by including in it a large number of prayers and devotional readings. The book, ONENESS WITH GOD by L. P. Larson, published by the Fellowship formed the basis of study in the various Bible circles at the beginning of the year. The S. C. F.

has been getting down and distributing by sale religious books and Bible Reading Notes. Religious literature worth nearly Rs. 1000/- was sold this year. This year also we continued the publication of THE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK which proved to be of real value in imparting inspiring thoughts to both Christians and non-Christians. In this connection, we gratefully acknowledge the grant the publication department of the S. C. F. has received from the Christian Literature Fund of the College.

The Student Missionary Union is a department of the Fellowship for members having special interest in missionary work. During the year, some of the S. M. U. members visited two educational centres—Alleppey and Trichur. This year, about 56 students attended the S. C. M. camp at Tiruvella.

The S. C. F. has been co-operating with the College in organizing hymn practice for those who had interest in hymn-singing. Two special song-services and a Christmas Carol Service were held in the course of this year and the S. C. F. had a vital part in organizing these services.

Early in the year the S. C. F. conducted a Variety Entertainment in aid of its work. An English “Choral Drama” was a new feature of the Entertainment.

The staff and students of this College were always ready to help us in all our activities. We wish to thank them and our senior friends who have been helping us in different ways.

We fervently hope that God will prosper the work of the Fellowship and it may become a centre of light so that all the students going out through the portals of this Institution will be able to face the realities of life with real vision.

The Philosophy Association

President: Sri K. Jacob.

Secretary: „ E. T. Baby.

The inaugural meeting was conducted on 1st July 1955. Sri Paul T. Vergese of the Alwaye Fellowship House presided over the function. Sri Paul T. Vergese, Principal, Training College, Trichur, delivered the inaugural address.

Altogether seven ordinary meetings were held during the year and many philosophical subjects were discussed.

Mr. Paul Vergese of the Alwaye Fellowship House participated in almost all our discussions, and enlightened us with his scholarship and erudition.

All the members had a meeting with some

of the old students of the Philosophy group, early in the year.

Economics and History Association

President: Sri V. M. Ittyerah.

Secretary: „ O. M. Mathew.

Committee:—Sri M. J. Antony.

„ L. S. Valsan.

The inaugural meeting of the association was held on 5th August 1955, when Rev. Francis Sales, M. A., T. O. C. D., of the Sacred Heart College, Thevara, gave the address. Three ordinary meetings were held and many subjects were discussed.

Arrangements were made for an excursion to Mysore, and some members took advantage of the opportunity.

The following is an article written by Mr. C. T. Benjamin regarding a conference in which he and Messrs. V. K. Alexander and P. M. Mathai attended. I hope it will be of interest to our readers.—*Editor.*

REVOLUTION AND RECONCILIATION

An Ecumenical Student Conference

Last December (1955) from the 27th to Jan. 1, 1956, there was held in Athens, Ohio, U. S. A. the 17th quadrennial conference of the Student Volunteer Movement for Christian Missions. It was a very large conference with about 3500 delegates attending it. About half of this number were from outside the U. S. A. Ninety countries were represented and quite a number of these countries had well over hundred representatives each. India was one of the largely represented countries with about 140 delegates (an appreciable number of whom were Malayalees!). The forty and odd spacious buildings of the Ohio University were filled to overflowing during that

five-day period of the conference. The conference was sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation and the United Student Christian Council. About 60 confessions and 180 churches were represented there. It was literally an ecumenical conference. There were speakers and other participants in the conference programme from all over the world. Mr. C. I. Itty of the Syrian Orthodox Church, S. India, and the Rev. M. A. Thomas of the Mar Thoma Church were two of the many from abroad who addressed the conference. Rev. M. A. Thomas was also one of the two co-secretaries of the conference.

The most welcome sight of such a large number of Indians (and Malayalees too with whom you could have a hearty talk and a heartier laugh in your mother-tongue!) was a rare experience in this far country. But equally exhilarating was the sight of such a mixed and "motley" crowd from all over the world—the Whites, the Yellows, the Blacks, the Browns and all possible permutations and combinations of these colours. The hymn "In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North" could be heartily and most meaningfully sung there. There were however some non-Christians too, like Hindus and Moslems. Distance seems to have definitely an influence in softening one's segregationism which is so hard at home.

The theme "Revolution and Reconciliation" was quite appropriate to such an ecumenical conference. Through Platform speeches, Bible studies, Discussions, Dramatic presentations, Fire sides, Exhibitions, Area forums, Vocational seminars and informal conversations in the dining rooms the fact was brought home to the thousands there that it is a big fallacy to identify revolution with communism, which many people especially in the U. S. A. often do. The nascent independence of many under developed countries and the struggle against colonialism and economic oppression that is still going on in many others are all part of the revolution that the world is in. No approach to this problem will be realistic, unless it is based on the recognition of a human being as a personality entitled for freedom from oppression, fear and want. An equally important fact to be recognized is that man—white or black, yellow or brown—is a child of God, and as such, equal to one another in God's sight. It is

when the so-called Christian countries and Christian cultures—the appropriateness of that adjective was legitimately questioned when applied to any existing country or culture—try to make their religion and theology a convenient tool for the perpetuation of their pet notions, that Christianity becomes nauseating in the eyes of the non-Christians. When anything less than God and His will becomes our goal in life—however desirable it is, like the preservation of a "good" culture or a highly attractive philosophy in politics or economics, or even the survival of ourselves—we tend to make our religion, our Bible and even God as means for attaining that end. It is then that we stand in danger of just criticism before men and of judgment before God.

The solution of this problem necessitates an unconditional surrendering of our pet ideas and "brave programmes of action" to God's way of dealing with man. A creative using of the present revolution can come only by our realizing the great need for reconciling ourselves with God (i. e. accepting His standards and not trying to make our standards look like His) and our reconciling with men (i. e. considering all men as children of God our common Father, and therefore as our brothers). This was the message of Jeremiah to the nation of Juda during the hectic days of the siege and fall of Jerusalem at the hands of the Chaldeans. The kings and the people of the land saw the calamity merely as a political and social one. Jeremiah said that it was primarily a religious calamity. The people were not reconciled with God, neither were they reconciled with one another. The diagnosis which this prophet of the 6th century B. C. made, is quite true to the disease in present day international politics. And the remedy

that he suggested also has to be the same for us.

If the success of a conference is judged by the extent to which its theme has been made real to the delegates, the Ohio conference was a big success. Everyone who was there felt or was made to feel, that the revolution in this world is real and that it is not all Communism. It was also clear that unless the Christian Church was realistic enough to see this problem in the proper perspective and give the leadership for a Christian remedy, our evangelism will be as ineffective as pouring water over the duck's back. There were ample opportunities for all who were there, to study problems at first hand, from those who are coming from countries in South East Asia, Africa and Latin America which are passing through this revolution. The "drama" method of presenting these problems was very effective. Scenes from Mr. Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved Country* for example, were dramatized in the most telling manner to show the

problems of segregation in South Africa. Through the Festival of Nations the whole world seemed to be brought before our eyes in Okio. Different nations put up their typical native dances, songs and other items of entertainment. The "boat race" with the rhythmic boat songs of Travancore, was highly appreciated. These programmes went a step further in creating the atmosphere of understanding and mutual sympathy which prevailed throughout the conference.

A number of Negro and White delegates from the South (of U. S. A. where the "colour" problem is great) took a pledge that after their return, they will all work against Segregation. And it is certain that many more had similar thoughts and desires, which some day may bear fruit in the lives of those delegates and those whom they will come in contact with, throughout the countries of the world.

C. T. BENJAMIN,
Princeton, New Jersey,
January 21, 1956.

A PEEP INTO THE BEYOND

BY K. JACOB

Having died the previous night, I set about myself to find a resting place for my soul, and presented myself, after much search, at the gate of hell the next morning. "Why hell?" you would ask. "Why not heaven?" Well, I was never good at singing Psalms, and the idea of continuously shouting hallelujah has never appealed to me. It is bad for the throat. Besides, though a poor man, I have my pride, and did not like to be sent about my business by the angel at the gate. So, after much search in the nether regions, I presented myself to the arch-fiend at the gate of hell.

He was not at all terrible to look at, but rather pleasant and affable. "Who you?" he asked. "A student," I said. "a college student. I came off last night." I did not add that I was a Union Christian College student, for that might not increase my chance of admission. He might not like the name. But even without hearing the name, his affability vanished. "A student," he said, "well, I fear—er—we have a good many of them. And they are an—er—an unmanageable lot. So you had better get a move on. If Lucifer—on whom be peace, as much peace as he could get here—were to

see you, there would be the devil to pay. Yesterday a student put a little phosphorus into his beard, while he was sleeping, and there was great trouble. Gee! it was a good sight to see his beard burn," he chuckled. "That was a clever fellow, a Chemistry student, I was told from a place called Alwaye. Lucifer has given me strict orders that no student should be admitted here until further notice. So, you need not wait." I sheered off, very much disappointed after what I had heard. Hell, I thought, could not be so bad if you could indeed put a little phosphorus into the beard of Lucifer once in a way. When they taught us Chemistry at Alwaye, they never told us to what good uses our knowledge could be put. However, there was no help for it. Coming from Alwaye, and my optionals being what they are, I could not dream of getting admission. So I got off without further parley. It was a long way off to heaven, but my feet were aching dreadfully for want of some rest, and I made all haste to try my luck there. I reached the place after much difficulty—for it is more difficult to go up than to go down—only by evening. I knocked at the gate. I could hear voices within. Finally, a venerable old man opened the gate, and peered cautiously out. This must be St. Peter, I said to myself. I made a deep obeisance, and craved admission into heaven. "Who are you?" he asked. I said I was a College student. "Oh! A Student?" he said rather doubtfully. "Well, look here, my man," he said, "I'm very sorry, but I have got orders not to admit any student just now." But I would not leave it at that. "My dear old St. Peter," I said, "I must get in somehow. I died yesterday, and it is now twenty-four hours since I had any rest anywhere." "Where had you been all this great while?" he asked. "I wandered hither and thither and tried my luck at several places," I said. "Did you try your luck in hell?" he asked. "Yes," I answered, without hesitation, for I was no coward, "yes, but I was refused admission." "Oh; in that case," he said more hopefully, "let me see." He went inside. I thought that a man who was refused admission in hell would naturally be admitted into heaven. He came back, however, looking rather gloomy and stern. "I am sorry, young man," he said, "your record is bad. There are one or two little things against your name. I do not know why you were refused admission in hell. That is your right place. You had better try there once more." "My dear old St. Peter," I said, "it was not my fault that I was turned away from hell. Some student had put some phosphorus in old Lucifer's beard. How are honest people to get into hell," I said bitterly, "if one man is punished for another? It was not my fault that the foul fiend got his beard burnt." "Well," said St. Peter, "you see, students are a difficult lot everywhere. We have some of them in here. Only a few, though. They are all right for some time, but after a time, they become restive, and—er—a little difficult." "Had you any such trouble with them lately?" I asked. "Yes," said St. Peter, "A student said yesterday that life here was tedious. Now that, as you know, is a seditious remark. According to the rules, it means expulsion. But being the first time, he was only seriously warned." "I much fear," he added sadly, "that he will break out again." "Well," I said, "what about me? I could not remain hanging in the air like this. I must rest my feet somewhere. Why, I shall get rheumatism if this goes on." "Look here," said the guardian of the gate, "I told you before. Your record is bad. You can-

A LETTER

[The following is a letter written in March 2056 A. D. by a student of this College. I am publishing it in anticipation of the recipient's sanction. K. JACOB.]

U. C. College,
17-3-2056.

My dear Johnny,

The College closed today. The last aeroplane left the College aerodrome at 5.30 p. m. Some of my friends have gone on their own single-seaters, while most of the rest have left by the bigger planes. I leave only tomorrow on my single-seater.

Our astronomy professor is making arrangements for a trip to the planet Mars during the holidays. The space-ship will take off from Moscow on April 1st. We hope to reach Mars by the middle of April and to return early in June. I have been studying the Martian language for some months now, and hope to make myself understood by them. I have not been there before, but our professor has been, and he says that they are very handsome people, and very friendly too.

The great Russian Engineer Maxinoff is accompanying us. He wants to study the construction of interstellar planes which the Martians are experimenting on. If he succeeds to learn it, we can travel also to planets outside our solar system. These Martian Engineers are certainly wonderful fellows.

Now coming to mundane matters. The State Inspector has refused to take my brother Thomas for College Education. He says he is not fit. Did you ever hear of such

injustice? This is the evil of socialism. In the good old days, any one could take up any course, if he had the money for it. Now everything is in the hands of the State Inspector. We are appealing to the World-State authorities, but we do not hope much from it.

Of course, you will say that we must take the evil with the good. In the old days, there were wars and other evils. It appears young men had to marry girls chosen by other people for them. I don't know whether this is true. It is so silly. But my grandfather told me that he married like that. I hope he was an exception. Anyhow we are now free from such things. No war is possible in our world, and we are free to choose our partners for life. I admit these are great improvements, but what about this intolerable interference by state authorities? Now you know that my brother is quite a good student. We hoped to send him for Engineering. We don't want medicine, because it is useless. What is the good of so many doctors, when our health is so good? Nobody ever gets sick, and people die only of old age. In a few years, even that will become rare. Then alas for the poor doctors!

I hope you will reply this letter, before I leave for Mars.

Yours affectionately,

GEORGE THOMAS.

STAMP COLLECTING

MATHEW CHACKO, Class iii (Physics)

Stamp collecting has attained much more popularity than any other hobby. It has created a world-wide fraternity of people interested in the hobby, a fraternity which knows no distinction of age, sex, rank and race; and which has built up a vast organization, both press and trade, to serve those who follow this hobby. This may be because, postage stamps are a real slice of life.

There is something for everyone in stamps. If you put a stamp collector who really knows his stamps with an artist, a sportsman, a politician, a doctor, an engineer and a fruit seller, I am sure that the stamp-collector will interest each of them as, indeed, he could interest any visitor, whatever his or her walk in life.

Political changes can be traced on stamps. For instance, the earliest stamps of South American republic of Colombia were inscribed in Spanish with the equivalent of "Granada Confederation," which was very shortly changed to "United States of Granada." The next stage was represented by, "United States of New Granada," but now we have "Republic of Colombia" or just "Colombia." These changes on stamps give us an idea about the political changes of that country. The knowledge that the stamp gives about a country's leaders, explorers, scientists, artists, poets, great national events, vegetation, animals, birds, ruins, and such other things is also valuable. Moreover we can learn a lot about the currencies and the languages of different parts of the world from stamps. Thus stamp collecting has a great educational value.

Many of the collectors, especially beginners, know little about their stamps and perhaps are careless. They merely want the largest number of specimens possible. The new up-to-date stamp collecting is very different from the mere accumulation of stamps. A good collector studies every detail of 'shade,' (variation in colour for the same stamp) watermark, paper, perforation, gum, surcharge and overprint and so many other things.

The one thing that every collector must have is an album, unless the collector desires to keep the treasures on old envelopes, as many people do. Tweezers should be used to handle stamps, as fingers are clumsy things to handle anything as delicate as a stamp. Next in importance for a collector is the stamp catalogue which is a companion to the album. The catalogue gives detailed information about every stamp. Magnifying glass, duplicate books and transparent envelopes (to keep duplicate stamps) are also essential. For detailed study of stamps, watermark detector, perforation gauge, surcharge measurer, chalk-paper detector, mount damper, all are necessary.

All stamps that are badly damaged, design cut into, corners off, perforations trimmed, heavily post-marked etc. should not go into the collection. Unused stamps must have their original gum in full. Stamps should be properly and artistically arranged in albums using hinges.

The human element enters into the production of postage stamps and mistakes are therefore made. Mistakes are not often "errors" as applied to collectors. If a mistake is only for certain stamps, then the

wrongly printed stamps are called "errors." It is by the unofficial leakage that these stamps get into the hands of the public. Unofficial leakage may be caused in the case of "colour trials," "essays" (stamps printed for the selection of the best design) "die-proofs" and "plate-proofs" (samples printed, during the preparation of the series) also. These unofficially leaked stamps are valuable among collectors due to their scarcity.

Advanced collectors sometimes specialise in the collection of stamps of certain countries or even in that of one particular

country. Some others collect stamps in reference to the pictures they bear or events they commemorate. This kind of collection is known as topical or thematic collection. Some collectors go in for freak collections, taking stamps printed in more than two colours, stamps printed in red or black or green or stamps of odd shapes. I have heard of very few who take nothing but stamps with "inverted centre," pairs "im-perforated between," and such other 'errors,' but this is rather a hobby for millionaires. After all stamp collecting is a hobby, and every one is at full liberty to choose his own way.



RAJEN BABU

GAMES AND SPORTS AS A NATION BUILDING ACTIVITY

By M. J. DANIEL,
Holland Hostel, Union Christian College, Alwaye

(This essay won the second prize in the English essay competition held under the auspices of the Travancore-Cochin Sports Council, Trivandrum.)

We live in a period happily unique in the history of mankind, when the whole world is paying a great deal of attention to the physical as well as to the intellectual activities of every nation. We gather from the Press and the radio running commentaries, so much, about the national and international games and sports, about the gold medals and Trophies, about the world champions, the new and astonishing world records, about even ministers of sports, that it is impossible to think of this dynamic world apart from those inspiring phenomena of games and sports. They have become part and parcel of our national existence. They have gained momentum in the building up of a healthy and prosperous life. About a century ago the Duke of Wellington raised cricket to the pedestal of a goddess. "The battle of Waterloo," said he "was won on the cricket fields of Eton." Or, who can deny the importance and indispensability of games and sports today, when hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic men and women expend a good portion of their time and energy for them, when all of us watch with unusual interest the march of events, no matter in however remote a part of this planet of ours they may take place, and when at the same time, all the existing governments of the world come forth with lavish supplies of

money to make some headway in this fascinating field?

The history of games and sports as a nation-building activity extends as far back as the dim pasts of antiquity. Centuries ago, the Greeks and the Romans recognised the real significance of games and sports. They embarked on an elaborate scheme of systematic physical training and it was they, who became the pioneers of their time, in every pursuit, military, civil and social. The precedents they set up are worth a king's ransom to all the subsequent nations of the world. All Indian and foreign universities, now, almost all institutions, clubs, municipalities and organisations illustrate this. They lay very great emphasis on this most interesting and useful aspect of human development. Every factory, office, educational establishment or collective farm has a sports organisation in the U. S. S. R. In America the governments organise Youth Camps for this purpose. In short, all nations are now labouring to maintain a satisfactory standard in games and sports in order that they may add a cubit further in the task of building themselves.

Why this worship of games and sports it is futile to ask, for, they have already managed to gain great national importance and are continuing in a process of

gaining even international approbation. In the actual building up of a nation, what else is more important than the valuable services they render? The system of national physical culture has become a regular science which seasons both the body and the mind of the people and which ensures real physical fitness—the most essential requisite for leading a successful life—it enables them to fight successfully with many of the misfortunes in life, such as diseases and the numerous ills that flow from them. Sports and games lead a nation to glory and fame. They form the key-stone of the national arch.

But, from a national point of view, nothing seems to be more important than the fact that, the games and sports of a country are part of its education. Besides providing infinite relaxation, they help to maintain discipline, they promote good-fellowship among the people, and make them strong in will to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield. They build up an efficient, energetic and cultured society and go a long way in what we may call character-building. What then, is the salt without which the civilisations of the world would long ago have lost their flavour, and without which the building up of nations would have remained castles in the air?

It is in the cricket fields and the football courts, more than in the noisy classrooms of our schools and colleges, that we happen to learn the value of collective co-operation and team-work. It is in the play grounds that we are taught to

follow virtue for its own sake and not for selfish ends. The gigantic stadiums of the world, where even hostile nations meet and show mutual respect and friendliness are centres of learning and culture which disseminate the doctrines of justice and fair-play. They are the makers of peace since they can reasonably be alleged to bring closer the cherished ideal of world harmony. In the fields, of course, the individual has to care for himself, but, he has to care much more for the team and in a larger sense for society. He who subordinates personal interest to the larger interest and abides by the principles of justice and fair-play, not only helps himself and brings honour to his nation, but indulges in the noblest of tasks, in spreading good-will and friendliness all the world over.

The phenomenal contribution of games and sports towards maintaining a psychological unity in a nation is no less important. In spite of the conflicts of religion and culture, of the separatist elements and of all social cleavages they keep up a strong sense of genuine nationalism. The athletes of a country are no longer individual sportsmen. They are the representatives and custodians of their nation's sporting talent and honour. They are the architects of the destiny of their nation. Needless to say that their victory or defeat is the nation's glory or shame. Hence the enthusiastic cheer and support they receive from all corners of the country. They also realise the great responsibility the nation places on them. The fruits of their efforts become

part of the national history, and the consequent community of recollections, collective pride and humiliation, pleasures and regrets connected with the same incidents in the past, gain ample leverage to attain a deep, underlying unity of thought and emotion, which even storms cannot shake, and which cements the seemingly infinite diversity that makes up the fabric of their nation's life. Every Indian, therefore, legitimately and with great pleasure, rejoices in the traditional and seemingly monopolistic victory of the Indian hockey team in the Olympics, while everybody cannot but lament the comparative incompetence of Indian athletes in most other fields. Where are we to seek the cause of these respectable emotions which resemble the delights of infantilism, but which are absolutely free from all boyish partisanship?

But this is not all. As we have seen, there is little room for doubt or discussion about what Wellington had remarked. It should not, however, be understood that games and sports are prized only for the sake of becoming hardy soldiers. A nation has to fight many a strenuous battle in the social and civic fields too. It has to work for and succeed, in the conquest of suffering and disease, in the alleviation of human misery, in ensuring for the majority of its

people better conditions of existence, greater opportunity of living a full, vivid, satisfying life.

There are people who believe in what may be called the inevitability of progress. But it is only an optimistic pedantry. "There is no easy way to success. Unless you work hard, no matter what schedule you follow, success is not easily obtained." This is what the celebrated Emil Zatopek, "The Running Machine," said. In order to work hard, a people should be armed to the teeth and equipped in every way. It is in this difficult task of preparing the necessary ground and equipping the people with proper weapons that the games and sports of a country are actively engaged. It may be remarked here, that they occupy pride of place as a nation-building activity.

Before taking leave of the subject we may with full justification endeavour to examine the state of affairs in our country. We must regretfully acknowledge that due to organisational insufficiency and want of proper coaching methods India does not come to the same level of many of her sister-nations. It is a great pity that in our country the value of games and sports, for long, was not fully realised. In the schools and colleges very inadequate provision was made for physical culture. Consequently, only a handful

of students was benefited, the rest either devoted themselves exclusively to studies or wasted their spare time and energy in idle pursuits. But it is encouraging to see that we have turned over a new leaf. The government has come forward with provisions in the Second Five Year Plan, for improvement. And it is gratifying to

see that compulsory physical training has been introduced in all our schools and colleges. The combined efforts of the government and the public, we may hope, will make short work of every difficulty and will remove all clogs from the wheels of our national progress. We should not let this lag behind.



THE IDEAL CUSTOMER

JUNIOR HOSTELS' TENNIS TEAM WINNERS OF THE INTER-HOSTEL TENNIS TOURNAMENT



Sitting: T. K. Abraham; T. C. Joseph M. A.
Standing: Abraham Varghese; T. A. Kuruvilla

THE COLLEGE TENNIS TEAM



Sitting: T. A. Joseph M. A. (President); T. C. Joseph M. A. (President); O. Philipose
President (Captain); A. Abraham; T. A. P. L. (Physical Director);
Standing: S. I. Mathew; T. K. Abraham; T. C. Joseph M. A. (Secretary); T. A. Kuruvilla

THE JUNIOR DAY SCHOLARS' CRICKET TEAM WINNERS OF THE INTER-HOSTEL CRICKET TOURNAMENT



Sitting: Thampi John; U. P. Joy (Ath. Rep.); Q. M. Mathan M. Sc. (President);
Oommen Abraham (Captain) and P. J. Mathew.
Standing: K. Krishnakumar; P. I. Chandy; T. P. Joseph; G. Vaidyanathan; S. Gopala-
krishnan; J. Jacob; K. George and Babu Vinsayachandran.

THE SKINNER HOSTEL DRAMATIC CLUB



Henry Abraham Varughese; C. A. Ippora; George Zachariah M. A. (Warden); T. J.
John; Thomas V. Abraham (Secretary).
Henry; H. P. Paul; K. P. Abraham; Abraham Varughese; K. I. Abraham;
George K. Egan.

COLLEGE DAY

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

By DR. A. J. BOYD, PRINCIPAL, MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE,

On the College Day, February 24, 1956.

Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be once more in the Union Christian College. The link between our two Colleges has always been a strong one. This is a daughter-college and though she is now over thirty years old and married to a rising new University of her own the strong link still continues. I have myself had personal connections with this College over a long period. My first visit here was in 1927 and there were many since then. I must say, I feel at home in Travancore, possibly because of the affinities between the people of Travancore and the people of Scotland! They both have a habit of emigrating, and governing or administering the region to which they emigrate. They seem to possess a habit of ecclesiastical controversy, which is, we must hope, beginning to weaken. In financial matters they both show great shrewdness combined with considerable caution.

I am glad to use this opportunity for paying a tribute to the staff of this College, the founders and those who have followed them, especially to-day to Mr. V. M. Ittyerah, as he approaches the end of his long and unselfish service. The question arises, are those men who have given their lives to the College sufficiently supported by the prosperous people of Travancore? It is necessary to aim continually at higher quality in University Education—greater variety of courses, better libraries, smaller classes and more tutorial work, teachers with sufficient resources to buy books, to travel a little, to educate their children as

they themselves were educated. Is nobody able and willing to think of endowing the College? Money is not the most fundamental requirement of a University College, but money is needed.

A College Day is a suitable time for retrospect and prospect, and since I am proposing to leave India after more than thirty years, I can perhaps use this opportunity more boldly and outspokenly than I should normally do. Let me begin my retrospect by saying that what I am conscious of above everything else is the warm-hearted friendliness which has surrounded me and the kindness which has been lavished on me all through these years. In particular I owe a debt, that cannot be measured, to succeeding generations of students in my own College whose affectionate and loyal friendship has meant far more to me than I can ever express in words.

During these thirty years we have witnessed many great events some welcome and some unwelcome, but dominating them all of course was the movement for national independence, and its happy outcome ten years ago. I think I can speak of this without embarrassment for I do not come before you as a dispossessed and humiliated imperialist hankering after lost glories. I was able to rejoice, and still rejoice, in the triumphant outcome of India's national movement. But there has been something of a declension from the hopes and the aspirations, the sense of dedication, the confident feeling of national destiny that prevailed ten years

ago. It may be partly because hopes were pitched too high, because expectations were too confident. But that is not the whole explanation and doubtless, some of us have asked ourselves again and again, what is the explanation.

Some of the symptoms are obvious enough. There is a growing tendency to call in question the disinterestedness of men in public life, whether politicians or officials; a tendency to suggest, after all, they are in it for what they can get, and are perhaps hardly to be blamed for that; a cynical assumption that since honesty is seldom the best policy, the wise man had better discard it and join in the not too reputable game. For this gloomy diagnosis, there may be some justification in actual fact. But we have to beware lest by thinking too much along such lines we help to create the thing we contemplate.

I see in the present situation a challenge to all men of public spirit—and especially to young men with whom the future lies—to set before themselves the very highest standards of duty and honour and to endeavour to abide by them wherever they may be—while they are still students, and in after life, whether they wield great power or are limited to some quite humble task.

Another disturbing symptom is, the apparent weakening of the sense of Indian unity by the upsurging of a jealous and truculent provincialism which is apparently concerned not only to re-draw the boundary lines but to draw them as deep as possible. There is, of course, a place for local loyalty, for strong local loyalties, but these must somehow be made to fit harmoniously into the larger loyalty to the country as a whole. And something has surely gone far wrong when people

are worried to death over the boundary of a district or the destination of a taluk. Still worse is it when people labour under the delusion, as apparently many do, that such matters of dispute can be settled one way or another by throwing stones and shouting.

Surely, this is a point at which those who are students, and those who once were students, can and should make a contribution of vital importance to the national life. A man who has had a university education is not thereby divested of all his local loyalties; but he ought to have learned to think in national terms and even in international terms; and he ought, therefore, to be able to be relied on as a corrective to that line of thinking (or unthinking) which moves (or stagnates) within the narrow limits of what Mr. Nehru has described as the "tribal" consciousness.

Above all, a university man ought to be aware and ought to be helping others to be aware, that you prove little and solve nothing by shouting, or by stopping work for a day, or by fasting outside somebody's offices. If we are to judge by the papers, I am afraid that not all students are aware of that, but I must tell you that it seems to me (and I hope it seems to you) a lamentable betrayal of the dignity and responsibility of our academic calling, when members of a university contribute to the clamour of the rabble or lend their countenance to those who imagine that the problems of the country will be settled satisfactorily if only a sufficient number of people make sufficient noise!

And that leads me to say a word or two about our university system. In the last of my three decades in India, I have seen an enormous expansion of the facilities

for university education, a vast proliferation of new colleges in every part of the country. We must suppose that this would not have happened except in response to a real demand; apparently it meets some social need which is not at present being met in any other way.

But we who are involved in the system whether as teachers or as students are bound to ask ourselves whether the quantitative expansion has been achieved at the expense of quality; and I fear there is only one possible answer to that question. I don't propose to elaborate the picture, because most of its features are familiar enough already, and I should prefer that we turn our minds to possible remedies.

In the majority of our Colleges, are students learning to think—or are they mostly learning how to pass examinations with a minimum of real mental effort, depending rather on prodigious feats of memory than on any genuine endeavour of the mind? In the majority of our colleges, are students learning to live as disciplined and law-abiding members of a community—or are they mostly learning to join forces with those who believe in the supreme virtue of tumult and disorder?

I shall not attempt to supply answers to these questions. There are no answers that would apply everywhere. But I should like to say to you students of the Union Christian College, that with your history and traditions, you have an opportunity of showing this part of the country what a College ought to be. You are led by a body of able, upright and devoted teachers. You yourselves are not wholly without intelligence! Use the opportunity well and try to lay down a firm tradition of genuine study, of honest intellectual endeavour which will fit you for the real tasks of life, and at the same time contribute to the well-being of your university.

You are a well-marked academic community, most of you living together and enjoying some measure of corporate unity. Make it your endeavour so to live here that you yourselves may all the time be learning and helping others to learn, to be responsible citizens of your State, of your country, and of the world—and to render faithful service in your day and generation, doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with your God.

THE COLLEGE DAY SERMON

By Dr. T. I. POONEN

Ambassadors of Christ

We are ambassadors of Christ, God making His appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of God, "be reconciled to God," 2 Cor. 5:20.

The function of an ambassador is to express clearly the position of his State on any matter and to canvass support for the same. He expresses the aims and

hopes of his State. In the old days, when communications were difficult, the ambassador had often to act on his own initiative after arguing with himself what in any given circumstance the attitude of his State would be. Today as a result of modern inventions conquering time and space, the ambassador could almost every moment consult his Government or personally proceed to his country by plane in a few hours and clearly understand the position of his State on any particular issue. But the work is the same both in modern and ancient days, namely to further the interests of his State. This is exactly what, according to Paul, the Christian is expected to do. He must express his Master's point of view and urge His cause. He must not only strive to remember his original instructions, but also continue to maintain contact with the Master. When that contact is lost, his message is no longer forceful and convincing. Now what is the message? It is "Be reconciled to God." I am ambassador in the affairs of Christ; it is as though in my voice you listened to the appeal of God as an ambassador of Christ; my message is "Be reconciled to God."

All through the Bible there is this essential teaching, that man, by his perversity, has rebelled against God, has created a barrier between God and himself, and is thus suffering. Reconciliation has to be effected between God and man. God wishes to remove the barrier and restore mutual relations to what they were before man's transgression. In the story of the fall of man, as depicted in the

Book of Genesis, man chose to distrust God and act in a rebellious way with the consequence that he suffers for it. This is the whole trend of human history both in Hebrew History as recorded in the Old Testament and in the history of other nations. Deviation from the path of morality and right living brings in its train suffering and distress. Man violates God's laws and suffers. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. That life, the Christian as ambassador of Christ invites man to receive by being reconciled to God. In Milton's words, man's first disobedience in eating the fruit of the forbidden tree has brought death into the world and all our woe. Suffering inevitably follows sin. Though Jesus is quite alive to the fact that all suffering is not the result of sin and warned men not to rush into such a conclusion, he has also indicated that some forms of suffering are due to man's sin or violations of God's commands regarding human conduct. Thus the paralytic of Mark II was told that his sins were forgiven, which means that he was to be reconciled to God before he was healed. There was the clear implication that his illness was the consequence of his sin—most probably immorality. The same was true of the sick man healed at the Bethesda Pool. After being restored to health, he was warned "See, you are well; sin no more that nothing worse befalls you." Here also it is clear that in Jesus' view man's illness had been brought about by his sin. Doctors could tell of countless instances of diseases due to misconduct and evil

living. There are very many persons who could ruefully say "Of all my ills, sole author I, sole cause." To all such, Jesus announces God's pardon, and it is the role of the Christian as the ambassador of Christ to pass on the message of pardon to sinners and to invite them to be reconciled to God.

When the Christian is described as a new creation and that other foundations there are none for the new spiritual life than that which is laid, even Jesus Christ, what is meant is that the receiving of pardon forms a starting point in the new life of victory over temptation and sin. It sometimes happens that founda-

tions are laid but no superstructures are built thereon. It will be a tragedy if, after the foundation had been laid of a true spiritual life, no effort is made to build on that foundation. God pardons, but man has to respond and live the life of the pardoned sinner. But if instead of desiring and doing such things as God approves we concentrate our attention on selfish pleasures and interests and neglect the well-being of our fellow-men, we are breaking away from God and His grace. God, in His infinite mercy, may again forgive us and give us a second chance, nay an infinite number of chances, but how much we lose and the world loses if



By Koushal Nisha
ed 5-9-82

INNOCENCE I

we are constantly frittering away our energy in repeatedly relaying foundations instead of working on the foundations laid? On this matter of repeatedly laying foundations, let us listen to the counsel of the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews "Do let us get past the elementary stages of Christian doctrine and pass on to matured knowledge." Let us not be for ever laying and relaying the foundation, harping on the necessity of that change in life's purpose which leads us to the abandonment of the observances of the Mosaic Law which have no life in them, on the necessity for baptism as a sign of the acceptance of our teaching, on the efficacy of the rite of laying on of hands, on the certainty of the resurrection of the dead and of judgment eternal." Sound doctrines all these. But they represent the very infant standard or elementary stage of Christian teaching. By continually harping on the acceptance of these as the sole constituents of your faith, you are standing in the way of your spiritual growth. Are we always to go on sinning, and then repent and reiterate these foundation truths? Not that God will not accept us. He pardons, not seven times, not even seventy times seven, but much more. But if we are frequently falling and frequently getting back to the lowest levels of the spiritual life, we cannot effectually repeat to others the command "Be reconciled to God." It is noteworthy that most of the commandments given by Moses are of a negative character. Do not do this; do not do that. But Jesus' commands are positive. "Love God; love your fellow-

men." Are we developing this positive attitude? Someone has said that while we may be too Christian to enjoy sinning, we are too fond of sinning, really to enjoy Christianity. The same writer adds "Most of us know perfectly well what we ought to do. Our trouble is that we do not want to do it." God's help is our only hope. He must make us want to do what is right and give us the ability to do it. "I was blind, now I see", said the blind man healed by Jesus. Do we see? Is our spiritual vision clear and unclouded? Do we realise the heinousness of sin and the beauty of holiness? Are we able to see our sin as God sees it? Have we accepted Jesus as the light of the world? "I am the light of the world", said Jesus. "He that followeth me shall in no case walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Are we able to give this message with perfect conviction to a needy world? "If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he sees the light of the world, but if any man walks in the night, he stumbleth, because the light is not in him. Are we able to pass on to others the splendour of this light?" It is not merely to the elementary demands, to the do not's of the Mosaic Law that we must respond, if we are to progress in spiritual life; we must cultivate the posterior graces connected by that.

Recently we had a demonstration in this place of the enthusiasm for a cause manifested by our Communist brethren. On a Sunday evening, we saw our Chapel deserted by a good many of our men

students who generally attend, lured no doubt by the prospect of witnessing the movements of the excited and enthusiastic Communist throng. Have you thought why, in a land which claims to be intensely spiritual, where some of the oldest religions have been followed for centuries, wherein the Buddha taught and died, where Christian teaching has been available from hoary antiquity, the godless materialistic philosophy of Communism has made such headway? What is really wrong in the world is the sum total of what is wrong with each one of us as individuals. If we had taken Christ seriously and grown spiritually from strength to strength, if we had chosen to wash the feet of the distressed brethren around us, and ministered to their needs, the Christian hope would have been an effective force in this country, giving life and nourishment to its spiritually starved multitudes. But where are we? We are quarrelling about the validity of orders, orthodoxy of doctrine, unbroken Apostolic succession, correctness of rituals, relative precedence, specification of vestments, and altar adornments, and so forth. Thus the custodians of the channels of grace cease to help. Like the waters of a stagnant pool, we neither receive nor impart. How can we then be effective ambassadors of Christ? Whatever others might quarrel about, should not you young people, for whose spiritual uplift this College was founded, and is being maintained, be prepared to break away from the shackles of a lifeless past, with its meaningless inhibitions and justify the faith of the founders of the

College, yearning to possess real life and pass it on? Where there is real life, organisations and institutions may help to conserve and canalise that life. But if there is no real life, institutions become an empty show, like whitened sepulchres, with glamour outside, and decay within. Ambassadors, as I said, ought to maintain constant touch with their principals. Are we churches keeping alive our connection with our Master? If we are to be ambassadors of Christ, mere grace of God would not do. There must be effort on our part too to keep up our contact with the source of life and to retain what we receive from God. Our reading of God's word, our daily prayers, our public worship—all these are to help us to find Christ. And if we thus find Christ, we become a new creation and channels of life and power to all who come in contact with us. Let us therefore examine ourselves, trace the causes of stumbling in us and surrender ourselves to the full control of God in Christ. We must be careful about the company we keep, the books we read, the ambitions we cherish and the aspirations we harbour in the secret places of our hearts. We must make strenuous efforts to raise ourselves above the level at which we are easily susceptible to the blandishments of our lower nature. Failures and disappointments need not deter us from still clinging on to the one ray of hope we have in Christ. Then we shall like true ambassadors of Christ, be able to say to others

"Christ! I am Christ's! and let the name suffice you,

Ay, for me too He greatly hath suffered."

To Indian Christians of our generation who are afraid of their worldly future under the present political dispensation, I would earnestly appeal not to think of the wine to be drunk but of the wine to be poured forth, not of what we could get, but of what we could give. It is only by completely eliminating self-centred ambition that we shall really live. It is time we gave up our craze for power, position, pleasure, self and recognition. Let us realise the greatness and nobility of our vocation as true servants of India. Whatever be our calling in life, let us learn to relate our activities to the purposes of God and the well-being of our fellow-men. Our country men can admire real sacrifice where it exists and can thus be won for Christ. If only a few of us are faithful to the vision of service held out to them as ambassadors of Christ,

we shall justify our existence as disciples of Christ and help to make the kingdoms of this world as Kingdom of God and His Christ.

Are we ambassadors of Christ? If not, let us qualify ourselves for this role by deeper penitence, greater obedience and fuller love. Let us have a true sense of values and learn to be calm and cool in moments of crisis. Let us take heart, confident that though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day.

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

If this be our deep conviction, then our effectiveness as ambassadors of Christ is assured.

the whole of this period, I feel tempted to pause and consider his contribution to the College, its significance and worth.

From the embryo stage right up to now, he has been not merely associated with the planning and execution of every project and development but has played a leading and vital role. There is not a single position in the College from membership of the council and Principalship down to the most humble work like keeping order at meetings which has not come his way. The mere quantity of it all is itself impressive but quantity is nothing compared to the manner in which the work has been done.

And why? In all work, particularly in educational work, which we may remind ourselves is more comprehensive than teaching, the spirit in which the work is done determines the value of it more than the physical performance. And in assessing Mr. Ittyerah's contribution we shall have missed the most significant part of it if we fail to take into account the spirit which he brought to bear on his work, on every little bit of it.

And so, from the work, I inevitably pass on to the man behind the work.

It has been said that "there is no action so slight or so mean but it may be done to a great purpose and ennobled therefore. Nor is any purpose so great but that slight actions may help it, most especially that chief of all purposes, the pleasing of God." By all those who know Mr. Ittyerah he will be regarded as one who made a zealous and unremitting endeavour to apply this principle of con-

duct and to invest the humdrum affairs of everyday with the dignity of a noble purpose.

The truly great have all been persons whose paths through life have been illumined by some great ethical ideal or religious faith and who made a total surrender of themselves to such ideal or faith. To take an outstanding instance from contemporary history let me invoke the name of Nehru who held aloft the banner of humanity in the storm and stress of the partition days, rising above the tumult and passion, the passion for retaliation. While lesser minds were swayed into a desire for revenge he not merely held his hand but restrained others. It was an hour when there was sore temptation to deny the faith and affirmation of a life time, that Hindus and Muslims were brothers and formed one nation; that man, as man, is precious. And today, as we think of that nightmare, is there anyone who is not thankful, and who does not feel it was glorious, that he did not succumb to the base temptation?

In the Silver Jubilee year of the College, a few students attracted the attention of the police by their political activities and there was an imminent threat of their being arrested and taken away by the police for suitable disposal by them. These students were disturbing elements in College life also and their disappearance from it, for whatever cause, would have been, in one view, a good riddance. But that is not how Mr. Ittyerah looked at the matter. To him such an attitude

SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE FAREWELL MEETING HELD IN THE COLLEGE ON 27th FEBRUARY

Tribute to Sri. V. M. Ittyerah

By Sri. T. S. VENKATRAMAN

I At this meeting where the staff and students of the College are gathered together to bid good bye to Mr. & Mrs. Ittyerah I have been asked to say a few words, presumably on behalf of the staff. I have readily agreed and am thankful

for the privilege. It is a task where duty and pleasure are in happy combination.

Mr. Ittyerah is retiring after 35 years of service to the College; the longest, so far, of any teacher. Having grown with him and with the College during nearly

was a denial of one of the supreme values in education—the sanctity of the student-teacher relationship—to which he had totally surrendered himself. So he rushed to the town and waited late into the night for hours to contact the Inspector-General of Police and succeeded in rescuing the misguided young men from the danger that would have overtaken them. This is only an outstanding example of an attitude that was, with him, daily in action.

Ruskin illustrates this quality of absolute surrender of the truly great to some great ideal by a quaint example. Says he, "Exactly in proportion to the majesty of things in the scale of being is the com-

pleteness of their obedience to the laws that are set over them. Gravitation is less instantly obeyed by a speck of dust than it is by the Sun and the Moon." The measure of a man's greatness is the measure of such surrender.

The outstanding qualities of the friend to whom we are bidding good-bye are patience and gentleness, wisdom and charity, branches of the tree of love. And because that is so, there is an uncommon tenderness in the parting. Add to this the fact that we were bound together by the sacrament of work and the feeling is easily explained.

It was given to me to speak on a similar occasion four years ago. I would



"IT IS VERY GOOD SIR; I USE IT MYSELF."

like to repeat what I then said that great though these founders were individually, they were greater by reason of their fellowship, acting and interacting on one another, like individual gems lending lustre to the jewel and themselves finding their highest fulfilment as part of it; nor can we forget the value of the contribution to the vigour and well being of the College, of those who came after the founders and whose privilege and responsibility it is from now on to continue the work on their own. It is this which enables us to look forward today to the future of the College without nervousness and with buoyant hope. This College is not noteworthy for the magnificence of its buildings or for its wealth of equipment. Some of the newer Colleges have a better showing already in these directions. While these material aspects are not to be despised and it would be our effort to improve these matters, we should jealously preserve whatever peculiar merits the College has. And all these spring from a certain sense of dedication which inspired some of its teachers in the past and continues to inspire quite many of the present teachers.

On the eve of the last Republic day at the Kavisammelan representing the fourteen languages of the constitution a poem was contributed by Mahakavi G. Sankara Kurup. Therein he described our freedom in the felicitous phrase "യക്ഷാഭിമുഖീ". I think the phrase rather aptly describes this College which is chiefly "യക്ഷാഭിമുഖീ" and only in a minor degree "യനാഭിമുഖീ".

But a heritage like this involves a corresponding responsibility.

This treasure of a College has been gathered together by Mr. Ittyerah and his colleagues, laboriously, devotedly with unremitting toil and travail of spirit. As the proverb says "where a man's treasure is, there his heart also is." Wherever Mr. Ittyerah may be he would always be thinking of this College and concerned for its welfare. It would be appropriate now for us to give him the pledge that we shall cherish this treasure and not merely maintain but add to it.

Let me share with you a rather startling experience I had a few days ago. It is an extramural estimate of Mr. Ittyerah, by one of the humble folk who live in the neighbourhood of the College. The man said if burning fire approaches Mr. Ittyerah it would calm down a little. "കത്തുന്ന കിളിയെപ്പോലെ ശാന്തനായി മാറുമ്പോൾ അത് ശാന്തമാകും." How correct the estimate and how poetic its expression.

I said elsewhere that if it were given to me to live my life over a ain I would like to live in a hostel where Mr. Ittyerah is warden. It is as great luck for a girl to have Mrs. Ittyerah as a warden as it is for a boy to be under Mr. Ittyerah as warden. The Women Students of this College have had this good fortune for the first few years. This College is beholden to her in an especial degree for having established right and wholesome traditions for the Women's hostel in its formative years and for her able support to Mr. Ittyerah in wardening one of the men's hostels.

A character in Plato's 'Republic' a man full of years was asked by Socrates what it was that gave him happiness in his old age. He replied that it was the consciousness that he had lived a just life. In the Socratic sense a just life is a life of comprehensive goodness. On this criterion, you Mr. Ittyerah can look forward to a serene and happy life now and in the years to come. You and your family will live in our memory for a good long time to come and on behalf of all who are gathered here I extend to you

our best wishes for a happy, active and fruitful life for many more years; and also wish that your children may continue to grow in a way that would not merely be a solace to their parents but their pride.

You have laboured long and loyally and before I close let me give voice to a sentiment that is in the minds of all of us; let me do it in the ancient and hallowed words. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



OF
POET OF THE PEOPLE UNITED STATES.
WALT WHITMAN

JACOB GEORGE
1911 E. 4.1

II By Sri A. K. BABY

First of all let me thank the organisers of this meeting for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on this occasion, when we are assembled here to formally bid farewell to our revered teacher Mr. Ittyerah. It may be like carrying coal to Newcastle if I try to enumerate the qualities of head and heart which he possesses, in an audience of his students. As we all know he is one of the founders of this College which occupies a unique place among the colleges in South India. It required a good deal of faith and courage to think of starting a union Christian institution in those days when there was no harmony whatever among the various christian denominations. It was really an adventure of faith and the success of this institution unmistakably reveals the fact that Almighty God never fails in answering the prayers of the faithful. Only very few have been so fortunate as Mr. Ittyerah and only fewer still who could retire after accomplishing such a noble work. He played a leading role in laying the foundations of this college. Along with that illustrious band of pioneers he built it up from scratch. He helped it to grow from strength to strength until it has become such a mighty institution dispensing light and learning to those who come to its portals—an institution of which we can legitimately be proud. It cannot be a great exaggeration if we consider this institution as Mr. Ittyerah's handiwork. This institution is what it is mainly be-

cause of Mr. Ittyerah and men like him who saw visions and had the courage to follow them up. Sir, you can rightly be proud of this centre of learning and you can retire from here with the assurance that you have done a fine job.

One of the prominent qualities which we find in Mr. Ittyerah is his love for his students. I have been fortunate enough to be his student and I know fully well the respect and affection he commanded from them. In all his dealings with them he held aloft the quality of love. Even when he punished, the person punished could understand that there was no bitterness in his mind. Like all good men he hates sin but not the sinner. Along with this quality of love there is his inexhaustible patience. Patience is one of the qualities of a successful teacher and Mr. Ittyerah possesses it in abundance. Any other quality which we find in him, as has been remarked elsewhere, is courage of conviction. Mr. Ittyerah believes in certain high ideals and he has the courage of conviction to proclaim them from the house top.

In these days when so many conflicting ideologies are claiming the allegiance of man, he has a very clear mind and definite opinions on all these subjects. He is a steadfast champion of democracy in the best sense of the term and an unfailing critic of despotism and he has always tried to implant his ideals in the minds of the rising generations. We are living in an age when there is a most

determined and large-scale attempt to do without God and when new political ideologies have risen up demanding the total loyalty of man. But Mr. Ittyerah is a firm believer in God; in His bountiful mercy and in His all-sufficiency and he is always willing to place himself in the hands of God. He is an uncompromising critic of all those systems which force men to give their total loyalty to anything less than God. Some may not agree with him; but all will surely be impressed by his earnestness and sincerity. No one can come into contact with him without being influenced by his magnetic personality. He has moulded the character of generations of students. If you are facing serious problems, if you are in distress or in difficulties, you can surely turn to Mr. Ittyerah and find in him an unfailing source of help and consolation. His retirement is an irreparable loss to the College in general and to the History and Economics Department in particular. The place that he leaves

vacant will be hard to fill. We're indeed losing a friend, Philosopher and guide.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not pay my humble meed of tribute to Mrs. Ittyerah. Like her blessed husband she has also impressed generations of students who have come to know her. She was a very successful warden of the Women's Hostel during the early stages of its existence. She is doing good service as the Editor of "Balamitrom." As a friend of the poor and the suffering and as a gentle Christian lady she has an honoured place in the hearts of many. To you Madam, we wish all happiness and prosperity.

On this occasion when we are formally bidding you farewell, we thank you, Sir, for all that you have been to us. We wish you, Sir, and the members of your family a long, prosperous and happy life. I assure you Sir, that our best wishes will always be with you. May God bless you and keep you.

COLLEGE NOTES

The College Day was on 26th February 1955. The Public meeting was presided over by Sri V. N. Sundaresan, Rotarian Past Governor, Secretary, Cochin Chamber of Commerce, and Sri C. M. Kuruville, M. A., B. L., Government Pleader, Ernakulam, an old student of this College, delivered the College Day Address.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION RESULTS OF MARCH—APRIL 1955

B. A. Degree Examination.

B. A./B. Sc. Degree Examination.

	Number presented	I	II	III	Total	Percentage	Percentage last year
Whole Examination	93				36	38.7	52.1
English	99				42	42.4	53.3
Malayalam	88	1	41	71	80.6		90

	Number presented	Number passed	Percentage	Percentage last year
Hindi	12	1	8.3	92.3
Philosophy	13	2	15.4	87.5
Economics	85	1	1.2	75.3

B. Sc. Degree Examination:

Whole Examination	81	39	48.1	68.6
English	91	1	1.1	73
Malayalam	63	3	4.8	86
Hindi	28	14	50	83.3
Mathematics	11	4	36.4	100
Physics with Mathematics	27	4	14.8	100
Chemistry with Physics	24	11	45.8	
Botany with Chemistry	24	9	37.5	

Intermediate Examination.

	March 1955.	1954 March
Number presented	199	215
Number passed completely	93	117
Percentage of Pass	46.5	54.4
Number of First Class Pass	41	51

STAFF

The following members of the Staff left the service of the College at the end of last year or in the course of this year:—

Sri A. Aravamudha Ayyangar	—	Lecturer in English
Brother Joseph Stewart	—	Tutor Do.
Sri K. A. Ignatius	—	Tutor Do.
Sri S. Ramakrishnan	—	Lecturer in Mathematics
Sri V. Gopalakrishnan	—	Lecturer in Physics
Sri K. M. Punnoose	—	Do.
Sri B. Sarojini Amma	—	Demonstrator in Physics
Sri P. Ravindranathan	—	Lecturer in Chemistry
Miss P. J. Sosamma	—	Demonstrator Do.
Miss Ammukutty Mathew	—	Do.
Sri K. Vijayaprasandan Pillai	—	Lecturer in Biology
Sri Thomas Varkki	—	Tutor in Economics

While thanking all these persons for their services to the College and wishing them well in their new spheres of activity, I would like specially to place on record our sincere appreciation of Sri A. Aravamudha Ayyangar, who retired from the College on 31st May, 1955 after about 25 years of distinguished and devoted service in this place. He was highly respected and loved both as a teacher and as a man by the Staff and students of this College and he has our very best wishes for a life of continued usefulness.

Sri P. M. Mathai, Lecturer in Physics and Member of the College Fellowship is expected to complete his work and take his Ph. D., from the University of Toronto before the end of this academic year.

Sri V. K. Alexander is continuing his studies in Psychology at the University of Princeton and is expected to be back by the end of this year.

Sri C. T. Benjamin left for the U. S. A. in February 1955 and is working for the M. R. E. Degree in Princeton.

The following new appointments were made at the beginning of this academic year :—

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sri V. R. Varadarajan, M. A., L. T. | —Lecturer in English
(Retired from Madras Educational Service) |
| Mrs. Rebecca Grace Thomas, M. A. | —Lecturer in English (Part-time) |
| Mrs. Anna Joseph, M. A. | —Do. (Part-time) |
| Sry. Annamma Abraham, M. A. | —Tutor in English |
| „ Kunjoojamma K. Iype, M. A. | —Do. |
| „ Mary Samuel, B. A. | —Do. |
| Rev. C. A. Abraham, M. A., B. D., B. Litt (Oxon) | —Lecturer in English |
| Sri N. Raman Nair, B. A. | —Tutor in Hindi |
| Sri V. Narayana Swami, M. Sc. | —Lecturer in Mathematics |
| Sri S. Bhothalingom, B. Sc. (Hons.) | —Demonstrator in Physics
(Left during the year) |
| Sri N. C. Mathew, B. Sc. (Hons.) | —Lecturer in Physics |
| Sry. M. C. Aleyamma, B. Sc. | —Demonstrator in Physics |
| Sri C. C. Philip, M. Sc. | —Lecturer in Physics (Left during the year) |
| Sri P. K. John, M. A. | —Do. |
| Sri Abraham Paul, M. Sc. | —Do. (Left during the year) |
| Sri K. C. John, M. Sc. | —Lecturer in Chemistry |
| Sri A. M. Chacko, B. Sc. | —Demonstrator Do. |
| Miss Aley K. John, B. Sc. | —Transferred as Demonstrator in Chemistry from the English Department (Tutor). |
| Sri Mathew Philip, M. Sc. | —Lecturer in Biology |
| Sri George Idicula, M. A. | —Lecturer in Economics and History |
| Sri George Abraham, M. A. | —Tutor in Economics and History |

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

The scheme of Religious Instruction and worship continued to be the same as in the previous years. 63 students in the B. A./B. Sc. classes and 40 students in the Intermediate classes have volunteered to attend the special Christian Instruction Courses provided for Non-Christians.

Mr. M. Thommen, B. A. of the Alwaye Fellowship House is continuing to act as honorary Tutor and preparing some students for the Diploma of the C. E. C. Mr. Paul Varghese, B. A., B. D., also of the Alwaye Fellowship House, is kindly taking Scripture and Christian Instruction classes.

NEW BUILDINGS

A block of two four-seated and one single seated rooms has been added to the Women's hostel.

Grants

We received Rs. 4,278-12-0 as maintenance Grant for the Hostels for the year 1954-'55, Rs. 11,820-10-9 being the balance of the building grant for the new Biology Block (the first instalment being Rs. 15,000/-) and Rs. 7,946-5-8 as building grant for the new block of Lecture Rooms constructed last year.

AT A CONFERENCE IN AMERICA



Messrs. C. T. Benjamin : P. M. Mathai and V. K. Alexander.

MR. V. M. ITTYERAH AND FAMILY





വാരഹത്തിൽ

(എം. കെ. ഭാരം, മാർച്ച് 2, ഏപ്രിൽ 1.)

അന്നൊരു സന്ദർഭം കണ്ടു കണ്ടു-
യെന്നു കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു,
സുരഭിലസന്ന ശരീരത്തിനെയും, ശത-
യുവജനമാനസംശരണിയെയും,
തവ മുഖമുദന മാത്രമില്ലാത്തവ-
കവിത തുളുമ്പിയ മമ മുന്നിൽ,
മംഗള മണ്ണുള്ള സുസ്ഥിത കരളിൽ
മുങ്ങിയിട്ടു വിലംസിന്നിനി!
അപ്പോൾ ചുഴിളിച്ചുപൊങ്ങിയെറിഞ്ഞി-
ട്ടുപോക, നീയുട നകുലകയായ്;
വാരിയ മലകൾ മണ്ണുതട്ടിച്ചൊരു
വാരിയമണ്ണിൽക്കൊടിപോലെ,
മേന്മയെല്ലാമൊഴിച്ചു മറഞ്ഞൊരു
നേരിയ കളിമണ്ണിലൊഴിച്ചു,
തിങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന മേന്മയെല്ലാമൊഴിച്ചു,
മങ്ങിയ വൈദ്യുത ലതപോലെ,
കരളിലൊഴിച്ചു തെളിഞ്ഞു കളി-
കരിമിനുശി, തവനിഴലിനും!

മംഗളരാഗമോസ്തവകാമ-
മണ്ണുള്ള സമാഗമവേളകളിൽ
പുഴുകിനിറമണിഞ്ഞു മദാലസ-
നത്തനമാടിനതരുണിതയിൽ
താവകവിരഹസ്മരണയിലിന്നതി-
ഭാതണ മർദ്ദമുതൽ.
തെന്നലിലിളകിയൊഴിച്ചു, തലച്ചുറ്റം
ചിന്തയ്ക്കു വെളിച്ചമൊഴിച്ചു,
തളിരുകുളാലതി സരസംനമ-
ത്തുഴകിന കുമ്മോഴി മുല്ലകളിൽ,
ചുരുത പാലും ധവളമനോഹര-
കോരകമനവധി വരിയുന്ത;
കൂരിരുളൻ വിരിമുറുപ്പിട്ട തോൻ
കൂരനഖങ്ങൾ വീടന്തിയപോൽ.

ഇന്നയൊത്തോമൽക്കയലുകൾപാടാ-
നണയുമുണ്ടി മലർ വനിയിൽ;
വീഡുമുഖി, ചാര നീയുല്ലാതാ-
മധുരീമ നകുലവെള്ളിനണൽ;
മലരണി മരതക വല്ലഭിനിരകളിൽ

മണവികാരവിലാസിതയായ്,
തളിരുകുളാലതി ചിത്രമില്ലാത്തവ-
പുഴുകിനിറമണിഞ്ഞുകിളികൾ,
ഇമ്മലർ വാടിയുലേമൽകുറ്റകൾ
തമ്മിലുരുങ്ങുന്നതുകുമ്പോൾ,
അറിയാതെതിരുത്തുവാൻ ദിവാനി-
മയലില സുതയ്ക്കൽ മമ ഹൃദയം!

വാകത്തോളുകുന്നവധി വാക്കു-
വന്നത്തോളയിൽ വിരിയുമ്പോൾ,
പ്രണയനരീഷം പാവക പാലുകൾ
കാണുകയെന്നിവകളിൽ ഞാൻ.
സുന്ദരതാരകൾ വിടവേ വീഥിയിൽ
വന്നുനിന്ന ചിരിയുമ്പോൾ,
പൊരിയുകയെന്നെൻ മനസ്സ, മെരിതി-
പ്പെരികൾ കണക്കു കാണുമ്പോൾ.
മാനസവേദിയിൽ ദേവി വളന്തിയ
മാദക ഗുണവനികകളിൽ
തിങ്ങിനിരാശ പരന്നിനിയുണ്ടൊരു
മങ്ങിയ ചമ്പൽക്കുമ്പോൾ.
അശയിലൊന്നൊഴിയാതെയുണ്ടാ-
നരകൾ തന്നിഴൽ വീരുകയൽ
തന്ത്രികുളാലതി വിപണികളോലായ്
വെന്തുകൾ മമ ഹൃദയം!

തവനവ മംഗള മയസന്നിധിയിൽ -
കവന വിപരീതി കലിതരസം
മദരനന്തനമേകന മാമക -
മുളല ഹൃദയവേദികയിൽ,
കനകമനോഹര ഭൂതകൾ ചിരിനിന്നാ-
രണനേരവമൊന്നൊഴികെ,
അവശേഷിച്ചില്ലിനിയെന്നും;
മന-
മലേ, വെറുമൊരു ചുടുകാഴ്ച!
പ്രണയ കളാല ഗാനമൊഴുകിന
മണിവിണയിലൊന്നിരകളിൽ
കരവിര പുര സുകി പുതയവന്നി-
കദനകുല മെഴുകു കടന്നുവോ!
അകലത്തമതം സഖി യെങ്ങിനെ യെ-
ന്നക തളിരൊഴി കയ്യാറിനും?

ര്! കളിവണ്ണ, മതിൻ മുമ്പായ്;
 സദയം ചാർത്തണയ്ക്കു നീ; മേ
 ഹൃദയേശ്വരി! തിന്നി കൊണ്ടിരിക്കേ!

സ്റ്റേഫിനപ്പെടാത്ത മനുഷ്യൻ
(സി. ബി. റോയ), ക്ലാസ്സ് III)

[illegible][illegible]

ഒരു പക്ഷേ ഇന്നു മരിച്ചു മരവിച്ചു കിടന്ന ആരേ കടത്തിയെന്നു കരുതുന്നവരിൽക്കൂടെ മരച്ചുവർ പിറന്നു പിറന്നു. അന്നിശയുടെ നിശ്ശബ്ദതയിൽ വേലകൊണ്ടു കിടന്നിരിക്കുന്നവർക്കു ആരുടെയും നാശം ഭയമില്ലെന്നു അവർ തന്റെ അമ്മയുടെ കൂടെയിരുന്ന പുറത്തേക്കു വന്നു. അപ്പോൾ അവർ കർമ്മം. ആ കർമ്മം ആരുമറിയാറില്ല. പുരുഷശക്തിയുടെ മനോഹരം എങ്ങനെയെന്നു അവിടെയെത്തിയിരുന്ന പട്ടികൾക്കു കർമ്മം കേട്ടു കെട്ടി പിന്നിലേക്കു മാറി.

അവൻ തന്റെ അമ്മയുടെ മാറിൽ പ
റിച്ചേന്നിരുന്നു. ഡ്യൂരളെ വെച്ചാൽ കുട്ടി
കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവൻ ഉറങ്ങി.

പുലരി അപകടം നോക്കി പുഞ്ചിരിച്ചു. അ
നിലക്കുളിയിൽ ജീവിതത്തിലെ വേദനകൾ
പ്പറ്റി ആ അമ്മ ഒർമ്മിക്കുന്നില്ല. പകൽ
നന്നാകുമ്പോൾ അമ്മ ആ മകൻ അമ്മയെ
നോക്കിയിട്ട്, അമ്മയോട് ആ അമ്മയുടെ ക
ണ്ണുകൾ നിറഞ്ഞു.

[illegible]

பிடிசுக்காரனாகக் கையிடுகிறார். சூழிலும் தாயும் சூழல்க்கிதப்படுத்தும் அந்த பிடிசுக்கூலிலோ மூலம் தலைநகரத்திலிருந்து கிடைக்கக்கூடிய தனது ஐந்து சூழில்களில் இருந்து வந்தவர்களை அழைத்து. அம்மாதிரி சூழில்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு. அந்த மூலம் தலைநகரத்திலிருந்து கிடைக்கக்கூடிய தனது ஐந்து சூழில்களில் இருந்து வந்தவர்களை அழைத்து.

അങ്ങനെ മിന്നങ്ങൾ കടന്നുപോയി. ആ കണ്ണു വളർന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അവൻ ആദ്യമായി 'അമ്മ' എന്നു ശബ്ദിച്ചു. അപ്പോൾ അവളുടെ ഹൃദയം കേൾക്കിത്തരിച്ചു. പിന്നെ അവൻ 'അച്ഛ' എന്നു ശബ്ദിച്ചു. അപ്പോൾ അവയുടെ ഹൃദയം വേദനിച്ചു. അവന്റെ പൊതാപ്പു ആരെന്ന് അവർക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാതിരുന്നു.

[illegible]

ഒട്ടേറെ അതു സംഭവിച്ചു. ആ അന്ധി പാശ്ചാത്യരുടെ ഒരുനിന്നിത്തന്ന ജീവൻ അവ നന്മയിൽ വെച്ചിട്ടുപോകും. തന്റെ പ്രിയപ്പെട്ട അമ്മ മരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുകയാണെന്നു അവളാ മനസ്സിലായി. ഒന്നിനിപ്പൽ വണ്ടിയിലേക്കു ആ ശവം വെച്ചിട്ടു കയറ്റപ്പെട്ടു. തുറന്നു വെച്ചു.

சீயிதனில் தாவரമായി வளம்பெற்ற
 ன் ஒரு கை கண்ணி தாடிபோய்விடുന്നു,
 தாவரம் ஒருவெட்டிவிடുന്നു.

அமைச்சர் வினா: அப்போதும் ஈறு பதிய வேண்டியபடி எந்தெந்த நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன? அவற்றின் விளைவு என்ன?

மேதகுக்கிறிபை மிழிது அபராகிதில்
மயூரத்தி குகைப் பதாங்கம். அவர்
கரு. அப்போம் அவரின் பாலிந்திய
தூதி. மர்மம் பதிது மேலது பி
யிரிதும் சுபாத்தி பாரியனம் சுப
யாம் கதிதிருக்கம்பல கருப்போம்
வன் பதி கதிது.

ബസ്സ് സ്റ്റാന്റിലേക്കു അവൻ കടന്നു ചെന്നു. ഒരേയൊരു മുറിക്കെങ്കിലും അവൻ കിട്ടിയിട്ടു, അപകടമുണ്ടാകാതിരുന്നതു.

[illegible]

തെരുവിലായിട്ടുള്ള സാമ്പൻ അലഞ്ഞു നടന്നു. പട്ടുപ്പൂം പൊന്തുമരത്തിന്റെ അഗ്രവാഴ്ചയിൽ സാമ്പനെ കടന്നുപോയി. സാമ്പൻ അലഞ്ഞു തുറിച്ചുനോക്കി. ആ കുറ്റക്കാര്യത്തിൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർക്കുള്ള ഒരു വെട്ടുപ്പൂം വിഭജനം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

അവൻ കൈ ചുരുട്ടി അന്തരീക്ഷത്തിൽ
 ഞ്ഞുതിരിച്ചു. അകത്തുനിന്നു അവൻതന്നെ
 അറിയാമായിരുന്നു.

ഒരു പോലീസുകാരൻ അപനോടെനോ പറഞ്ഞു. അവൻ അയാളെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടു. ആ നിയമപോലീസർ അപനോടെനോയെ അറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തു. അവനായാളെ തൂങ്ങിക്കൊല്ലാൻ അയാൾ അവനെ അടിച്ചു. അവൻ ചുരുങ്ങിയവരിൽനിന്നും അയാൾ അവനെ അടിച്ചിട്ടു. പക്ഷെ അവൻ പലപ്പോഴും അയാളെ അടിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോയി.

കുറേക്കാലത്തേക്കു ആ പട്ടണത്തിൽ അവനെ കാണാൻ കഴിയാതെ പോയിരുന്നു. അവൻ എവിടെയെന്നു ആരും അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ആരും അതിന്റെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല.

അവൻ വിജയം വന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം അവൻ കരേളയിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആ ദിവസത്തെ നീണ്ട മിഴക്കുംകാലമായിരുന്നു. ആ മുടി ചെമ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. അവന്റെ കണ്ണുകൾ കരേളയിൽ കുതിച്ചിരുന്നു.

തെമ്പിളുടെ അവൻ അധർമ്മനടന്നു. ആ പട്ടണത്തിൽ പമ്പിച്ച പരിപാടനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. അവൻ ആ മണി മന്ദിരങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പിൽ പകച്ചുനിന്നു.

അവന്റെ മുന്നിലൂടെ കടന്നുപോയവരോടു അവൻ ഓടാ ചോദിച്ചു. ഓടാ കൊടുക്കാത്തവരെ അവൻ ഓടാനിട്ടെടുത്തി. കൊച്ചു കുട്ടികൾ അവനെക്കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഉറക്കെ നിലവിളിച്ചു. അപ്പോൾ അവൻ പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിച്ചു.

അവൻ ഭയങ്കരമായി ചുമച്ചു. ചുമച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു അവൻ തൂപ്പി. രക്തവും കുമ്പും അവിടെ കട്ടകെട്ടിക്കിടന്നു.

അവന്റെ അടുത്തുകൂടി കടന്നുപോയവർ അവനെ ഭയത്തോടും വെറുപ്പോടും നോക്കി.

അയാളെക്കണ്ടപ്പോൾ അവർ അകന്നു മാറി വാൾ ശ്രമിച്ചു. പക്ഷെ അവൻ അവരെയങ്ങനെ വിട്ടുവാൻ തയ്യാറാണായിരുന്നില്ല. ഒരു വല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യമിന്നം പോലെ അവൻ അവരുടെ മുന്നിൽതന്നെ ചെന്നു നിന്നു, നീട്ടപ്പെട്ട കൈകളുമായി.

ഇന്ന് ആ തണുത്ത തറയിൽ അവൻ മരിച്ചു കിടക്കുന്നു. ആരാലും നോക്കിക്കൊള്ളാത്ത അ മരപ്പുറത്ത് ജീവിതം അവസാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അവനിൽ കനിവു തോന്നിയ മരണത്തിനു ഓൻ നന്ദി പറയുന്നു!

ജാലകത്തിലൂടെ ഒരു തണുത്ത കാറ്റു കടന്നു വരുന്നു. ആ മരപ്പുറന്റെ ആത്മാവ് അതിൽ അലിഞ്ഞു ചേർന്നിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

കലയോട്ട്

By ടി. കെ. സുകുമാർ Class IV E.

മേൽപ്പള്ളി, കാഞ്ചം: ഓൻ മഗ്ഗ് ലാലിതം. മഞ്ഞുകാലത്തിന്റെ താളുകളിൽ നിരവദാക്ഷിത സച്ചരിതം.

മാരിവിൽ പോലെ നടുങ്ങിയവൻ. കണ്മച്ചായത്തിൽ ചിത്രവുമം. പക്ഷെകാലകനാരാചിയെക്കുറിച്ചുവല്ലി കണ്ടുതിയാടി. മിട്ടി മണിവിണ പൈക്കിളികൾ. നീലമലകളുമാറുകയും. നീളവെ മാമരച്ചാത്തുകളും. കുന്നാരം വേലിൽ വിലസിമു.

താനൻവന്ന പലർന്നിങ്ങിനെ. കാറ്റിലായ് ചെവൻ മുടിപറന്നു. നെറ്റിയിൽത്തുവേപ്പുമുത്തണിഞ്ഞും വില്ലംശരങ്ങളും താഴെവെച്ചു വല്ലഭയോടൊത്തുനിന്നു. പുന്നാഗശാവിയിൽനിന്നുമൊരു ആനന്ദഗാനമെഴുകിവന്നു. ക്രോമളുകോകിലഗീതമെ-

ക്കാടൻതൻ എത്തിലെയടിച്ചു. താനറിയാത്തവൻ പാടിപ്പോയി. ഓമലും കാണുന്നതേയറ്റപാടി. സല്ലാപലിനരായ് രമ്പതികൾ വള്ളിക്കടിലൊന്നിൻചാരെ യെത്തി.

നീരപാളികളുംബരത്തിൽ നീലവർണ്ണാജപലവദിക്കിക്കൊ. പഞ്ചകെ വാനിലയരൻമെല്ലെ അമ്മിതത്തൊന്നൊടിനില്പു. സൗന്ദര്യപൂർണ്ണമയ്യരമൊന്നു; സുന്ദരചിന്തവിരഞ്ഞവരിൽ. സുനാളി ചാത്തി, മയ്യരപുത്തം പിന്നസന്നയൊത്തു വേടനാടി.

പ്രയാണമുച്ച കഥകൾകേട്ടു. ആയതലോചന പുഞ്ചിരിച്ചു. ചാരെയെരിയും തീജപാലയിക്കൽ ചാരവായാസ്വരപയംതെളിഞ്ഞു. കാലകൻ കൈയിൽ കരിയെടുത്തു.

ശ്രമിയുലൊന്നു വരച്ചുനോക്കി ആരോജാലമിണങ്ങിച്ചു. —ആരോമലാളിൻ മുഖാരവിനും. പിന്നെയും പിന്നീട്ടു നാഴികകൾ വാനിടമാകെയിത്തം പരന്നു.

ചന്ദ്രപ്രഭിപം കൊളുത്തിവെച്ചു താരാലിപിയിൽ ചമച്ചതാദാ ആനന്ദനിർവൃതികായകരാം ഹേമന്തരാത്രീതൻ സ്വപ്നകാവ്യം.

ഏടയത്തിന്റെ കരച്ചിൽ

Ramankuttyanair, V. R. "Desom" Class II, Gr. I.

ചിങ്ങമാസത്തിലെ മുന്നാമരമായ ഖോന്നാണകാലം. ഏവിയും കളിയുടെയും ചിരിയുടെയും തിരതല്ലലുകൾ മഹാബലിയുടെ വരവിനെ വിളിച്ചറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു.

ലീല ഉഴന്നുവെക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണു. നല്ല പൊരമൊക്കെത്തോൽ പെണ്ണായിരുന്നു അവൾ. പക്ഷെ ഇന്നവൾ വാടിക്കരിഞ്ഞൊരു പുവായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അവളുടെ കൊച്ചമ്മമാർ ഉറങ്ങാലാടുകയും കളിക്കുകയുമൊക്കെ ചെയ്യുകയാണു്. അവരുടെ കളിയും ചിരിയും മെല്ലാം അവളുടെ കാതുകളിൽ വന്നുലയുന്നുണ്ടു്. ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനിടയിൽ ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ അവളോടൊന്നു നോക്കി നോക്കിപ്പിടും. അവളും ഒരു കുട്ടിയായ്—അവൾക്കും കളിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നുണ്ടു്—ഉറങ്ങാലാടുന്നമെന്നുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ അവൾക്കു ജോലി തീർന്നു നേരമില്ല. ഏന്നു നേരെ നീവൻനില്ക്കുവാൻപോലും അവളുടെ കൊച്ചമ്മ അവളെ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അവൾ മനസില്ലാ മനസ്സോടെ ജോലി തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു.

അപ്പോഴേക്കും ഏതാണ്ടൊരൊൻപതുവയസ്സായ ഒരു കുട്ടി അവിടെ യജമാനത്തി. "രാധ" —അവളുടെ യജമാ

നന്റെ മകൾ—ഒരുമിമാനത്തിന്റെ ഒരു കൂമ്പ്—ആട് ജാത്യത്തിന്റെ ഒരു പൊടിപ്പ്.

"എട്ടി കുടിക്കാൻ കുറച്ചു വെള്ളം എടുത്തുതാ. വേഗമാകട്ടെ." ഒരു തറവാട്ടമ്മയുടെ ഗദ്യോടെ രാധ കല്പിച്ചു.

പാവം ലീല—അവളെത്തു പറയാനാണു്. അവളുടെ കയ്യൊഴിയുകയില്ലെന്നു ഏതു കൊച്ചുകുട്ടിക്കും അറിയാൻ വിഷമമില്ല. അവളോന്നും മിണ്ടിയില്ല. രാധയുടെ കിടമ നശിച്ചു. അവൾക്കു കളിക്കാൻപോകാൻ ധൂതിയായി. അവൾ ദേവ്യാത്താടെ ചോദിച്ചു— "നിന്റെ ചെവി പൊട്ടിപ്പോയോ?" നിന്നോടല്ലെ പറഞ്ഞു വെള്ളമെടുത്തുരാൻ."

"എനിക്കു രണ്ടു കയ്യു ഉള്ളു." അവൾ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു.

"നി തർക്കത്തരം പറയാറായോ." രാധ അവളെപ്പിടിച്ചൊരു തള്ളുകൊടുത്തു. ലീലയ്ക്കും ദേവ്യയ്ക്കും വന്നു. അവൾ രാധയുടെ കൈ കടന്നുപിടിച്ചു.

"കുട്ടി കളിക്കല്ലെ കെട്ടോ!" എന്നൊരു താക്കീതം കൊടുത്തു.

രാധയ്ക്കു ദേവ്യാപു അവമാനവും കൈക്കൂട്ടവന്നു. ചോരക്കിൽ കളിക്കാ

നായിവന്ന അവളുടെ കൂട്ടുകാരി ലളിത ഇതെല്ലാം കണ്ടു നില്ക്കുകയാണ്. ലീലയെ ഒന്നു പഠിപ്പിച്ചു അങ്ങനെ എന്നവൾ തീർച്ചയാക്കി. അതിനു പഠിയ്ക്കുവാൻ കരുതിയായിരുന്നു.

കരച്ചിൽ കട്ട രാധയുടെ അമ്മ ഓടി എത്തി.

“എന്തുപറ്റി രാധാ?”
ഉത്തരമില്ല. അവൾ നേങ്ങി നേങ്ങി കരഞ്ഞു. നന്നായൊരടി നമ്പും അങ്ങനെ നടത്തി.

ഒടുവിൽ അവൾ വീടിന്റെ പറ്റം പറ്റി.

“താൻ കറച്ചു വെള്ളം എടുത്തു തരാൻ പറഞ്ഞതിന് ലീല എന്റെ കൈ പിടിച്ചു തെരിച്ചു.” ഉഴന്നുമാവുകയുള്ള കൈ അവൾ അമ്മയ്ക്കു നിട്ടി കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു. “പോൾ! തെളിവിനു പിന്നെത്തുടങ്ങണം. “ലീലേ” ഇടമുഴക്കം പോലുള്ള ഒരു വിളി. ലീല—പാപം, മിന്നൽ കഴിഞ്ഞു ഒരു ഇടി ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു അവൾക്കറിയാം. അവളിതു പ്രതീകമായി കരുതുന്ന ചെയ്യും. അവൾ കിട്ടുകിടെ വിറച്ചു. എന്തു ചെയ്യാനാണ്. ഇത്തരം രംഗങ്ങൾ അവൾക്കു പുതുതല്ല. ഈ വെളുത്ത വയസ്സിനിടയിൽ ഈ നാടകം പലവുമു അവൾ കണ്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞതാണ്. എന്നാലും ഓരോ സമയത്തു വെളിപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. അവൾക്കു പുതിയ അനുഭവമാണിത്. ആ കൊച്ചു ഹൃദയം തുടിക്കുകയാണ്—അവളുടെ നാഡികൾ തളന്നു തളന്നിട്ട്.

അവൾക്കു വിളി കേൾക്കുന്നതെന്നുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ ചെറു പൊങ്ങുന്നില്ല. അതിനിടയ്ക്കു രാധയും അമ്മയും അടുത്തു നിൽക്കുകയാണ്.

“ദേ അമ്മ അവളിവിടെയുണ്ട്.” രാധയുടെ ജയഭരണിയോടുകൂടിയുള്ള സ്വരം അവളുടെ ചെവിയിലെത്തി. പി

ന്നെ നടന്നതൊന്നും അവൾക്കു കാണാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല.

രണ്ടു കരുന്നെത്തും ഓടുന്നു കൂടി സമ്മാനിച്ചു ശേഷം അവൾ ചോദിച്ചു. “നിയന്ത്രിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ചെയ്തു. ഉം...പറ.”

അവളെന്തു പറയാനാണ്. പറയാൻ കഴിയാത്തതൊന്നും മലം. പ്രതിഭാശാലികൾക്കു തന്നെ കോടതിയിലാണ് അവൾ. അവളെന്തു പറഞ്ഞാലും പ്രവൃത്തിയുടെ മുമ്പ് കൂട്ടുകാര്യം ഉള്ളൂ.

“ഓ! നിന്റെയൊരു ഗർഭം. നിമിഷം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വീണ്ടും അടി. അവൾക്കൊരു പൊങ്ങുന്നില്ല. ധാരാളമായി ഒഴുകിയതന്നെ കണ്ണുനീർമാത്രം അവളുടെ വേദനകൾക്കു ഹൃദയത്തിന്റെ മുകളിലായി പ്രതിഷേധം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി.

അന്നവൾ കരഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടാണ് വൈകുന്നേരം അവളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിലേക്ക് പോയത്. പേറുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് മാറ്റി തല ചാർച്ച അവൾക്കു നേരം കരഞ്ഞു. ആരും ഒന്നും ശബ്ദിച്ചില്ല. സ്പെഷൽ ഓൾഡ് ക്ലാസ്സുകൾക്കു തന്നെ ആ അമ്മയ്ക്കു ഒടുവിൽ, പടച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന അവളുടെ തെരുവുകളെ ശാന്തമാക്കി.

“അമ്മ ഇനി താൻ അവളുടെ കൈ പിടിക്കുകയാണ്” അവൾ പറഞ്ഞു.

“അങ്ങനെ പറയരുത് മോളേ” അമ്മ അവളുടെ മുഖത്തു തലോടി കൊണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞു.

“നാമവിടെ ജോലിക്കു പോയില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ നമുക്കു പട്ടിണിയാ.”

ലീല മുഖമുയർത്തി അമ്മയുടെ മുഖത്തു സൂക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കി. യാതൊരു സമീപിച്ചു നിൽക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നില്ല. ആ മുഖത്തു രണ്ടു അശ്രുക്കൾക്കു തന്നെ അങ്ങിനെയൊന്നായിരുന്നു. അവ

ളെ വില്ലാളിത്ത വേദനയിലിട്ടു. അമ്മ കരയുന്നതവൾ കണ്ടു കിട്ടി. ആ ഉറവുകൾക്കു വാറായിട്ടു കാലങ്ങൾ പലതായി.

പെട്ടെന്നു നിരാശയുടെ അടിത്തട്ടിൽനിന്നും ആ പെരുപെണ്ണിനൊരു യുക്തി തോന്നി, അവൾ ജീവകാശിയുടെ ചോദ്യം.

“അമ്മ നമുക്കു വേറെയെവിടെ കിട്ടും പണിക്കു പോവരുതെ.”

“എവിടെ പോയാലെന്നാണ് മോളേ? ഏതൊരു അമ്മമാരും കൊച്ചു മോളാണല്ലോ എല്ലാത്തരം ഇന്ത്യയിലേക്കു തന്നെയും. ആ പഴക്കിയ ബുദ്ധി ഉപയോഗിച്ചു.

അന്റെ കണ്ണുപിടഞ്ഞതൽ മിന്നിയിരുന്ന അവളുടെ കണ്ണുകൾ അമ്മയുടെ ഉത്തരം കേട്ടു നിശ്ശബ്ദമായി.

അന്നു രാത്രി പൊങ്ങുന്നതിന്റെ മുമ്പെങ്കിലും പുനിലാവിൽ മുററത്തു പലമായ പുഴിയിൽ രാധ കളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. കുടവയറും തലോടി കൊണ്ടു രാധയുടെ അമ്മൻ ചാരിക സാലയിൽ വിശ്രമം കൊള്ളുന്നു. കുറേനേരം രാധ കളിക്കുന്നതു അടുത്തും കണ്ണിമയ്ക്കുന്നതെ നോക്കിയിരുന്നു. എന്തോ ചില ചിന്തകൾ അടുത്തടുത്തായി മുഖത്തു നിഴലിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

അടുത്തും രാധയെ അടുത്തു വിളിച്ചു. അവൾ ഓട്ടി അടുത്തേക്കു ചേർന്നു. അവൾക്കു അടുത്തു വലിയ കാര്യവും അമ്മയെ വലിയ ഭയവുമാണ്. പക്ഷെ അമ്മയുടെ സാമന്തത്തിലും തന്റെ അടുത്തും അവൾക്കു മാനമുണ്ട്. അമ്മയെപ്പോലെയാവാൻ അവൾ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നത്. അമ്മയ്ക്കു ഒരു പാപം—ഒന്നിനും കൊള്ളുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് അവളുടെ ആന്തരികമായ ബോധം.

രാധയുടെ പുറത്തു തലോടിക്കൊണ്ടു വാസലുമുണ്ടായ സമരത്തിൽ അമ്മൻ ചോദിച്ചു. “മോളേ! നി എന്തിനാണ് ലീലയുമായി വഴക്കിട്ടത്. അവൾ പാവമല്ല?”

“ഉവ്വല്ല! അവളെന്റെ കൈക്കൊണ്ടു കൊള്ളണം. അവൾ മുഖംകൊണ്ടു വേദന അടിക്കുകയുണ്ടാകും. അവളുടെ മുഖത്തുനിന്നും കണ്ണുനീർക്കു കൈയെ വസലാക്കി അടുത്തും പറഞ്ഞു. “നന്നെ പറയരുത്. അങ്ങനെയൊന്നും കണ്ടു കൊണ്ടു തന്നെയാണ് നിന്നിരുന്നത്.”

രാധയുടെ മുഖം തുടങ്ങി. ഒരു പക്ഷെ വിനിയമപോലെ അവൾ തലതാട്ടി.

“നിന്നെപ്പോലെ ഒരു കൊച്ചുകുട്ടി തന്നെയാണ് അവളും. നി കളിച്ചു സമയം പാഴാക്കുമ്പോൾ അവൾ എത്ര നല്ല ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യുകയാണ്” ശാന്തമായി അടുത്തും തുടന്നു. അതു ശരിയാണെന്നു രാധയ്ക്കു തോന്നി. അവൾ ഓടി അകത്തേക്കു പോയി.

ലീല! ലീല! അവൾ വിളിച്ചു. അവൾ കിടലിലേക്കു നടന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു.

“അവൾ നാളെ വരുമ്പോൾ അവൾക്കു ഞാനൊരു സമ്മാനം കൊടുക്കും” അവൾ വിചാരിച്ചു.

എത്ര നിശ്ചയിച്ചതാണ് ശിശുഹൃദയം. അതിനെ ഉയർത്താനും കെട്ടുതാനും എത്ര വേഗം കഴിയും.

പിറ്റേന്നു വൈകുന്നേരം ലീല എന്തോ സാമാനം വാങ്ങാൻ പോയിട്ടു മടങ്ങുകയാണ്. വഴിയരികിലുള്ള ഒരു താനത്തിൽ നിരവധി പേർ കൂടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതൊരു പൊതുയോഗമാണെന്നു വരുമോടോ പറഞ്ഞു. അവൾ അങ്ങനെയൊന്നിനെപ്പറ്റി കേട്ടിട്ടില്ല. ആ കിശിശുക്കൾ അങ്ങനെയൊ

ന്നു ഇതുവരെയും ആക്രമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കൊത്തുക്കുഴങ്ങളുടെ ഉച്ചഭാഷിണിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന വാക്കുകൾ അവർ ഉപയോഗിച്ചു.

“നാം അടിമത്തത്തിന്റെ ചങ്ങലക്കൂട്ടത്തിനും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിന്റെ വാതുക്കൽ എത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു. ആക്കൂതാണി സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം? എനിക്ക് നിങ്ങൾക്കും എന്ന് വേണ്ടാ ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ അധ്വാനിക്കുന്ന ജനവിഭാഗത്തിനുള്ളതാണത്. അവരുടെ കയ്യിലായരിക്കണം ഭരണാധികാരം. ഇന്നാട്ടിലെ എത്ര കുഞ്ഞുകുട്ടികൾ, കുടിയിലും മണിമടയ്ക്കലും ഉള്ളവരും സമാവകാശങ്ങൾ സമാവസരങ്ങൾ.....”

ആ പ്രസംഗധാരണി നിങ്ങളുടെ അടുത്തു ചോദിക്കുകയാണ്. ചിലയെ ആ വാക്കുകൾ ആവേശം കൊള്ളിച്ചു. തലനുകിടന്നിരുന്ന അവളുടെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ ഒരു പുതുജീവൻ വന്നു. പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്ന ഒരുനാൾ കാണുവാൻ

അവൾ തിരക്കു കൂട്ടി. തിരക്കിനിടയിൽ അവൾ മുങ്ങിപ്പോയി.

പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്നവന്റെ അവർ നൂറു മിട്ടുപോയി. അവളുടെ യുദ്ധമാനനാണത്. അവളുടെ ഹൃദയത്തിലുള്ള ചിരമുഖ്യം ആഴയുടെ പുതുമാറ്റം കരഞ്ഞുപോയി. അവൾ നമിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ളതെന്തെങ്കിലും നടന്നു.

അവൾ വീണ്ടും.

“എന്താണ് ഈ പ്രസംഗമെന്നു കൊച്ചു മയ്യുടെ അടുത്തു നടത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നത്?”

അവൾക്കുതന്നെ അതന്തരം കിട്ടി. “മുച്ചതന്നെയായിരിക്കും പുറത്തു വിഴുകും.”

അവൾ വേഗം നടന്നു വീട്ടിലെത്തി. “തെണ്ടുകുഴിഞ്ഞു ഇപ്പോഴു എന്തിനുള്ള അടുപ്പ്?”

അവൾ പ്രതികരിച്ചിരുന്ന സ്വാഗതം അവളെ എതിരേറ്റു.

സവികളോട്

മുക്കുമാരി—കൃഷ്ണ IV

ചെല്ലസ്സുവികളെ, യാത്രയായതനുഭവം നല്ലതാണെന്നു ചിന്തയോടെ കണ്ണിൽക്കുറുത്തു മുണ്ടിലൊരായിരം നന്മകൾ കൂട്ടിയായി നമ്മൾ വിട്ടുപോകുന്നില്ലാത്തവയ്ക്കും; കാലത്തിൻ മുമ്പായി വിട്ടുപോകുന്നവയ്ക്കും; പുത്തനായി എങ്കിലുമില്ലാത്തവയ്ക്കും; പുത്തനായി സങ്കല്പമെല്ലാം കൊണ്ടുപോകുക; നിത്യസ്മൃതികൾക്കു കൈകൾ മുകളിലും തന്നെ കണ്ണിരിൻ മുകളിലും. ഇപ്പോഴു കൈകൾക്കു മുമ്പെന്തെങ്കിലും വയറുകൾക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞുകിട്ടും.

ഞാനും, മെട്രോനാമൽ സ്മരണയിൽ നിങ്ങളുടെ മുന്നേറ്റം ചവിട്ടുമെന്നും. എന്തിലും മെന്തിലും കൗതുകം കാണുവാൻ നന്നും. കൊതിക്കുന്നൊരു മിടിക്കൽ നേരിയ ശോകാദരാവം മിടിക്കൽ വാരിവിലൂടെന്നൊരു ‘മാലതി’യും പാതികൃത്യമായ മിഴിയും, മധുരത്തിൽ പാതിവിരിയും ചിരിയുമായി ഞങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചാണു മോഹത്തിൽ നാണിച്ചുമാറുന്നൊരു ‘മിറ്റി’യും.

ബേബിയും, ചിലയും, ഗ്രേസിയും സന്ദർശനം. ഭാവതരളിത ചിന്തകളായ യാത്രയോളം നൂറു; മറക്കുവാൻ വയ്ക്കുന്ന മാനുഷിക മനമിഴിയുകയായ്

ജീവിതയാത്രാവഴികളിലൊന്നും ഭാവത്തിൽ വീണ്ടും നാം കണ്ടു മുട്ടാം. ഏതൊ വിശാലമാം ലോകത്തിലേയ്ക്കു കാലമിറങ്ങുന്ന നയിപ്പുതെല്ലാം.

ഇരുളിന്റെ വിടവാങ്ങൽ

(പി. സി. കക്കാ)

ഉദയത്തു കൂപ്പിന്റെ വാടലുമ്പോൾ വാനി-
 മുയൽ നേരത്തേക്കോ മനസ്സോ വിറയ്ക്കുന്നു.
 കോഴികുരുമ്പോൾ, ചുറ്റും വാസത്തോടെ
 നന്മിന്റെ കോമളകാരം ഗുഹിതനായി മിടിക്കുമ്പോൾ,
 വിടവാൻ പ്രതിഷ്ഠിച്ചു വീട്ടിട്ടു നിൽക്കും-
 പുക്കൾ മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും കൈകൾക്കു കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ,
 കാൽമുട്ടത്തോളം നവോദയത്തിൻ-
 മുക്കുരയ്ക്കും; പശ്ചാത്തയന്റെ മനസ്സോ ഭയാകലം.
 കൂടിപ്പോൽ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ നിമിഷം ഞാനി-
 വിശ്വാസം വാടിയിൽ നിൽക്കും; വിനയത്തോടെ മറ്റോ-
 മറ്റോ വേഗം. കണ്ടതില്ല ഞാനൊന്നി നേരവും വെളി-
 ചുരുക്കം; കൊണ്ടുപോം നിത്യം ഉത്സവമെന്നോ മോ-
 മത്തോടെ, അശിഷ്ഠതല്ലാം സാക്ഷ്യമായിട്ടു വന്നെ-
 ലോകം വേദശബ്ദങ്ങളോടുകൂടി കാലമാകുകയില്ലേ?
 സാമൂഹികരീതിയെ യാശകൾ കിടക്കുന്നു;
 സമരം ചെയ്യുന്നേരം കൈയ്യുകൾ വിറയ്ക്കുന്നു.
 എത്രനാളായി വധം ജീവിതം നയിക്കുന്നു-
 മിത്രമേൽ സന്തോഷത്തിൻ കൂട്ടിൽ ഞാൻ-
 കിടക്കുന്നു?

വെളിച്ചം-വെളിച്ചം-മുഖസ്സുവെണിതു
 ജ്ഞാനം വെളിച്ചം പതുങ്ങിയും മനമാഗിച്ചു നൂറു-
 കളഞ്ഞിലാവിൽ കുമ്പസാധിപ്പാത്തീ-
 വെളിച്ചം വന്നിട്ടു സന്തോഷത്തിനോപ്പോൽ;
 പറഞ്ഞിടാമോ നിങ്ങൾ-കൈതുമേൽ സന്തോ-
 ധ്യത്തിൻ നിറകുടാണാവസ്സു-വെന്നൊന്ന നോക്കി-
 പോൾ? കണ്ണുകളിൽ കിനാവുണ്ടോ? നീലിയുണ്ടോ?
 ഗന്ധം മുഴങ്ങിയിട്ടു കേൾക്കും പൂവുകൾ വിരിയുമോ?
 രാത്രിയിൽ വിട്ടുതന്നു മല്ലുപൂവുകൾപോലെ
 ദിക്രൂതം മുഴുവനും സുഗന്ധം പരത്തുമോ?
 വെളിച്ചം വെളിച്ചം വെളിച്ചം വെളിച്ചം
 നിന്റെ സുന്ദരിവാകാൻ കൂടിയും പ്രയത്നം;
 ...അല്ല, നീ കേട്ടിലയോ ഞാനിങ്ങവരെ
 ചൊന്ന- തൊന്നമേ; കാഴ്ച, ഞാനോ വിശ്വസ്തരായ്
 അതിന്നിലയോ? അവിഴ്ചമോ കൊണ്ടുപോട്ടു നീ, വെളിച്ചം നീ
 നെച്ചുവെച്ചി- ചാലിംഗനത്തിനായി-കൈയ്യുകൾ നീട്ടിട്ടു
 വേഗം മറ്റേപ്രതിഷ്ഠയിൽ മുങ്ങി നിന്നീട്ടും നിന്റെ
 മധുര സ്വപ്നങ്ങളിൽ-കയ്പു ഞാൻ കല-
 ഞ്ചിട്ടു.

* “അവയോടുകൂടി” എന്ന കാലിന്ദ്രാധാരത്തിൽനിന്നും

ഇങ്ങനെ മംഗളങ്ങളും കൊല്ലങ്ങളും കടന്നു പോയി. യുവത്വത്തിലേക്കു കാലുകുത്തിയ കടന്നുയരത്തോടെ അവർ രണ്ടു പേരും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിറുത്തി.

പക്ഷേ അവരിനും കണ്ടുമുട്ടിയിരുന്നു. പഠിച്ചിരുന്നിനും പാടത്തക്ക ഇറക്കിയ അവർ ഏതു മുറിയെ പണിയെടുത്തു.

'കല്യാണി ഞാനൊരു കാതും പറയട്ടെ.' രാമൻ അവളുടെ മുഖത്തേക്കു നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ടു ഒരു ദിവസം ചോദിച്ചു.

'സ്വകാതുമാരേണോ?' കല്യാണി അതുതന്നെ നടിച്ച്കൊണ്ടു ചോദിച്ചു.

'ഇതു കളിയല്ല.' രാമൻ ഗൗരവം നയിച്ചു.

'വെച്ചു പൊണ്ണുക്കുട്ടിമാരേണോ?' കല്യാണി കൂടി വീണ്ടും തമിഴാക്കി.

'അപ്പോഴേ.....' രാമൻ ചുറ്റുമെല്ലാം നോക്കി വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞു. 'എന്നും ഇങ്ങനെ തിരുന്നോൽ ചോരപ്പോ....' അവൻ അവളുടെ മുഖത്തേക്കു നോക്കി, അവരുടെ കണ്ണുകൾ തമ്മിലിടഞ്ഞു. അരുണവർണ്ണമായ അവളുടെ കവിൾത്തടങ്ങളിൽ രണ്ടു വോസുപുഷ്പങ്ങൾ വികസിച്ചു.

'പിന്നെ....' ഒന്നും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാത്ത ഒരു ശിശുവെന്നപോലെ അവൾ ഒരു ചോദ്യമെറിഞ്ഞു.

'കല്യാണി ഇതുവരെ ഒന്നും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂട....'

'എന്താ....'

'നേരെ നോക്കൂ, പറയാം' പക്ഷേ അവൾ പണ്ടുതന്നെ കൈയ്യുക്കിയല്ല. അതിനാൽ ആ മുഖം അവൾ കിനിച്ചു കളഞ്ഞു.

'എന്തിനാ?'

'കല്യാണിക്കെന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല.' രാമന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിനേതരം പറയുവാൻ അവൾക്കറിയാം. സകലതും പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നുണ്ടു്.

എങ്കിലും അവൾ പറഞ്ഞു.

'ഇല്ല!'

'ഒന്നാം.....' രാമൻ സംശയം കൂടി വന്നു. താൻ പറയുന്നതിനാൽ ഇവൾക്കു മനസ്സിലാവുന്നില്ല എന്നയാൾ പഠിഭൂമിയിൽ.

'എന്നാൽ എനിക്ക് പലതും പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്.' രാമൻ അവളുടെ മുഖകമലത്തിൽ കണ്ണു നട്ടുകൊണ്ടു പറയും. ആ മുഖം പ്രീതിപരമായിത്തീർന്നു നോക്കി അവന്റെ കണ്ണുകൾ തുളങ്ങ.

'മേൽക്കുണ്ടോ?'

'ഉം....'

'മുളിയാൽ പോര. മേൽക്കുണ്ടെന്നു പറയൂ' രാമൻ ശരിച്ചു.

'ഉം.....'

'എന്നാൽ ഇങ്ങു വാ.'

'എങ്ങേടേ?'

അവൾ രാമന്റെ മുഖത്തേക്കു നോക്കി.

'എന്റെ മുഖത്തല്ല?'

'എന്തിനും.....'

'അതിനാൽ സംഗതി പറയാം.'

'പറയാത്താളു.....'

'അപ്പോൾ കല്യാണിക്കു മേൽക്കുണ്ടോ?'

'വേണം.....' ആ ശബ്ദം ലഭിച്ചു നിർത്തരുതായിരുന്നു.

'ചെവിയിൽ പറയാം.'

'അതിന്താ?'

'മററാൽ മേൽക്കാൻ പാടില്ല അതു.' അവൾ നമുദ്രമായി രാമന്റെ സമീപത്തു.

രാമന്റെ വിവാഹം കഴിഞ്ഞു. അവന്റെ ഹിതാനുസരണത്തന്നെ കല്യാണിയെ അവന്റെ പങ്കാളിയായി കിട്ടി. ആ ദാമ്പത്യജീവിതം പ്രകാശം പരത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു ദിവസങ്ങൾ പിന്നിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ തിരികെയായാണു ആ ദാമ്പത്യവല്ലരി പൂട്ടിച്ചതു്. ആ വാർത്തയറിഞ്ഞ രാമൻ അന്നു പൂജകീർത്തനായി. താനൊരു പിതാവിനാകാൻ പോകുന്നു!

പക്ഷേ, അപ്പോഴേക്കും രാമന്റെ മരുപിതാക്കൾ മരിച്ചുപോയിരുന്നു.

'രാമൻ....'

അപരവശമായി— അസ്വസ്ഥനായി

—അങ്ങമിങ്ങും നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന രാമനെ ആ വിളി ഒന്നു ഞെട്ടിച്ചു. ജിജ്ഞാസാവിജ്ഞാപനമായ മുഖമുതലിൽ അയാൾ പിൻതിരിഞ്ഞുനോക്കി. അവിടെ ആ പൂജ—പാദം—നിസ്സഹായമായി നിൽപ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

'എന്തേ.....' എന്തു പറി.....' രാമന്റെ ശ്വാസോച്ഛ്വാസം നിയന്ത്രണത്തിനായി. അത്ഭുതം ഹൃദയം ശക്തിയായി ധ്വനിച്ചു.

'കാതും കൊടുച്ചു കൊടുപ്പണിയാ കണണത്തേ. ഒരു ഡാക്ടറെ.....' ആ പൂജയുടെ നേരത്തെയുള്ള ചൊടികൊണ്ടിപ്പം വീര്യമേറിയതും അസ്ഥിമുട്ടിയതും.

രാമനെ വല്ലഭിതമായി. അയാൾ മിഴിച്ചുനോക്കി. ഭൂമി വട്ടം കുറഞ്ഞുനോക്കുന്നയാൾ സംശയിച്ചു. ഇനി ഇപ്പോഴെ വീട്ടുനോക്കു ഡാക്ടറെ കിട്ടുന്നതു്? അയാളെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നാലും എന്തു കൊടുക്കാവാനാണു്?

പക്ഷേ ഇതിലപ്പുറം അയാൾ ചിന്തിച്ചില്ല.

'ഹേയ്.....' എന്തൊരു രോദനം ആ ഹൃദയത്തെ വല്ലഭിത ഉലച്ചു.

രാമൻ എന്തൊരു തീരുമാനിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു നടന്നു. വഴിയിലുള്ള അയാൾ തന്റെ കയ്യിലെ കട്ടക്കുൻ രണ്ടും ഉൾമുറയെടുത്തു. തന്റെ അച്ഛന്റെ സ്മരണയ്ക്കായി തന്നെ ആ ആരോണം അവൻ കല്യാണിയെക്കാൾ വലുതല്ല.

രാമൻ വേഗം നടന്നു. ഹൃദയത്തിൽ വികാരങ്ങൾ അലയുകയാണു്. തന്റെ കല്യാണിയുടെ ജീവനവകടം സംഭവിച്ചാൽ.....? രാമന്റെ മുൻപിൽ അതിതാല വലിയ മോഴ്ചമിന്നുമായി അവശേഷിച്ചു. പക്ഷേ അതിനേക്കാൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുവാൻ ആ പ്രശ്നവ്യഗ്രഹത്തോ അശക്തമായിരുന്നു.

'ഇല്ല, കല്യാണിക്കു ഒന്നും പറയുകില്ല.' അവസാനം അയാൾ സ്വയം സമാധാനിച്ചു. നഗരമദ്ധ്യത്തിലുപത്തിയ അയാൾ ഒരു സ്വപ്നക്കണ്ണുകൾ മുഖിൽ നിന്നു.

'ഓ, ഇതേന്നു തുകി വിവരമേന്മ.....'

രാമൻ വീർപ്പുമുട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞു.

സ്വപ്നക്കണ്ണുകൾ കട്ടക്കുൻ തുടങ്ങിനോക്കി.

'ഇതേന്നു കാൽ പവനല്ലെ ഉള്ളു?'

'കുതിരികാം'

'ഇതിനെന്തു വേണം?'

'ഒരു പതിനഞ്ചു രൂപ.....'

'പതിനഞ്ചു രൂപ.....? ഇതിനോ? കടക്കാൻ അതുതന്നെ പ്രശ്നമില്ല. രാമൻ നിശ്ശബ്ദമായി നിന്നുതയ്ക്കു.

'പന്ത്രണ്ടു രൂപ രാമൻ.'

'ഉം.' അതികമായിരുന്നു ആ മുഖം.

രാമൻ രൂപയായി ഡാക്ടറെ വീട്ടിലേക്കു നടന്നു.

'എന്താ?' മുമ്പത്തേക്കു കയറി രാമനോടു ഡാക്ടർ ചോദിച്ചു.

രാമൻ എല്ലാ വിവരങ്ങളും ഗൗരവത്തോടെ കേൾക്കി.

'അതിന്റേ? ഡാക്ടർ അവസാനം ചോദിച്ചു.

'അങ്ങനൊരു വീടുവരെ വരണം.'

രാമൻ കരയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നല്ല ഒരു ശ്രമം നടത്തി.

'കുറു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?' രാമനൊന്നു ഞെട്ടി.

'കുറു....ദോ....'

'അതിന്റേ'

രാമൻ ഒരുനിമിഷം സംശയിച്ചുനിന്നു.

'അങ്ങൻ ഉടനെ കൊണ്ടുവരാം....' രാമൻ പൂർത്തേക്കിറങ്ങിപ്പോയി.

അ കുറു രാമന്റെ വീടിനോടു സമീപിക്കുകയുണ്ടു്. അയാൾ അതിന്റെ ഒരു കോണിലിരുന്നുകൊണ്ടു അനന്തരസംഭവങ്ങളെ ഭാവനയുടെ പട്ടുറുപ്പിൽ കേൾക്കുകയുണ്ടു്.

അപ്പോഴേക്കു ഹൃദയം, ഡാക്ടറെ സന്നിദ്ധ്യംകൊണ്ടു ആ ക്വാസത്തിന്റെ കരളുത്തീയതായിത്തീർന്നു. 'തന്റെ കല്യാണി രക്ഷപെടും. നേനാളു പിതാവോകും. അഭിമാനിക്കത്തക്ക ഒന്നല്ലെ വിതമ്പം? ഹേ! തന്റെ ആ അവസ്ഥയ്ക്കു് അനുഗ്രഹിക്കപ്പെടുക പോവുകയുണ്ടു്. എന്തു അഭികാമ്യമുണ്ടു് ഒരു സന്താനത്തോടു് അനുയോജനം'

17

വേറെ ചിലർ സംഭാഷണപ്രിയർ—
വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും വിഷയങ്ങളിലൂടെയും സംസാരം തുടങ്ങി. ചിരിയും മേളവും ശബ്ദകോലാഹലങ്ങളും, ഇടയ്ക്കിടയ്ക്കു സ്വപ്നം കണ്ട നില വിളിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ 'ജയ്' വിളികളും ഇക്കൂട്ടരുടെ കൗതുകയായിരുന്നു. ഒരു സംഗീത സഭയിലാണു ഞാൻ ചെന്നു ചെട്ടതു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഗാന ഗന്ധർവ്വരമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. സിനിമാ പ്ലാടുകൾ, കണ്ണാടക സംഗീതം, ഭക്തി ഗീതങ്ങൾ, പാശ്ചാത്യ മൃതലായവ കൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾ പരമാവധി ആനന്ദിച്ചു. മറ്റൊരു സംഘം അംഗീകൃത ഇരിപ്പുടങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു നൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെ ബോളറുടെ മുകളിൽ ചാടിക്കയറി ഇരിപ്പറപ്പിച്ചു.

സംഗീതംകൊണ്ടു മടുത്തു. കണ്ണും അനുസരണമേറിയ തുടങ്ങി. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഞാനും ബോളറുടെ മുകളിൽ ചാടിക്കയറി വാസുവത്തിൽ എല്ലാവരും ഇരിപ്പിടം അവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടിയിരുന്നു. അത്രയും സമാധാനം. തുറസ്സായ അന്തരികത്തെ മുമ്പിൽ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഹൃദയത്തിനു തന്നെ ഒരു വിശാലത കൈവന്നെന്നുതോന്നി. പ്രഭാതത്തിലെ മനം കളുപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഇളം കാറ്റു ജലപ്പരപ്പിനെ തഴുകിക്കൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങളെ പുണർന്നു. ഇരുവശങ്ങളിലും ഇടതൂന്നു പൊന്തയ ചെടികൾ കൂടുകൂടുന്ന മരതകക്കുരു (Boarder) വച്ചു നയനമോഹനമായ നിലജലനിരപ്പും ഞങ്ങളുടെ യാത്രാ മാഗ്നത്തിൽ വിരിച്ചുകിടന്നു. അതെ, പ്രകൃതി ഞങ്ങളെ സ്വീകരിക്കുകയാണ്.

മനുഷ്യസ്വഭാവയുടെ കൃത്യമു സഭാവത്തിന്റെ മകുടാഭാസമെന്നു പറയാൻ പലതും പെരിയാറ്റിലേയ്ക്കു കാലം നിട്ടി ഇരിപ്പുണ്ടു്. അവ ഒന്നൊന്നായി ഞങ്ങൾ പിന്നിട്ടു.

കളിക്കുമ്പോൾ ജീവൻ നശിച്ചു നശിച്ചു അങ്ങോട്ടുപോലെ ശ്രവണശേഷിയായി. കേരളം കൗതുകപരമായൊന്നു തോന്നുമാറ് പ്രകൃതിക്കൊക്കെ ഒന്നെന്നുവു്. ചുവർ കാലവനിത തലകണക്കിനുണ്ടു്.

പെരിയാറ്റിന്റെ വഴിയിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങൾ കായലിലേക്കിറങ്ങി. താഴികക്കടങ്ങളും പേരികൊണ്ടു തലയുയർത്തി നില്ക്കുന്ന കേരവൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെ മാടിവിളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. മന്ദസ്ഥിത ഭരതാളം ഞങ്ങൾ അവയെ പിന്നിട്ടു.

കായലിലെ കരളാലങ്ങൾ കൂട്ടത്തൽ കരുത്തുള്ളവയായിക്കൊണ്ടുവെട്ടു്. അവ സൂര്യന്റെ ശുഭ്രശോഭയിൽ ദ്രാവക രൂപം പുണ്ടവെള്ളിപ്പോലെ തിളങ്ങുന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഹാ! അവ ഓരോന്നും അപ്പോൾ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ കൂടിക്കടന്നു തുള്ളി മറഞ്ഞുപോയതുപോലെ തോന്നി.

"അലകളെ മുറിച്ചുതന്നുപോലെ കടന്നുകാരന്റെ തോണി"

എന്നവണ്ണം ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പാകെ പടന്നു തുള്ളുന്ന ഹൃദയങ്ങളെയും വഹിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ചലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. എങ്കിലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ അന്നത്തിനെ ഇരുപതാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ യാത്രികമായ ഒരു ധൃതി പിടിച്ചുകിടന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു വിസ്മയത്തോടുകൂടി.

"കൂം...കൂം...കൂം".....ജീവിതത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നട്ടുതിരിയുന്ന കേരള സ്ത്രീകൾ നെഞ്ചിൽ വായു വലിച്ചുകയറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടു കൊട്ടുവടി ഉയർത്തി മീഞ്ഞൊണ്ടിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുകി ആഞ്ഞടിക്കുന്നു. പട്ടണത്തിലെ മോലസരായ സാരികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ലളിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു്, ഉയർന്നു കൊണ്ടു കൊണ്ടു് മാറ്റൊലിക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ഓരോ ശബ്ദങ്ങളും പെല്ലുവളിക്കുകയാണ്—“പ്രതാപനാടൊളം അലരുന്ന ആഴിപ്പാ മിതെ തകരുന്ന ജീ

വിതന്നുക ഞങ്ങളും ആഞ്ഞുതുഴയുകയാണ്” എന്ന്.....

“താമരച്ചെണ്ടല്ല ഞങ്ങളുടെ കൈത്തണ്ടുകൾ. ഉരിക്കു മണ്ഡുകളാണ്. മുത്തുമണികളല്ല ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിയപ്പുതുള്ളികൾ; ജീവിതമുളയീർന്നിന്നും ഉയരുന്ന ആവിയാണു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ശിരസ്സുകൾ 'തണ്ടോട്ത്തേ നളിനപോലെ' വിളങ്ങാൻല്ല; തലയുയർത്തിപ്പിട്ടു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ജീവിതനുകം വലിക്കാനുണ്ടു്. ഈ 'മാനഞ്ചു മിഴികൾക്കു മുന്നോരമെന്നിലേയ്ക്കു ചായാൻ' നേരം കറവാണു്. തൊണ്ടുതല്ലുന്നു ചെരി പിരിപ്പാനുണ്ടു്."

കേരളം സമ്പന്നമാണു്. പക്ഷെ അവളുടെ സന്താനങ്ങൾ ദരിദ്രരാണ്.

'കാറ്റു വെയുന്ന കിളിയിൽ തെളിഞ്ഞു പിരിഞ്ഞു ചെളിപ്പാർന്നുണ്ടിരുന്നു.'

'ആയിക്കോട്ടയ്ക്കു്' സമീപം ഞങ്ങൾ കരയ്ക്കിറങ്ങി. അല്പം നടന്നപ്പോൾ കോട്ട ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ദൃശ്യമായി. പ്രകൃതി വെള്ളമൊൽ വിരിച്ചുതരികുന്ന ഭൂതലം. വെൺമണൽത്തരികളാൽ പരിതന്നായി ആ കൊലയറ ശിർക്കുമുയർത്തി അങ്ങനെ നില്ക്കുന്നു.

എട്ടു വശങ്ങളുള്ള ഒരു വലിയ കൂടിന്റെ ആകൃത്യയാണിതു്. 'ഭിത്തിക്കു്' അസാമാന്യമായ കനമുണ്ടു്. ഇരുമ്പി ഇട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രഭവശനപോലും മാത്രമേയുള്ളു. ഓരോ വശത്തും പീരങ്കികൾ ഇണക്കുൻ വേണ്ടി താരതമ്യേന ചെറിയ പാറങ്ങളുണ്ടു്.

ഇരുമ്പുകൾ തുറന്നു് ഞങ്ങൾ അകത്തു പ്രവേശിച്ചു. ഒരു ഭയങ്കരത..... ഹൃദയം പെരുമ്പറയടിക്കുന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. സമയമാകുന്ന തിരശ്ശീല മന്യുക്ലത്തിൽ അലതല്ലി. ഭൂതത്തെ അതു നമ്മിൽനിന്നും അകറ്റി നിർത്തിയിരക്കു

കയാണു്. ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ ഇടിമിന്നൽ പോലെ അതു മാറും. ആ നൈമിതിക പ്രകാശത്തിൽ ദുസ്സപ്തത്തിലെന്നപോലെ അന്ധനായൊരാൾ ദീകരരൂപങ്ങൾ ഭരിച്ചു. ഭാരതത്തെ അടിമപ്പെടുത്തിയ കൊളോണിയലിസ മുദ്രകളാൽ അന്ധനായൊരാൾ മാറുകയായ അലർച്ചകൾ!..... കഴിഞ്ഞു കരിശും കയ്യിൽ ബാഗ്ഗവുമായി നില്ക്കുന്ന ഗാമം.....പറക്കിപ്പടയാളികൾ പീരങ്കിയും തോക്കുമായി അതിനകത്തുകി പരക്കുപായുന്നു. ആ കണ്ണുകളിൽ അന്യസ്യയുണ്ടു്, അന്യതടെ മുതൽ പിടിച്ചെടുക്കാനുള്ള ആസക്തിയുണ്ടു്, രക്തത്തിനുള്ള ദാഹമുണ്ടു്, ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ അധിപതാധാരണത്തിനുള്ള ദുഷ്ടാഹമുണ്ടു്.

കോട്ടയ്ക്കു വെളിയ ചുള്ളു ഭൂതങ്ങളുടെ നേക്കു ആ കണ്ണുകൾ പായുന്നു..... വൻതോക്കുകൾ നിറയൊഴിയുന്നു. ധൂമഘനത്തിൽ എല്ലാം അപ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുന്നു....അന്ധരികൾ തെളിയുന്നു....രക്തപകിടമായ ശവശരണം.....

"The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when rent The earth is cover'd thick with other clay, Which her own clay shall cover, heaped and pent, Rider and horse,—friend, foe,—in one red burial blent."

സമയമാകുന്ന വെളിയടയിൽ അടുത്തു് ഇടിമിന്നലുകൾ!

പറക്കിയെ ആട്ടിപ്പായിച്ചു് കോട്ടയിൽ പന്തക്കാർ കയറുന്നു. അപരവും തള്ളി താഴെ ഇറക്കിയശേഷം അതു പ്രബുദ്ധൻ തന്റെ ചവിട്ടടിയിലാക്കുന്നു. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് സിംഹം അലറുന്നു... ഇവന്റെയെല്ലാം ചോര കടിച്ചു ആ കോട്ട തോന്നൊന്നുമറിഞ്ഞില്ല എന്ന ഭാവത്തിൽ ഇന്നും നില്ക്കുന്നു.

കോട്ടപ്പുറത്തുനിന്ന് ഒരു ചാരം മറ്റോരോ സ്ഥലത്തേക്കുണ്ട്. അതിനും കാരണം വളരെ വളരെ കഥകൾ പറയാൻ.

കൊട്ടാണിയലസത്തിന്റെ വേലിയേറ്റവും വേലിയിറക്കവും നടന്ന ആ കോട്ടവായിലൂടെ വകാര വിപ്ലവത്തോടെ ഞങ്ങളും നടന്നിറങ്ങി.

സമയമാകുന്ന മറ്റു മറ്റും മറ്റും മറ്റൊരുകൾ ആ മുന്നിൽക്കൊണ്ടും ഓരോന്നും സംസാരിക്കും. "ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ കാലുറപ്പിക്കാൻ കൊതിച്ച ഓരോ പാശ്ചാത്യന്റെയും പാദമുദ്ര ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിരിമാർ ലുണ്ടു്. കാരണാൻ കൌതുകമുണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ച് നിങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ പരിശ്രമമല്ല ഞങ്ങൾ; ചെമ്മോർ കിടച്ചു മത്തരായവരാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ. വളരെയൊക്കെ കണ്ടു. വളരെ അനുഭവിച്ചു. ഇതാ ഇന്നു നിങ്ങളെയും കണ്ടു. വളരെ സന്തോഷം."

അവളുടെ പൊലിഞ്ഞ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെയെല്ലാം ഭാഗം ദ്രവിക്കപ്പെട്ടതായപ്പോലെ കോട്ടയുടെ മുൻപിൽ ഒരു ചെറിയ കുളമുണ്ട്. അതിൽ കാണുന്ന ജലമെല്ലാം കണ്ണിരായിരിക്കും. മറ്റൊരുതരത്തിൽ ചലിക്കുന്ന തെങ്ങോലകളുടെ പ്രതീകമെന്നാൽ ആ കണ്ണിമിമി കരയുന്നതുപോലെ തോന്നി.

അതിനടുത്തുനിന്നു പ്രാതൽ കഴിച്ചശേഷം ആയുരക്കോട്ടയോടു യാത്രയും പറ്റത്തു ഞങ്ങൾ ബോട്ടിൽ കയറി.

കടലിൽ കുളിക്കണമെന്നതാണ് ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ പ്ലാൻ. അതിനുവേണ്ടി മുമ്പം പക്ഷിമാക്കി ബോട്ടു നിന്നി.

ലാഭമുണ്ടായ ബോട്ടുമെമ്പർ മുമ്പത്തെ അല്പം പിന്മാറ്റി ബോട്ടു നിറത്തി ഞങ്ങളെയിറക്കി. ബോട്ടിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവിടെ എത്താൻ വളരെ ദൂരം പോകണം. അ

തിനാൽ ഞങ്ങളെ ഒരൊറ്റുപരിവൃത്തിയെ നയിച്ചു —കാൽനടയായി. മിൻപിടുത്തവും കമ്പവല ഇടലും; കക്കാടശവരണവും മറ്റും കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾ കായൽത്തീരത്തുകൂടെ നടന്നു. അരമണിക്കൂർകൊണ്ടു ഞങ്ങൾ മുന്നമ്പടിപിന്നെ ഇക്കരെയെത്തി. അപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളെ ഒരു നാലുകടന്നും. ഒരു വള്ളത്തിൽ അഞ്ചും ആറും പേരുവിതും അക്കരയ്ക്കുപോയി. വഞ്ചിയാത്രയിലുള്ള സമുദായം, സംഗീതാത്മകതയും ആക്കും അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിട്ടു. ഒരു ഭീതി... ഓഴക്കുണ്ടു്. ആഴമുണ്ടു്. വഞ്ചി സുരക്ഷിതവുമല്ല. എത്രനാൾക്കുതലും മുങ്ങിയതും. പലരും നിശ്ചലമായിത്തീർന്നു. യാത്രാ സുഖമായിപ്പരിണമിച്ചു. തോണി മെല്ലെച്ചരിഞ്ഞു. അല്പം വെള്ളം കയറി ഉടനെ എല്ലാവരും മറവശത്തേക്കു നീങ്ങിപ്പോകും കൊടുത്തു. ആ വശവും ചരിഞ്ഞു വെള്ളം കയറി. വള്ളമങ്ങുതാങ്ങു ഒരൊരു വെള്ളത്തിൽവെച്ചു ഇതിനുമുൻപു കയ്യനക്കിയിട്ടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ആ സാധുവിന്റെ ഹൃദയസ്ഥിതി എങ്ങനെ ചിത്രീകരിക്കും!

വള്ളം കമഴ്ന്നുപോങ്ങി. ഇതുകരകളിൽനിന്നു "വള്ളത്തിൽപിടിച്ചുകിടപ്പിൻ" എന്നലറന്നുണ്ടു്. പടക്കി പാവം, ഓഴക്കിത്തട്ടു കടന്നു താഴെപ്പോയി. തോണിയുടെ തിരിച്ചിലിൽ ഒരു മൂല ഭാഗ്യവശാൽ അയാൾക്കു കിട്ടി. ഹോ! രക്ഷപെട്ടു. ആപത്തൊന്നും സംഭവിച്ചില്ല. ഒരുവിധത്തിൽ അക്കര പാറി. അലറുന്ന ആഴിയുടെ മീതെ ചുളംപിളച്ചു പറക്കുന്ന കാറ്റിനെ ചിളനം ഞങ്ങൾ പാഞ്ഞു.

നോട്ടമെത്താത്തവണ്ണം അങ്ങനെ കിടക്കുന്ന വിശാലമായ സമുദ്രം. ഇരമ്പിക്കയറുന്ന കല്ലോലമാല സമുദ്രത്തോളം ഫണമുയർത്തി. മറിഞ്ഞുവിഴ

ന്ന ഗോപുരംപോലെ ആ ശിരസ്സും കത്തിത്തകിന്നു തരിപ്പണമാകുന്നു. "O break break on thy cold grey stones O sea!..."

ആ വിശാലമാകവിടയാടൊപ്പം എന്റെ ഹൃദയവും തുടിച്ചു. പ്രകൃതിയുടെ ശക്തിയെ ഓർത്തു ഒരുനിമിഷം മുക്കത്തു വിരലുവെച്ചു അത്തരപരതന്ത്രനായി നിന്നുപോകും. അടുത്തനിമിഷം ഉയരുന്ന അലയുണ്ടൊപ്പം എന്റെ ഹൃദയവും കിളിതന്നതുപോലെ തോന്നും. ചിരിയടക്കുന്ന ആ കാൽസർപ്പത്തെ നോക്കി ചിലപ്പോൾ പൊട്ടിച്ചിരിക്കും.

ഞങ്ങൾ വസ്ത്രം മാറി കടലിലേക്കുറങ്ങി. കരയടുത്തുള്ള തീരമാലകൾക്കു ശക്തി കൂട്ടതലമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നി. ഓരോന്നും ചിരഗർജ്ജനത്തോടെ വക്ത്രം പിളർന്നു വ്യാഘ്രത്തോളം ഉയരുന്ന കണ്ണുളായിരുന്നു. കിളിതന്ന കല്ലോലം അതുച്ചത്തിലാകുമ്പോൾ പുരാരാഗത്തേക്കു കനിഞ്ഞു വക്ത്രത്തി പ്രാപിച്ച് ശിരം ചുരുൾപോലെയാക്കി കരയിലേക്കു കമിഴ്ന്നുവെച്ചു വീഴുകയാണ്. ചുരുൾ രൂപം കൊള്ളുമ്പോഴാണ് ആ വ്യാഘ്രത്തിന്റെ വക്ത്രത്തോടു കൂടുതൽ സാമ്യം പ്രാപിക്കുന്നതു്. ചുരുളുകളിൽ നിന്നും അടർന്നുവീഴുന്ന വെള്ളത്തുളങ്ങുന്ന നര വ്യാഘ്രത്തിന്റെ നേരിനു പോലെ തോന്നി.

ഓരോ അലയും ഞങ്ങളെ മണലിലേക്കു എടുത്തെയും. ജലം ഉറന്നിറങ്ങുന്നതോടെ അതിന്റെ ഇരയേയും എടുത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോകും. ഞങ്ങൾ പിടഞ്ഞുഴുന്നെല്ലാം. വിശ്രമിക്കാൻ സമയമില്ല. അടുത്ത അല വന്നുകഴിയും. അല്പം ക്ലിപ്തിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഈ വ്യാഘ്രത്തിനു വഴങ്ങാതെ നീളുന്നതുള്ള മാഗ്നറ്റും ഞങ്ങൾ പ്രയോഗിച്ചു.

രണ്ടു മണിക്കൂറോളം കളിക്കു ചെയ്തവായി. ഞങ്ങൾ വന്നവരിയേ ആരും

കടന്നു ബോട്ടിനെ ശരണം പ്രാപിച്ചു. ചരിത്രപ്രസിദ്ധമായ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരാണ് അടുത്ത ലക്ഷ്യം.

വിസ്തൃതിയിലാണു ഒരു ശവകുടീരം സന്ദർശിക്കുന്ന പ്രതീതിയാണു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ എന്നിരിക്കുമായതു്. ചേരരാജാക്കന്മാരുടെ രാജധാനിയായ തിരുവഞ്ചിക്കുളം—ഇന്നത്തെ ബോംബെ, കൽക്കട്ട, എന്നീ സുപ്രധാന പട്ടണങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ അന്നു ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന നഗരം. ലോകത്തിലെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളുമായി വാണിജ്യബന്ധം പുലർത്തിയ തുറമുഖം. ആധുനിക പരിഷ്കാരത്തിന്റെ കാറ്റുപോലുമല്ലാതെ ഇന്നു ഉതപ്രായയായിക്കിടക്കുന്ന ഈ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ നഗരവിലായാണോ ഈ ചരിത്രമെല്ലാം! ഈശ്വര! കാലത്തിന്റെ വികൃതികൾ!

വംശഭരണമെന്നു അതിനെത്തുളിച്ച് കിടക്കുന്ന അവിടുത്തെ രാജകുമാരന്മാരായ വിജയകുമാരന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു കണ്ണുകീഴ്ത്തിക്കുഴപ്പമുണ്ടാക്കി ഹിമവൽസാ നമുക്കു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർവരെ കല്ലു ചുമപ്പിച്ചു ചെങ്കട്ടവലകൂവത്തിയുടെ രാജധാനി...ഹ! ഹ! ആപ്രഭാവം എവിടെ, ഈ പരിതാപമെവിടെ! കാലചക്ര മണത്തിൽ ചരത്രം ആവർത്തിക്കപ്പെട്ടേക്കാം—ആരർത്തു. ദുഷ്ടതാവായ ചെങ്കട്ടവന്റെയും ധർമ്മിയുനായ ചേരമാൻ പെരുമാളിന്റെയും രാജധാനിയിൽ ചെന്നിട്ടു നല്ലയൊരു കാപ്പി കുടിക്കാനുള്ള സൌകര്യം പോലുമില്ല. കഷ്ടം!

അവിടെത്തന്നെയുള്ള ചേരമാൻപറമ്പു ഞങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചു. ചേരമാൻ പെരുമാളിന്റെ ഓർമ്മസ്ഥാഭാസവിലെ കണ്ടതു്. ഏഴെട്ടടി ഉയരത്തിൽ ഒരു ചതുരസ്തംഭം. "ചേരമാൻപറമ്പു്" എന്നതിൽ കുറിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനു മുമ്പിലായി അടുപ്പുകുപ്പുപോലെ മൂന്നു ചെറി

യ കരിക്കൽത്തൂണുകളും സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടു
 ണ്ട്. മകരളത്തെ ബന്ധുക്കൾക്കായി
 പങ്കുവെച്ചു ആ സുപ്രസിദ്ധ ചക്രവ
 രത്തി പൂത്തിരിനമായ ഒരു മൈതാന

ത്തിന്റെ നടുക്കു ഒരു കരിക്കൽത്തൂണുകൊ
 ണ്ടു തുപ്പനായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞു കയറാം.
 മകരമാൻപറമ്പിനോടു യാത്രയും പ
 റഞ്ഞു ഞങ്ങൾ മടക്കയാത്ര തുടങ്ങി.



By Kushal Nair
 Twice Lovely !

THE COLLEGE CRICKET TEAM



Sitting: K. I. Abraham; T. B. Ninan M. A. (Principal); Varughese George (Captain); C. P. Andrews B. A., D. P. E. (Physical Director); R. Sugathan.
 Standing: Mohomied (Games boy); Sankara Pillai N.; P. J. Mathew; R. Damodharan Nambodri; P. Johns; P. K. Varughese; Thampi John; P. T. Keshy; J. Jacob; Oommen Abraham.

THE CHACKO HOSTEL HOCKEY TEAM WINNERS OF THE PANIKKER MEMORIAL CUP



Bottom row: John Cherian; K. J. Jacob; V. K. Joseph; Pothan Verghis
 Middle row: A. P. Avinachen; Varughese Chandr.; A. K. Baby; M. A. (Warden); K. I. Abraham (Captain); K. C. John, M. Sc. (Warden); The Rev. C. A. Abraham, M. A., B. Litt (Oxon), (Warden).
 Top row: Eastaw Zachariah (Ath. Rep.); P. J. Mathew; Verghis George; M. C. Chacko; Mathew K. Ninan; M. C. George; K. C. George; Chathan (Hostel boy).

THE CHACKO HOSTEL VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINNERS OF THE INTER-HOSTEL TOURNAMENT



Bottom row: F. E. Chandy; M. V. Thomas
Middle row: C. V. Mathew; K. C. John, M. Sc. (Warden); T. S. Ninan; Rev. C. A. Abraham
Top row: Chathan (Hostel Boy); Mathew Zacharias; V. Pappu; A. K. Baby M. A. (Warden);
T. U. Mathai; K. C. Varughese

JUNIOR HOSTELS' BASKETBALL TEAM WINNERS OF THE INTER-HOSTEL TOURNAMENT



Sitting: Thomas Muthalaly; T. B. Thomas, M. Sc.; C. K. Joseph; N. K. Mathai and George Kurien
Standing: David Mathew; George Cherian; P. Y. Mathen; T. A. Kuruvilla and P. T. Geervarghese

बेटी की तलाश

(K. E. Chandy, Class IV Economics)

“कौन इस धधेरी रात में वहाँ बैठता है?”
बिमला ने पूछा। बाहर पानी बरस रहा था।
पति की प्रतीक्षा करते वह दरवाजे पर खड़ी
रहो थी। उस समय बिमला ने देखा कि घर
के सामने जो पेड़ है उसके नीचे कोई बैठा हुआ
है। वह फिर पूछने लगी-“कौन”? वहाँ, क्यों
बैठते हो?”

“क्षमा कीजिए माँ, एक बेचारा बूढ़ा साधू
हूँ, निराशापूर्ण जीवन बितानेवाला एक पयिक
हूँ।” उस आदमी ने मिड मिडाकर जवाब
दिया।

बिमला का मन पिघल गया “अन्दर आइये।
घोर की बरसात है और ठंडी हवा से आप
तंग होंगे” उस ने अपनी सहानुभूति प्रकट की।

साधू अन्दर घुस आया। बिमला ने साधु के
लेटने का इन्तजाम किया। कम्बल, तकिए
आदि दिये गये। साधु लेटते ही सो गया।
रात के दस बजने पर बिमला के पति आये।
साधु को वह सन्देह भरी दृष्टि से देखने लगा।
बिमला ने सारी बातें कह सुनायी।

दूसरे दिन सबेरे उठकर उन्होंने देखा कि
साधु का शरीर थर-थर काँप रहा है दाँत से
दाँत बज रहे थे।

यह देखकर पति-पत्नी को सहानुभूति हुई।
उस समय साधू ने कहा-“बबड़ाइये मत। यह

मामूली बात है। आपकी उदारता और मानवता
के लिए मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ। आज लोगों को
भगवान सुख और शांति प्रदान करें।

“आप किस देश से आये हैं? क्या आप के
और कोई नहीं है?” बिमला ने पूछा।

“मेरा अब कोई देश नहीं है और न कोई
वंश मित्र है, मैं अकेला हूँ, मेरी कहानी बड़ी
दुःखमय होती है” साधू ने उत्तर दिया।

यह सुनकर दोनों ने साधू की कहानी सुनने
की लालसा प्रकट की।

साधू बैठ गया और उसकी कहानी सुनाने
लगा।

मैं मद्रास के एक कालेज में पढ़ रहा था।
मेरे पिताजी पहले ही मर चुके थे। माँ की देख
रेख में मैं पाला पोसा गया। जो लेई पूँजी थी
उससे मेरी पढ़ाई चल रही थी। मैं वि. ए.
कालास में पढ़ रहा था।

कहानी सुनते २ पति पत्नी दोनों बड़े कौतुक
से साधू की ओर देख रहे थे।

साधू फिर कहने लगा।-“कालेज के पास-
वाले एक घर की लड़की से मेरा परिचय हुआ।
परिचय धीरे २ प्रेम में बदल गया। वह दिनों-
दिन बढ़ने लगा। उसी वक्त मेरी माँ बीमार
पड़ी। मैं कालेज से माँ की सेवा करने आया।
कुछ ही दिनों में मुझे अकेला करके माँ चल
बसी।

मैं ने उस लड़की से शादी की। उस साल
परीक्षा में फेल हुआ। दो तीन साल में मैं एक
बच्ची का पिता बन गया। और कुछ नौकरी

न मिलने के कारण मैं सेना में भर्ती हुआ। हर महीने बेटी और पत्नी को मैं रुपये भेजता था। साल में एक बार उनसे मिलने छुट्टी पर घर आया करता था। यों पाँच साल बीत गए। कहानी कहते वक़्त भी साधू का शरीर काँप रहा था।

पीने के लिए साधु को कुछ चाय दिया गया। उसे पीते हुए साधु फिर अपनी कहानी कहने लगा।

मेरी बेटी भी अब पाँच वर्ष की होगयी थी। इतने में मैं बीमार पड़ गया। अस्पताल में इलाज केलिए रहना पड़ा। यों दो वर्ष बीत गए। उस बीच अपनी बेटी और पत्नी का कुछ पता मुझे न मिलता था। अपनी बेटी और पत्नी से मिलने की वडो चाह थी मेरे दिल में। चंगा होते ही फौज से मैं डिस्चार्ज किया गया। अपनी कमाई के साथ घर लौटा तो मालूम हुआ कि मेरी पत्नी और किसी के साथ चली गयी थी। न जाने बेटी कहाँ चली गयी। मेरी आँखों के सामने अंधकार छा गया।

क्या आपने अपनी बेटी को देख पाया है? विमला ने बीच में पूछा।

“अभी तक नहीं, पत्नी की बात मैंने छोड़ दी। पर मेरी बेटी की तलाश में चलता फिरता हूँ। अब चौदह साल से मैं उसी की तलाश

में धूमता-फिरता हूँ। उसे एक बार देख कर मर जाना मेरे जीवन की एक मात्र आशा है। क्या भगवान मेरी इस आशा को पूर्ण करेंगे?” कहते कहते साधू की आँखें भर आयीं। वह जोर २ से रोने लगा।

उसके बाद उसके पास जो गूदड़ था उसे विमला के हाथ में दिया और उसने कहा—“मैं आज मर रहा हूँ। मुझ में चलने की शक्ति नहीं है। आज मेरी बेटी की तलाश करके यह गठरी उसे देना।”

इतना कहकर साधू वहाँ लेट गया। विमला गठरी लेकर भीतर गयी। उसने उसे खोलकर देखा। कुछ रुपये और एक फोटो! गौर से देखने पर मालूम हुआ कि यह मेरे बचपन में अपने पिता के साथ बैठकर लिया हुआ फोटो है। विमला ने फिर फिर उसकी जाँच की। बाहर दौड़कर वह साधु के पैरों पर गिर पड़ी। “पिताजी, क्षमा कीजिए, मैं आप को पहचान न सकी। साधु की खुशी का ठिकाना न रहा। उसने जल्दी उठकर अपनी प्यारी बेटी को छाती से लगा लिया।

गिरने वाले अपने पिताजी को संभालकर विमला गोद में लेकर बैठ गयी। थोड़ी देर के बाद साधु का प्राण-पखेरु उड़ गया।

मौत की पुकार

[पौ० विश्वनाथ, क्लास ४ फिनिश]

“तुमने कुछ उपाय सोचा?”

“हो-सा?”

“क्या बतलाऊँ, आजकल ऐसी-ऐसी अनहोनी बातें हो रही हैं कि मेरा दिल बिलकुल ठिकाने नहीं है। जी चाहता है, इसी ज्वाला में देह-त्याग कर दूँ। न मालूम किस आशा के वश इस समय जीवन धारण किए हूँ।”

“अधिक पहेली न बुझाओ। क्या मामला है? जलदी उत्तर दो।”

“इसका जवाब मैं क्या दे सकता हूँ? कुछ कहता, परन्तु कहते डर लगता है।”

“कहो, क्या कहना है?”

“अब वनजा का गुजर यहाँ न होगा। उसे घर से निकालना चाहता हूँ। उसने यहाँ रह कर हमारा सर्वनाश किया है। उसने हमारी रही-सही आशाओं पर पानी फिरा दिया। अब उसे यहाँ रहने न देंगे। वह कहीं जा कर अपनी जीविका चलाएगी।”

“क्या कहते हो? उसने क्या कसूर किया है? क्यों उसको तंग करते हो?”

“मैंने इस विषय पर खूब विचार किया है। मेरा कहना मानो, नहीं तो तुम्हें आगे पछताना पड़ेगा। मैं उससे नफरत करता हूँ। उसने घोर

अपराध करके हमारी तीहीन की है। इस की सजा जरूर भोगनी चाहिए। दबने पर चींटी भी चोट करती”

“बता दो, उसने क्या अपराध किया?”

“इसका कारण नहीं बतला सकता। मैं लाचार हूँ। एक दिन इस विषय पर प्रकाश डालने की कोशिश करूँगा।”

इतने में वनजा कमरे के भीतर घाई। उसे देख कर दिलीपजी घबरा उठे। उनकी जवान न खली।

सरयू ने कहा—“बेटी, कहाँ गयी थी? रवीन्द्र ने क्या कहा? क्या वह हमसे झगडा करना चाहता है?”

वनजा बोली—“मामी जी, उसने कुछ नहीं कहा। वह आपसे मिलना चाहता है। मैंने उसे कुछ समय तक रुके रहने के लिए कह दिया है। आप भी सावधानी के साथ उस पर अपनी ह्स्टी रखें। वह बदमाश है...।”

“जरूर।”

रात का समय था। आकाश में तारे टिमटिमा रहे थे। हवा ने पेड़ों को चूम-चूम कर मुला दिया था।

मंदिर की दीवार के पास, एक पेड़ की आड़ में वनजा और गंगादास बैठे थे।

वनजा ने कहा—“मुझे घर से निकाल दिया है।”

“तुम्हें घर से निकाल दिया है! क्यों?”

"मैं क्या उत्तर दूँ? संसार में विधवाओं के लिए कोई जगह नहीं है। उनकी परवाह कोई नहीं करता। हाय! मैं बदनसीब हूँ। ईश्वर ने मेरा सब कुछ लुटा लिया। मैं क्या करूँ? दुनियाँ मुझे घृणा की दृष्टि से देखती है।"

"क्यों रोती हो? मेरे साथ आओ। मैं तुम्हें जगह दूँगा।"

"नहीं, मैं आपके साथ नहीं जा सकती। रहने दीजिए, मैं कहीं जा कर यह जीवन समाप्त कर दूँगी। आपको कष्ट देना उचित नहीं।"

"जानें दो। जो होना होता, बिना हुए नहीं रहता। रोने-धोने से जिन्दगी दूँभर हो जाती है। मेरे घर में आओ। हम एक साथ जीवन बिताएंगे।"

"मेरा इतिहास दुःख-पूर्ण है। मेरे हाथ बड़ा अन्याय हुआ है। मैं अब जीना नहीं चाहती। छोड़ दीजिए।"

"अभी नहीं छोड़ूँगा। पहले एक बात बतलाओ।"

"क्या?"

"तुम मुझे प्यार करती हो?"

वनजा ने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया।

"यदि तुम मेरे साथ रहना पसंद करोगी तो इस बड़ी दुनियाँ में कहीं हम लोग अपने लिए जगह ढूँढ़ लेंगे।"

"इस बेचारी को इस घोर संकाम में क्यों ले आया? हाय ईश्वर! क्या आप निष्ठुर हैं?"

आपने मेरा सर्वनाश करके क्या पाया? कहिए, क्या मैं आपके यहाँ आ सकती हूँ? इस दुनियाँ में मेरा कोई नहीं।"

"प्रिये, तुम क्यों ईश्वर को पुकारती हो? वह तुम्हारी शिकायत नहीं सुनेंगे। मैं तुम्हारी सहायता कर सकता हूँ। आओ, आधी रात हो गयी है। किसी ने सच कहा है, आप भला तो जग भला।"

* * * *

होली का दिन। वनजा सरकारी अस्पताल में थी। उसने एक सुन्दर शिशु को जन्म दिया। वह सो रही थी।

डाक्टर कमरे के अन्दर आए। उसने नर्स से कहा-"वह आराम से सो रही है। उसे जगा दो। कोई उसकी प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है।"

अचानक वनजा की नींद टूट गयी। उसने अपने सम्मुख डाक्टर और नर्स को देखा। वह उठने की कोशिश करने लगी।

डाक्टर बोले-"उठने की कोशिश मत करो तुम तो कमजोर हो गयी। अच्छा, कोई तुम्हारी प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है। उस से क्या कहूँ?"

"अन्दर आने दीजिए।"

दिलीपजी उस कमरे में दाखिल हुए। उन्हें देखते ही वनजा के दिल पर साँप लोट गया। उसने धबरा कर कहा-"आप क्यों आए?"

"डाक्टर, जरा कमरे के बाहर जाइए। मैं इससे एक गुप्त बात कहना चाहता हूँ।"

"लो, वे गये। अब कहिए, क्या समाचार है।"

"वनजा, तूने बड़ा पाप किया है। इस से अच्छा है दो सेर नमक खा कर नदी में कूद कर मरना। विधवा और उसका बेटा-यह असंभव बात है। तू"

दिलीप ने खिड़की से नीचे की तरफ देखा। कुहरे की सफेद दीवार के बीच गंगा साफ दिखाई दे रही थी।

"नीचे की ओर देख, कूदना कितना आसान है। है न? तो फिर कूद क्यों नहीं पड़ती? तुझे चोट नहीं लगेगी। गिरते ही सिरबदन ने अलग हो जाएगा और सब कुछ बड़ी आसानी से खतम हो जाएगा। एक बार डूबने की कोशिश कर। तू क्यों कूद नहीं पड़ती? तेरा सारा कष्ट बहुत जलदी दूर हो जाएगा। इस में डरने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं। मैं तुझे धक्का नहीं दूँगा। वनजा, तू संसार के लिए एक बड़ा बोझ है। तू विधवा होने पर भी हामिला होने की लालसा रखती है। तुझे शरम नहीं आती? तू ने हमारे खानदान की कलंकित किया है। हमारी आशाएँ चूरचूर हो रही हैं। जा, इस दुनियाँ से जा। तू मौत की पुकार नहीं सुनती? तू क्यों नहीं जाती? तेरे लिए जीवन बिलकुल निस्सार है। तू कूद कर उसे समाप्त क्यों नहीं कर देती? जा, मौत तेरा इन्तजार कर रही है। मौत की पुकार..."

"मौत की पुकार! हाँ, मैं मरूँगी। मुझे एक न एक दिन जरूर मरना है। आप जाइए।"

वनजा की आह भी लेकर जाइए। हाँ, मौत पुकारती है। मैं आ गयी।"

दिलीप चले गये। वनजा की आँखें डबडबा आयीं।

* * * *

आज वनजा के जीवन के अंतिम दिन है। वह लोहू की होली खेलना चाहती है। लो, वह जा रही है। कहाँ? ईश्वर के पास। हाँ, वह कहती है-"लो, मैं आ गयी। दुनियाँ, मुझे बिदा दो; अपनी बहन को मरने दो। वह परेशान हो गयी। उस का सब कुछ खो गया। वह जीवन से घृणा करती है। हाय! मैं अभागी हूँ। प्रियतम, आप क्यों हँसते हैं। सुनिए, मैं ने कुछ अपराध नहीं किया। दुनियाँ ने ही अपराध किया है। या उससे प्रभावित हो कर मैं ने भूल की। क्षमा कीजिए, मैं लाचार हूँ।"

हाय री विधवा! तेरी यह दुर्दशा! तू पुण्यवती है। संसार ने तेरे जीवन धन को लूटा। तेरी तोहीन की। लेकिन तू घटल रही। सचमुच तू महान स्त्री है। तू अब खुशी से मर सकती है।

हाय! यह किसकी आवाज है? हाँ तह मौत की पुकार है। मौत वनजा को अपने पास बुला रही है। लो, वनजा मर गयी। उसकी जीवन संध्या समाप्त हो गयी।

मेरा देश

(M. A. Philipose, Senior B. Sc. Class)

सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ।
कोयल सुन्दर गान सुनाता
मोर मनोहर नाच भी करता
भरने नीचे भर भर करते
मानो फूल की बर्षा होती ।
सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥

सूर्य महादेव रोज पधारते
शीतल चाँदनी सोम पसारती
भल मल करते तारागण हैं
मानो फूलन मुस्काते हैं ।
सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥

खिल खिल करते बाग सभी
खिल जाते तब फूल सभी
मुस्काते ही आती बहार
मानो न्योता देती बार

सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥
दिनबर लोग भी तब हैं मिलते
प्रेम के राज्य बसाये जाते
राजा रानी उनमें बैठते
लोभित सब के मन भी होते

गोवा की ओर एक भाँकी

[सार० राजपण्डित उष्य]

१५ आगस्त सन् १९४६ को भारत स्वतंत्र हुवा । भारत को आजाद हुए अब करीब नौ बरस हुए हैं । पर क्या हम सचमुच आजाद हुए ? भारत के एक हिस्से में पुर्तुगल का झंडा फहरा रहा है । इस कारण हम अपने को पूर्ण स्वतंत्र नहीं कह सकते । जब तक गोवा भारत में मिला नहीं लिया जायगा तब तक हम अपने को आजाद नहीं मान सकते । गोवा

सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा,
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥

सुन्दर सपना है सब देखते
मानो देवन के गण होते
मिलते जुलते हैं सब जाते
मानो भाई-बहिन सब होते

सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥

प्रेम सजीला मेरा देश
फैलाता है यह सन्देश -
"प्रेम का बनकर दोबाना
सेवा निस्वार्थ सब को करना"

सुन्दर मोहन देश है मेरा
वृन्दावन की भाँति हरा ॥

के अपने भाइयों का उद्धार किए बिना हम रह सकते हैं ? कभी नहीं । तभी हम आजाद हो सकते जब गोवा में भी भारत का तिरंगा झंडा फहराया ।

पिछले आजादी के दिन में गोवा के भाइयों ने भी भारत का तिरंगा झंडा वहाँ फहराया था । लेकिन वहाँ क्रूर सैनिकों ने उसको जला दिया । यह करतूत भभकती आग में धी डालने के समान थी । कई वर्षों से स्वतंत्र होने के किए लड़ने वाले गोवा निवासियों के आत्माभिमान पर चोट लगी । वे दल पर दल बाँधकर सत्याग्रह करने लगे । उनका रोना सुनकर भारतवासी भी निद्रा तजकर अपने भाइयों की सहायता करने के लिए आगे बढे । लेकिन पुर्तुगलों के तोपों से निकलने वाली गोलियों ने भारतीयों का स्वागत किया । लेकिन भारतीय जवान उस से बिलकुल न घबराये । वे पस्तहिम्मत न हुए । बरबर पुर्तुगलोंकी परवाह न करके अनेकों जवान उस दिन शहीद बन गए और करीब एक हजार लोग घायल हुए । उस से सत्याग्रहियों का जोश बढ ही गया । सत्याग्रहियों की संख्या दिनों दिन बढने लगी ।

लेकिन हमारे प्रधान मंत्री से यह सहा न गया । उन्होंने सत्याग्रहियों को आगे बढने न दिया । सचमुच यह बड़ी भारी भूल थी । हमारे भाई गुलामी की जंजीर में जकड़े रहे और हम यह देखकर मौन रहें । क्या यह न्याय संगत है ? सत्याग्रहियों को प्रोत्साहन देकर गोवा

निवासियों की रक्षा करना हमारा कर्तव्य है न ? उसी हंग पर चल कर हमने अपनी मातृभूमि को आजाद किया । पुर्तुगलों को हम चन्द मिनिटों में गोवा से भगा सकते हैं । महात्मा गान्धीजीने जो रास्ता हमें बताया उस रास्ते पर चल कर गोवा का उद्धार करना हमारा कर्तव्य है । गान्धी के अनन्य भक्त और शिष्य हमारे प्रधान मंत्री को उसी राह पर चलना चाहिये था । फिर वे क्यों उदास होकर सत्याग्रहियों को निरुत्साह कर रहे हैं ? दल के बाद दल बाँधकर अगर भारतीय जवान गोवा में प्रवेश करते तो पुर्तुगल सरकार चकरा जायेगी और उन्होंने थोडे दिनों में लाचार होकर गोवा छोड़ना पडता । पर पण्डितजी उसके अनुकूल नहीं हैं । उनका कहना है कि भारत में पुर्तुगल अधिक दिन रह नहीं सकेंगे । धीरे धीरे गोवा छोडकर फिरंगी चले जायेंगे ।

लेकिन हमारा चुप रहकर बरबर फिरंगीयो को भारत छोडकर चला जाना असंभव की बात मालुम होती है । हैदराबाद के संबध में स्व० वल्लभभाई पटेल ने जो नीति अपनायी वही यहाँ भी लागू हो सकती थी । उस नीति के ग्रहण करने पर गोवा का आजाद होना आसान था । पुर्तुगलों को पण्डितजी की राष्ट्रनीति खूब मालुम है । और उससे वे लाभ उठा रहे हैं । सलासर अपनी कूट नीति चला रहा है । अब हमें अपनी उदारता पर राष्ट्रनीति को छोडकर गोवा में यदि हम सत्याग्रह को जारी रखेंगे तो जरूर पुर्तुगल यहाँ से लौट जायेंगे ।

कोयल

[श्री० सुरसोधरन नायर, कलास २, पृष्ठ १]

बादल से भी काली है तू,
फुलबारी की राणी है तू,
रम्य मुद्रा बरसाती है तू,
देवी गीत सुनाती है तू।

कहाँ गया है तेरा माधुक ?
क्या करता है तेरा आशिक ?
क्यों गाती है, काली नारी ?
कोन, कोन तू, विपिन कुमारी ?

कोन कोन तू सुर-वाला-सी,
मधुर कंठ से गानेवाली;
बोल कोन तू, सुर-वीणा-सी,
'कू' 'कू' शब्द सुनानेवाली ?

कोयल, मेरी फुलबारी में
आ जा प्रतिपल गाने गाकर,
मुक्ति मिलेगी मुन तेरे गान
सुन्दर गीत सुना दे पंछी।

अगर कहीं मैं पंछी होता,
तो तेरे साथ उड़ने आता ;

गोवा और भारत एक ही है। किसी तरह
उसको भारत में मिलाए बिना हमें चैन नहीं
मिलेगी। हम आजाद नहीं होंगे। हम सब
गोवा चलें।

विश्वशान्ति

(A. P. Abraham, III Class, Chemistry)

आज विज्ञान का युग है। मनुष्य की बुद्धि
दिन ब दिन बढ़ती रहती है। तद्वारा मनुष्य के
जीवन में भी परिवर्तन होता रहता है।
विज्ञान द्वारा अनेक आविष्कार दुनियाँ में हुए
हैं। टेलिफोन, रेडियो, हवाई जहाज, टेलिविजन
आदी उस के उदाहरण हैं। आज दुनियाँ
संस्कृति में उच्चकोटि पर आ गयी है। आज
दुनियाँ सब से आकर्षक बन गयी है। इन सब
संस्कृतियों के बढ़ने पर भी, और इन सब
आविष्कारों के होते हुए भी मनुष्य कभी तृप्त
नहीं होता।

आज दो विश्व-महायुद्ध हो चुके हैं। हम
उसके दुष्परिणाम भी देख चुके हैं। इन दो
महायुद्धों का कारण केवल व्यक्ति का स्वार्थ
ही था। क्यों कि :-

अगर कहीं मैं कोयल होता,
तो मैं तुझ से बातें करता।

हाय अभाग है हम मानव
ईश्वर की आँखों में दानव;
हम तो नभ में उड़ने पाते,
हाय हमें दे तेरी शक्ति ॥

"विश्व मानव के हृदय निर्दोष में
मूल हो सकता नहीं द्रोहाग्नि का
चाहता लड़ना नहीं समुदाय है,
फँकती लपटें विपत्ती व्यक्तियों की सांस से।"

पहले युद्ध के बाद लोग युद्ध से ऊब गये।
इसलिये विश्वशान्ति स्थापित करने केलिये
उन्होंने "लीग ऑफ नेशन" का सृजन किया। पर
वह विश्व में शान्ति कायम रख न सका। क्यों
कि वह हथियार रहित था। इसलिये स्वार्थ-
लोलुप एवं सम्पत्ता के अग्रणी समझने वाले
नायकों के साम्राज्य सुप्रभुत्व से एक दूसरा
महायुद्ध फूट पड़ा। इसलिये करोड़ों नारियाँ
विधवा बन गयीं, और हजारों बालक आश्रयहीन
हो गये। सभी जगह अशांति फैलने लगी।
इसके दुष्परिणाम को देखकर संसार की महान
वक्तियों ने निश्चय किया कि आगे ऐसा न
हो। इसलिये शान्ति की स्थापना करने
केलिये उन्होंने यु. एन. थो. नामक एक संगठन
की स्थापना की। अभी तक वह काम करता
रहता है।

आज सभी महान-वक्तियों एक दूसरे से
डरती रहती हैं। न जाने इन आत्मवचन
और हैडजट वचन से दुनियाँ में क्या क्या
होनेवाला है। आज सभी लोग डरते हैं कि
एक तीसरा विश्व-महायुद्ध कब फूट पड़ेगा।

आज की सभी अंशान्ति का कारण यही है कि-
"यों ही, नरों में भी विकारों की शिखारें आग सी
एक से मिल एक जलती हैं प्रचण्ड वेग से,
तप्त होता धुंध अन्तर्व्योम पहले व्यक्ति का,

और तब उठता धक्का समुदाय का आकाश भी
क्षोभ से दाहक धूँला से, गरल इधरों द्वेष से।"

आज कुछ लोग दुनियाँ में शान्ति फैलाना
चाहते हैं और तीसरी महायुद्ध से बचना ही
उन का उद्देश्य है। पर जब तक मनुष्य
स्वार्थलोलुप हो जाते हैं तब तक शान्ति
नहीं हो सकती। आज दुनियाँ अनेक
राष्ट्रीय पार्टियों में बंटी हुई है। भिन्न-भिन्न
प्रादेशों से ऐसा हुआ है। आज हर एक
राष्ट्र में अनेक पार्टियाँ दीख पड़ती हैं।
इसलिये प्रत्येक राष्ट्र में शासनक्रम में कठिना-
इयाँ होती रहती हैं। क्या कहना, संसार के
हर एक कोने में देखे तो अशान्ति एवं असमा-
नता ही दिखाई पड़ती है। सभी जगह
समस्या की भरमार। इन सब समस्याओं को
सुलझाना असंभव सा मालूम पड़ता है। इन
समस्याओं को सुलझाये बिना शान्ति कैसे
स्थापित की जा सकती है।

संसार में शान्ति स्थापित करने केलिये एवं
व्यक्तियों को सुधारने केलिये गांधीजी ने बहुतेरे
उपदेश दिये हैं। वे समझते थे कि व्यक्तियों
के सुधारने से ही समुदाय सुधरेगा। इसलिये हर
एक व्यक्ति दानशील एवं अपने भाइयों के
दुःख में भाग लेनेवाले हृदय धारण करे तो
दुनियाँ से कुछ असमत्त्व दूर हो जायेगा। पर इन
धनलोलुप लोगों के हृदय को पिघलाना मुश्किल
की बात है। मनुष्यों के हृदय में जो अशान्ति-
कारी भावनाएँ हैं उसे मूलोच्छेद कर देना
चाहिये। गांधीजी के कहे अनुसार "तत्त्व-ज्ञान
एक बगूँक रखो तो तुम्हारे प्रतिपक्षी दू।

रखेगा। इसलिये शारीरिक बल पर अवलंबित न होकर मनोबल पर स्थित होना चाहिये। शान्ति लता को पोषण द्रव्य अत्यन्त आवश्यक। पर आज-कल वह बहुत कम दीख पड़ता है।

विश्वशान्ति स्थापित करने केलिये भारत कुछ काम कर रहे हैं। नेहरू जी के पंचशील उसकेलिये सहायक हो जायेगा, जिसे चीन ने स्वीकार किया और रूस आदि राष्ट्र स्वीकार करना भी चाहते हैं। आज दुनिया तो दो भागों में बंट गयी है। एक पश्चिमी भाग और दूसरा पूरबी है। पर भारत इन दोनों में भाग लिये बिना विश्व शान्ति केलिये काम करता है। उसकेलिये ही नेहरूजी सारे राष्ट्र में घूमते फिरते हैं। वे घन मन तन से इस में व्यस्त रहते हैं।

आज विश्व शान्ति केलिये U. N. O. कुछ काम कर रहे हैं। पर उसमें चार महान् शक्तियाँ ही भागी हुई हैं। चीन को उसका भाग लेने नहीं देता। इसलिये वहाँ भी अशान्ति होती रहती है। उसकी कारवाइयाँ देखकर ऐसा मालूम होता है कि वह सगठन भी काम में न आयेगा। आज संसार के बड़े बड़े प्रश्नों पर चर्चा करने केलिये एवं विश्व-शान्ति स्थापित करने केलिये जेनीवा में चार महान् शक्तियों के प्रतिनिधियों का एक सम्मेलन हो रहा है। पर डब्लस और मोलोटोव

इन दोनों में अभिप्राय भिन्नता होती है न जाने उसका परिणाम क्या होगा।

विश्वशान्ति केलिये सभी राष्ट्रों को एक प्रेमपाश में बंध होना चाहिये। हर एक राष्ट्र को अपने साम्राज्य मोह को छोड़ देना चाहिये। उपनिवेशों का अन्त हो जाना है। आत्म शक्ति को सीधे मार्ग पर चलाकर उपयोगी बनाना है। जब हर एक राष्ट्र की ऐसी एक दृष्टि होगी जिसके द्वारा सारे राष्ट्र को समान रूप से देख सकता है, तभी विश्व में शान्ति होगी। ऐसा होने केलिये प्रत्येक राष्ट्र को कुछ कुछ कठिनाइयाँ भोगनी पड़ेंगी। जब हर एक राष्ट्र एक दूसरे से घृणा नहीं करेगा तब वहाँ के लोगों में भी ऐसी भावनाएँ उत्पन्न हो जायेंगी। तब मनुष्य के बीच से सुख दुःख का प्रश्न भी दूर हो जायेगा। वे आपस में सहायता करने में व्यस्त हो जायेंगे। भारत के राष्ट्रीय नय को सारे राष्ट्र को स्वीकार करना चाहिये।

विश्व शान्ति होने केलिये और ऐसे एक सुन्दर संसार का सृजन करने केलिये हम कोशिश करें।

“वह लोक, जहाँ शोणित का ताप नहीं है,
नर के सिर पर रण का अभिशाप नहीं है,
जीवन समता की चाह-तले पलता है,
घर-घर पीपूष-प्रदीप जहाँ जलता है”।

Licence No. 331 dated 15th October 1935.



THE UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

ALWAYE
MARCH 1957