

THE SECULAR CITIZEN

Vol.30 Issue No.41 ■ (Total Pages 20) ■ Mumbai, 11 - 17 October, 2021 ■ Rs. 10

A NATIONAL FAMILY WEEKLY

Flagship of New India

by Don Aguiar.

On 16 September 2021, a joint operation by the DRI and Customs unearthed a large cache of contraband heroin from two containers from Afghanistan that had arrived at the Mundra International Container Terminal (MICT), Mundra Port.

The seizure of 3,000 kg of heroin worth Rs 21,000 crore at Adani's Mundra port in Gujarat has come as a shocker. These sort of consignments, now estimated to be the largest drug acquisition anywhere in the world, have allegedly taken place at the port several times since last June. Why did the BJP rulers and the right-wing people who claim to be patriots refuse to speak out over the seizure of billions worth of heroin in Adani's port?

Is Prime Minister Modi the culprit behind the illicit drug trade that took place in the port owned by his close friend Adani? Why is he keeping quiet? Where is the 'real' Mann Ki Baat? Is Modi's New India dream nothing but privatizing the ports for smoother illicit drug trade?

Only the Adani Group was quick to issue a statement pertaining to the Mundra Port drug bust after it was subjected to a massive social media campaign. Issuing the statement on Twitter, the Adani Group said that a joint operation was carried out by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Customs on September 16, 2021. The operation led to a major bust wherein a large cache of contraband heroin from two containers arrived from Afghanistan at the Mundra Port. The statement further added that only government authorities like Customs and DRI are allowed to open, examine and seize the unlawful cargo. It further said that port operators in the country are not authorised to examine a container as their role is limited to running the port.

It is highly disappointing that while the ruling BJP has remained silent on a news that could shake the country, the entire media, which is supposed to question the conscience of the people of the ruling class, has

also remained silent. This is proof of where BJP will take the country when everything is privatised and taken over by private employers. Will the Modi Government now say that private employers will never come forward to serve the people rather look for profitability alone?

The opposition has demanded an inquiry or a Supreme Court monitored probe, but the Modi Government would have none of this and got the Indian Media to divert the public attention and interest to his grand State Visit to the US, that was going to solve every world problem from climate change to China to poverty to international conflict and also would be an occasion to strengthen the Indo-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and consolidate ties with Japan and Australia. Bowing to the dictate of the Modi Government the Indian Media termed his visit to the US to the audience at home as something historic.

But how did other players respond? And how did the media, especially sections of social media, view it all? Some things do not change. Even in 2019, PM Modi's visit was presented as a major world event and a huge success but only by the Indian media for their audience back home, but it barely registered as a footnote in the US media. Let's see the chain of events.

When Modi landed in US, he was received by some low level deputy secretary of Biden's administration.

He then met US VP Kamala Harris who schooled Modi to defend democratic values and institutions at Home. Modi immediately tweets about his meeting with Kamala but Kamala doesn't tweet about it. Bhakts flood her Twitter begging her to tweet about her meeting with Modi. Did she oblige.....

Modi then meets CEOs of Qualcomm, Abode and 3 other companies. Only 5 CEOs accepted to meet him. What fruitfulness came out of this meeting is not known. Qualcomm and Abode already have major delivery centres in India.

(Contd.. on p. 3)

Are We Living In A Fool's Paradise

In the aftermath of the Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan where reports of their violent success has shocked the civilized world, global attention has thankfully shifted from the pandemic and its drastic effects which has left the entire world shell shocked by its severity.

The extensive coverage of the territorial gains the Taliban has been making in the land of Pashtuns and the political implications of such a dominance that is yet to transform from an insurgency to a sensible rule has had the world media in a state of speculation.

Of late, these 'wild theories' about the 'Talibanization' of Afghanistan have been keeping channels busy which in turn has temporarily put a lid on the incessant reports of COVID-19 and its day-to-day devastations.

Day in and day out, for the last eighteen months it has been only news of the dreaded virus and reports of the shocking rise in infections and the number of deaths caused by it that invariably featured as topics for media discussion.

The statistics proffered served to be so portentously terrifying that it proved to be more contagious than the contagion itself.

So, was it the daily bombardment of the second and third-wave predictions by the press and media that had the public in a hyper-ventilated state with regard to the pandemic! The panicked response is undoubtedly an offshoot of this trend.

Even otherwise, it has been a contradiction galore when it comes to reporting the SOPs put in place in various states to counter the threats of the virus infection. Especially the tests mandated for entry into their ter-

ritories!

Quite contrary to news reports which state that there are strict checking and tests done by authorities at the borders of various states, people traveling to-and-fro refute such claims.

We are in an age where the news reporting has scaled new heights with media houses believing in widespread coverage of the topics that have the potential to fetch them maximum TRP ratings or increase their circulation.



by Pachu Menon

Yet, in the haste to achieve this 'distinction' they forget that by persistently delving into as sensitive a subject as the harshness of the pandemic, they are only abetting in the escalation of 'Coronaphobia' amongst the masses.

While the fascination for 'building up' on stories is what keeps the media ticking, the pandemic coverage by the press has assumed apocalyptic proportions. Even the social media has not been all that merciful and continues to feed a daily overdose of the pandemic mayhem.

Maybe the media's attention on the Afghan-affairs has palpably brought about a hiatus on COVID-tidings in the country for now. But it would be foolhardy to nurture the notion that the world is on the verge of ushering in a corona-free ambience.

Far from that!

With COVID it has been a see-saw battle so far with the virus getting the better of the comprehensive efforts of the governments and the global fraternity of scientists who have, thus far, fought on valiantly to restrain the marauding microbe.

It is quite easy to be lulled into a false sense of security. The intermittent re-

spites from the rigours of an infection spree that the virus has been indulging in with a promptness that is damning could well be the results of the sustained efforts by the administration and doctors to curb the disease.

It is however these short breathers which have been confused for victories against the invisible villain and which has further emboldened members of the public to move out with the self-assurance that the worst is behind them.

With reports of another spike in infections reported across the country, the delusion should make people realize the enormity of the situation. It is akin to the feeling of building sand-castles at the edge of the waves only to see them being swept away by the incoming tide.

With the Centre insisting that there can be no room for complacency with regard to the COVID situation in the country, it becomes all the more important that corrective steps are taken and people realize the importance of safeguarding themselves against the scourge of the disease.

Even as the nation is yet to come to terms with the devastating second-wave, serious threats of an equally potent third one already looms large over the country.

With high caseloads reported in states like Kerala and Maharashtra, strict compliance of the pandemic norms will but be expected from the public.

However if reports are to be believed, there has been absolutely no regard for COVID protocols on ground and blatant violations have been observed in several parts of the country.

While the reach of the vaccine has in-

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Subscriptions Rate:

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Next Modi meets US President Joe Biden in the White House. Modi was received by one of the secretaries of Biden at the door step. Generally when world leaders go to the White House, the US president receives them at the door and also bids good-bye at the door. Biden doesn't do either of those to Modi. Then they have meeting. No one knows what good came out of that meeting.

Such visits by the head of the country's government to gatherings of major world leaders are important and necessary, even if not essential — because not to make the effort to travel and be seen would be an own goal. But part of the magic is to manage expectations, say the right things at the right time, but to do so in an understated manner that does not make the audience cynical. But perhaps the most important thing is to be accessible to the world's press.

Meanwhile, Indian Media tried to see how Modi's visit was covered in the US media but there was nothing. There was barely a mention of the Modi visit in the US media save a brief mention in the context of the QUAD meeting. Then the Indian Media tried

to talk to American Civilians who knew nothing about Modi but told the media India's poverty has increased.

Jingoism of the Indian Media coverage for the people back home took precedence over factual reporting about the UN session. It was disappointing to see the factual coverage that only a few seats were occupied when PM Modi addressed the UN General Assembly as it drew little interest. And even more disappointed that no one applauded. Either India's Permanent Mission at the UN goofed up massively or the respect India once commanded at the UN is lost with the humiliation, no photo shoot, lecture on democracy, no permission for Howdy event, unapproved vaccine, Modi's no knowledge on international politics and zero communication skills, no US press coverage, resulting in Modi get-

ting the Indian Media to salvage his great image back home and cutting short his planned trip to only 2 days. This visit to the US has ended on a vastly different note in comparison with previous visits. Call it rebuke, censure or distancing from Modi, the sharp message to ensure democracy prevailed.

The great irony is that all this while, the democratic values were supposed to be the cementing factor in the India – US relationship – and more important, that it was, in ideological terms, the raison d'être of the Quad itself. Modi wouldn't have bargained that the sword of Democracy is double edge and can also come to haunt those who preach it cavalierly without themselves practicing it. With this is Modi showing us the flagship of his new India.

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Model Co-Operative Bank Ltd. Holds 104th AGM



areth, A. C. Lobo, Sanjay Shinde, Thomas Lobo, Lawrence D'Souza, Pius Vas, Benedicta Rebello, Gerald Cardoza, Ancy D'Souza and George Castelino were also present. Former GM & CEO, William L. D'Souza, presently Consultant was also present.

Shareholders who interacted at the meeting giving their views and suggestions were Dr. Thomas Mathai, Neville D'Silva, Mark Oliveira, Edwin Menda, John Lobo, Robert Nazareth, Desmond D'Silva, Aldon Fernandes and Francina D'Souza.

Mr. Osden Fonseca (currently Asst. General Manager and to be General Manager & CEO - Designate) compered the programme.

Vice Chairman William Sequeira proposed the vote of thanks.

We wish Model Co-op. Bank Ltd. all the best for the future and are sure that the Bank will grow from strength to strength under the guidance of it's Chairman and Directors, able and professional Management & Staff, support and patronage of Customers and Shareholders.

– Ronida

The 104th Annual General Meeting of Model Co-operative Bank Ltd. was held at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 30th September, 2021 online. Due to the pandemic related restrictions on gatherings this was the first time that the Bank was holding it's AGM online.

The meeting commenced with a short prayer by Director Thomas Lobo and a reading read by Sr. Manager – Beata Carvalho

Approximately 115 shareholders participated in the meeting on-line.

The Chairman Albert W. D'Souza presided over the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the Shareholders / Members. He thanked them for participating online in the Annual General Meeting and reposing their trust in the Bank. The Chairman in his opening address to the Shareholders gave an overview of the economy and spoke on how the Bank was able to support it's customers during the pandemic. The Bank had kept all services operational and ensured care was taken for safety of customers and staff. He thanked the shareholders for their continuous support and encouragement, due to which the Bank has been able to grow from strength to strength. He appealed to the shareholders to

avail of the services offered by the Bank and to introduce new customers to the Bank.

Financial highlights of the Bank include - achieved deposit of Rs.1103.33 crores and Advances of Rs. 572.28 crores i.e. a Business mix of Rs. 1675.61 crores; well controlled NPA level at 2.22%; capital adequacy ratio of 13.55%; CRR and SLR always maintained; CBS full implemented; Sound control and Regulatory com-fort. The Bank has met all the parameters required for a FSWM (Financially Sound and Well Managed) Bank, which was commendable considering the economic situation caused due to Covid. The overall performance of the bank has been good.

The Chairman presented the Audited Statements of Accounts including the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended March 31, 2021. The Members raised queries and the Chairman and Officiating General Manager Zenon D'Cruz provided, clarifications to the queries to the satisfaction of the Members present.

Founder Chairman, John D'Silva addressed the gathering.

Directors Vincent Mathias, Paul Naz-

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Democracies under Threat!

The prime minister Narendra Modi's US trip has ended and he is back in the country. The people would definitely like to know how his visit has benefitted our country. Reports say, he has met the Business class to discuss greater cooperation in technology, space and other sectors. Whether that translates into something concrete remains to be seen. However, perhaps the most important event of his visit, was the one-to-one meeting with the Indian origin Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris.

At a joint media appearance, Kamala Harris made a very forceful statement when she called for 'defending democracies from within'. She said, "as democracies around the world are under threat, it is imperative that we defend democratic principles within our respective countries and around the world". She couldn't have put it better. It was apparently a clear message to India. We should be wise perhaps, to decipher the hidden message in that statement. The Threat is real and we need to wake up to this reality.

Our relationship with the US has not always been on the best of terms, rather America has proved to be an unreliable ally, one could say. The American President Joe Biden however, made an encouraging statement when he said, the relationship between India and the US, the largest democracies in the world, is "destined to be stronger, closer and tighter". Was this mere rhetoric, only time will tell.

—Melville X. D'Souza,
Mumbai

Modi's America trip

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States comes from a position of strength at a time when the Indian economy has gained momentum!", said an eminent Indian American, Silicon Valley-based and Indiaspora founder M.R. Rangaswami to PTI in an interview on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. *"India under Mr. Modi", he said, "has emerged as a strong economic power in the world."*

What a lie!

The Godi media in India has highlighted many things of Modi's recent 3-day American trip and projected Modi as a great Indian hero; but the reality is expressed by the America's most reliable newspapers. **The New York Times** of Sunday 26th September front page headline is: *India's Hitler in USA worst Indian PM in history!* The front page further says, *"Modi has no answers; he refuses to give press conference in USA"*. Further down Modi is described as *"... leader who ran India into the ground!... Worst economy, worst education in 30 years!"*

Is not every word of the report true? When will the Indian population know the truth and save the country from further precipice? The only achievement in Modi's American trip, the *Godi media* (The Media that is sitting on the lap of Modi) can boast about is that Modiji had to listen humbly to two sermons, one by President Biden on 'Mahatma Gandhi' and second sermon by the Vice President Kamala Harris on 'democracy'. The world knows today that under Modi regime both these values are bleeding profusely in India! The latest action that proves Modi as a 'Phekoo' is the fake publicity made about 2.5 crores vaccinations done on Modi's birthday on 17 Sep.! The

truth behind it is that the vaccinations done on previous 2 days (15-16) were not registered in the computer, 3-day total was registered on 17th! As a result on 15-16 Sep. Those vaccinated did not get their certificates till 17th!

The only trustworthy TV channel today in India is NDTV and that too Adani Group is trying to own and make it a *Godi media!* Shall we not rise and protest?

सत्यमेव जयते!

— Fr Michael G.,
Vasai

Agera, A harvest festival of the East Indian community

The East Indian Catholic community of Mumbai celebrated Agera last Sunday.

The festival was in thanksgiving for the rich harvest of grains the community have had during the past one year. This harvest festival is being celebrated for several centuries.

The name 'Agera' is derived from a Latin word, which means 'field'.

In villages where several East Indians live, a few sheaves of rice are cut symbolically from the paddy fields by the local parish priest. The sheaves are then carried to the church in bullock carts to symbolise the feast.

In the city of Mumbai, the sheaves are carried to the church in a procession from the nearest cross. The women wear traditional lugras and the men wear surkas.

An East Indian brass band accompanies the parishioners and the priest playing their lilting East Indian Marathi songs while altar boys and girls lead the procession carrying a cross or a lighted candle.

The rice sheaves are then distributed to the people after being sprinkled with Holy Water. It is then kept on the altar at home to symbolise that we Catholics are thankful for the rice that we are fed with daily.

—Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai.

Wider “WE” is Witness!

On 23 September 2021, two civilians were killed and several others including nine policemen were injured in violence during an eviction drive in Assam’s Darrang district. The so-called ‘eviction drive’ by the State Government is another blatant effort to ‘weed’ out ‘foreigners’ (read ‘Muslims’) from the State. Assam has not stopped targeting the Muslims (who comprise about one-third of the State’s population). Already in August 2019 the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) omitted 1.9 million people. In an exhaustive but insightful article in the New York Times (15 September 2021), ‘They Are Manufacturing Foreigners’: How India Disenfranchises Muslims’, Siddhartha Deb writes, *“the Hindu right has long identified border regions like Kashmir and Assam as places to raise the specter of a Muslim threat. But while Kashmir has often been used to conjure the danger of secession, Assam represents, in the rhetoric of Hindu extremists, a more insidious menace — that of a steady, cross-border influx of Muslims guaranteed to make Hindus a persecuted minority in their own country. Assam is largely peripheral to historic Indian civilizations as well as to modern India — Guwahati lies more than 1,000 miles east of Delhi, with China and Myanmar far closer. Yet Assam has become central to the question of who is — and who is not — entitled to be a citizen in India.”*



BY FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ

Almost fifty years ago in 1972, David Campton, a prolific British dramatist, wrote an apparently innocuous, straight-forward and simple one-act play, entitled ‘**Us and Them**’. The play begins innocently enough with two groups of wanderers looking for an ‘ideal’ place to settle. They do find this ‘ideal’ place in the midst of environmental grandeur. Ironically, their ‘places’ are adjacent to each other. After mutual agreement they draw a line (what most of us humans will find just natural and practical) demarcating their respective territories. No problem for some time; soon however, the line becomes a fence, the fence becomes a wall, and the wall grows in size until neither side knows what the other is doing, on the ‘other side’ of the wall!

Naturally, they keep wondering! They start ‘jumping to conclusions. In a matter of time, their thoughts turn to suspicion and their suspicion to mistrust and mistrust to fear, with each side believing that the other is hatching a plot against them. As fear takes hold, both sides begin preparing for a possible conflict until eventually it becomes a reality and violent. In the end, two survivors, looking at the waste they have inflicted on one other, conclude, “the wall was to blame”. The play was reflective of the growing polarisation and divisiveness that had seized several nations and groups at that time of history. It was a play meant to ridicule the abysmal depths to which human nature can fall; to highlight the absolute stupidity yet the suffering caused solely by humans, which exists in society!

Campton’s play is very reflective of what is happening in India today: of how divisiveness and polarisation, jingoism and xenophobia have gripped several sections of society. Thanks to the venomous hate speeches spewed

out by politicians (particularly from the ruling regime) and sadly enough even by some Catholic Bishops. A significant section of society has now become ‘Us and Them’; the tendency is to exclude the other: by what they eat or wear, read or see, believe or profess, the colour of their skin or their ethnicity. Even sacred terms like ‘jihad’ are used in a derogatory way to cast aspersions on the other.

It is in this painful context that Pope Francis’ message **Towards an Ever Wider “We”** for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees which is observed by the Catholic Church on 26 September 2021, makes not only tremendous sense but provides a definite direction for all who would claim to be disciples of Jesus. The opening words of his message makes his intention clear, *“in the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, I expressed a concern and a hope that remain uppermost in my thoughts: “Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation. God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’” (No. 35). For this reason, I have wished to devote the Message for this year’s World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the theme, Towards an Ever Wider “We”, in order to indicate a clear horizon for our common journey in this world”.*

The Pope continues his message with a brief history of salvation and the importance of ‘we’ as it unfolds. He uses strong words when we says, *“Our “we”, both in the wider world and within the Church, is crumbling and cracking due to myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 11) and radical individualism (cf. ibid., 105). And the highest price is being paid by those who most easily become viewed as others: foreigners,*

(Contd.. on p. 7)

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migrants, the marginalized, those living on the existential peripheries”.

Pope Francis has made the care and concern for refugees and migrants a hallmark of his papacy. His homilies, messages and talks constantly refer to their plight. Recently as the Afghan crisis unfolded he called upon everyone to help those who have been so tried, especially women and children, saying solidarity brings coexistence and peace. He said that in historic moments like these, we cannot remain indifferent, specially to those who become victims of the crisis and have to seek refuge elsewhere.

His message, in essence, focuses on a Church that is more and ‘Catholic’! This perhaps will not go down well with some of the ‘holy’ Catholics of today – who have made exclusivity a trademark of their rather unchristian ‘Catholicism’. With his usual candour, Pope Francis minces no words saying, *“In our day, the Church is called to go out into the streets of every existential periphery in order to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, without prejudice or fear, without proselytising, but ready to widen her tent to embrace everyone. Among those dwelling in those existential peripheries, we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached”.* The Pope is unequivocal: every Catholic has to be a Witness today!

There is the case of a young Chris-

tian woman from Pakistan: as a child she was neglected and rejected. She married a Christian man when still not out of her teens; the marriage turned out to be an unhappy one and she ultimately legally separated from him and being given the custody of the two children she bore. A few years later she met an Indian Christian widower (with a daughter) on an online portal. She ultimately came to India with her two children, they married in the Catholic Church, and the couple lived happily with the three children. Thanks to the affluence of the husband, the family was well received and popular in the community. Unfortunately, tragedy struck with the husband succumbing to the pandemic. There was a spontaneous outpouring of sympathy and material help for the bereaved widow and the three children.

Greed for the deceased’s property however, got the better of a relative of the dead first wife of the deceased husband. He first tried to take guardianship of the minor daughter which was refused by a Court. He then filed a complaint saying that the Pakistani woman was living in India based on fraudulent documents. The fact is that whilst she entered India legally, her deceased husband had managed to get her other official Indian documents based on some fake certificates. She was totally oblivious and innocent of this. She was jailed for a month but is now out on bail, waiting for the trial to begin. In the meantime, she gave birth to another child from her late husband. Ever since she was jailed, barring the exception of just two or three, the Christians have shunned her like a ‘pariah’; there is very little material help forthcoming and practically no signs of empathy and solidarity; what abounds however are rumours, gossip and derogatory remarks on the hapless woman, who is a victim of circumstances in a foreign land. It could be because of a ‘misplaced fear’ but certainly far from what is expected from a disciple of Jesus. Pope Francis surely has instances like these in mind when he calls upon the Church to become more and ‘Catholic’: to be witnesses! Fr Stephen Raj SJ the South Asia Regional Director of the Jesuit Refugee

Service, speaking of the challenges refugees face today says, *“the new influx of Myanmar Chin refugees in large scale in Manipur and Mizoram face untold hardships for survival. They are in pitiful condition and facing acute hardship in terms of food, clothing, shelter, medical aid and protection. For them to reach New Delhi based UNHCR to apply for asylum seekers or refuge permits travelling thousands of kilo meters without any permits at this time of covid is the biggest challenge. Without refugee identity they remain illegal and undergo constant threat of harassment and detention. The plight of refugees or forcefully displaced people is becoming horrendous and appalling with the pandemic. It has exacerbated the pre-existing vulnerabilities of the refugees. The refugees need well integrated and comprehensive rehabilitation program to address their issues to foster life and promote their dignity”.*

In the final part of his message Pope Francis calls for *“an ever more inclusive world”* saying *“Ours must be a personal and collective commitment that cares for all our brothers and sisters who continue to suffer, even as we work towards a more sustainable, balanced and inclusive development. A commitment that makes no distinction between natives and foreigners, between residents and guests, since it is a matter of a treasure we hold in common, from whose care and benefits no one should be excluded”.* He ends with a dream *“We are called to dream together, fearlessly, as a single human family, as companions on the same journey, as sons and daughters of the same earth that is our common home, sisters and brothers all”*

Do we dare dream together and act courageously as “WE” to be authentic witnesses of Jesus in the India of today? Be it for those in Assam, or the Chins or the Pakistani woman – or for that matter any migrant or refugee, the ‘other’ in our midst?

**(Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ is a human right, reconciliation & peace activist/writer. Contact: cedricprakash@gmail.com*

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Coronavirus Concerns... Cures & Fears

By Irwin Almeida

The COVID – 19 virus (Coronavirus) which has captured global attention like no other, has been raging now for over a year and is still surging. Emerging in Wuhan in China, it has swept across countries and continents with speed and stealth, to bring global travel, trade and economy to a shuddering slowdown.

Deriving its name from its resem-

blance to a crown, the coronavirus family includes both the inconvenient but innocuous common cold virus as well as the sinister SARS virus. The COVID – 19 virus, the most recently known member, has revealed itself to be more threatening than its cold-causing cousin, but far less menacing than its killer kinsman SARS. However, it is the ease and speed with which this highly infectious virus spreads that has led to its dreadful toll of infection and even death. This question aris-

es: Can Covid be transmitted through House flies? There is no evidence to support that idea. The virus that causes Covid – 19 spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.

Today the whole world is under the dark spell of the Corona virus living in fear and uncertainty. Faith in God eliminates fear and gives us hope... With more than 19 million confirmed cases and over seven lakh deaths worldwide, the U.N. Secretary-General described the coronavirus pandemic as the worst global crisis since World War II. The high viral load in hospital settings may make health care workers particularly susceptible to the disease. Others also could be ostracized fearing infection.

The Covid has created a wave of panic globally and has brought the whole world down on its knees like never before. Therefore, what is needed now are personal preventive measures to prevent the virus from entering one's airways, and include frequent hand-washing with water and soap for 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer, avoiding contact with potentially infected surfaces with bare hands, keeping a distance of more than metre (three feet) from an infected person, avoiding crowded locations, getting good sleep and consuming plenty of water, fruit and vegetables.

Yet, despite all efforts and the vaccinations, the Covid seems to be surging every day globally. One is tempted to argue that nature is getting back at us, and our only solution is to hide away in our homes in fear and worry. Perhaps, it is worthy of mention here that we have ignored the warnings by philosophers and prophets and are now paying the price.

In the years about 1551, a prophet named Nostradamus, predicted that

(Contd.. on p. 9)

Matrimonials

Brides

7199. BANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 53 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Master's in Mass Communications (NTU, Singapore) working as a Senior Manager of Corporate Communications in **SINGAPORE**. Contact email : mafern.2121@gmail.com

7182. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., C.A., working as Asst. Manager in TATA Company. Contact : email : matrimonialp27@gmail.com

7160. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1988), Ht. 5' 7", Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, working as a Senior Merchandiser in a Global Retail Company in Dubai. Contact email : prislobo10@gmail.com

7128. MUMBAI : Affluent business family R.C. East Indian Spinster, (Born in 12-04-1988), Ht. 5' 2", very beautiful and pretty. Edn. MS General Surgeon, Doctor by profession. Contact email : drvd2019@gmail.com

7126. U.S.A. : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1992) from Mumbai, Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. (Computers) from Mumbai, M.S. (Information Systems) from US. Possesses H1B visa and is working as a Technical Analyst with an MNC in USA. Contact email :

wilfyjoy1315@gmail.com or call +91 98603 02527 / + 91 9970172527

7066. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1987), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 78 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E., (EXTC) M.S. (International Business Management), working as a Consulting Manager. Contact email : l2018anselm@yahoo.com

7065. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1989), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 69 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., & Dip. in Clinical Research, working as Business Process Lead in TCS. Contact email : mendonca_luke@yahoo.co.in

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(Contd.. from p. 8)

in the twin year 2020 a queen from the far east would arise and spread her mantle on a country with seven hills -- Italy -- and that it would be the end of the world's economic progress. The Old Testament of the Bible also mentions a few poignant incidents, when man believed he was all powerful and prioritised all things in preference to God, so he was subject to God's retribution.

The Old Testament states of Sodom and Gomorrah were reduced to ashes, their false bronze statues were destroyed. The ten plagues were sent by God to punish the Egyptian ruler, Pharaoh, who refused to let Moses free the Israelites. The rebellious ancient Egyptians who followed the Israelites led by Moses, through the desert were wiped away with the flood waters of the Red Sea while the Israelites walked through the passage of dry land between a wall of water on either side.

Today, the whole world is living in fear. The contagious Corona virus can be transferred from person to person with the touch of a finger, a cough or a sneeze through droplets in the air. Children below the age of ten years and adults who have crossed sixty years are the most vulnerable and therefore must stay indoors. Offices, shopping malls and restaurants are closed, along with cinema houses, and hotels. Public transport has been suspended and manufacturing places have come to a halt. Sanitisers and masks are to be used at all times, and vaccinations for prevention must be taken.

It is essential that during the period of the pandemic people stay safe at home, spend quality time with their families and pray for good health and unity in order that planet Earth be restored to its original glory. May be we need to Care more for Creation!

However, these testing times have also brought along some positive changes – our environment is much cleaner, birds can be heard chirping

their sweet melodies again, healthy habits have become evident, and we are back to enjoying home-cooked meals and spending more time with our families.

Perhaps this is a good time to make a resolution to continue these positive habits, keep the healthy choices going and refrain from harming the planet any further!

The Covid-19 outbreak has also put a spotlight on economic inequalities and focussed attention on our fragile social safety net that leaves communities vulnerable to bear the economic brunt of this international crisis.

While the virus is no respecter of anyone – it attacks the wealthy, the poor, those segregated by income, race and gender, it has reduced economic mobility and increased the cost of medical care. It is undeniable that the low-income communities are far more likely to be exposed to the virus, face a greater mortality rate and suffer financially as well. In times of an economic crisis, these vulnerabilities become even more pronounced for marginal groups.

The authorities need to work out a response that prevents people from having to choose between a missed pay cheque and risking their own health as well as that of their family. The authorities also need to target its economic stimulus packages to communities that would be hit first and hardest, and ensure adequate standard of living for all.

Some defence against the Virus has to be found and quickly. If we are to defeat this epidemic, we need more, not less, trust and co-operation. In this regard, Prof. Yuval Noah Harari, lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, states that most people blame the coronavirus epidemic on globalization, and say that the only way to prevent more such outbreaks is to deglobalize the world. Build walls, restrict travel, reduce trade. However, while short-term quarantine is essential to stop epidemics, long-term isola-

tionism will lead to economic collapse without offering any real protection against infectious diseases. Just the opposite. The real antidote to epidemics is co-operation.

In the fight against viruses, humanity needs to closely guard borders. But not the borders between countries. Rather, it needs to guard the border between the human world and the virus-sphere. Over the last century, humanity has fortified this border like never before. Modern health-care systems have been built to serve as a wall on the border, and nurses, doctors and scientists are the guards who patrol it and repel intruders. However, long sections of this border have been left woefully exposed. There are millions of people around the world who lack even basic health-care services. This endangers all of us.

Today, humanity faces an acute crisis not only due to the coronavirus, but also due to the lack of trust between humans. To defeat an epidemic, people need to trust scientific experts, citizens need to trust public authorities and countries need to trust each other.

If this epidemic results in greater disunity and mistrust among humans, it will be the virus's greatest victory. When humans squabble – viruses double. In contrast, if the epidemic results in closer global co-operation, it will be a victory not only against the coronavirus, but against all future pathogens

There are many serious discussions and speculations of post-Covid-19 new world order. Global equations are all set to undergo massive shifts, with important questions raised on the sustainability of globalization. As Harari points out, humans have encountered deadly diseases before. What makes our species different from others is its power to resist and overcome challenges. With massive advancements made in scientific research it is hoped that the vaccines produced so far will put an end to the ongoing global chaos.

(Contd.. on p. 11)

Beloved Udupi Catholic passes away

Admirably, from a common man to the President of India Hon Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Hon Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and so on.... mourned the death of Oscar Fernandes, a beloved personality, who passed away on September 13, 2021. The refrain was.. he was indeed a great man. He lead a good exemplary and fruitful life, people of his nature are rare to find. All unanimously agree that he was a sincere and honest man now rare. His life is a model to all who are in the political field and everywhere.

Oscar Fernandes was born March 27, 1941 in Udupi to Roque and Leonissa Fernandes, last of 12 children - educationist father and mother who was the First Lady bench magistrate of South Kanara, he engineered his own career path. From being an agriculturist to working for LIC to even starting his own business in plastics, he was inspired to serve the people of this country and most importantly the disadvantaged. Politics was a medium for service to the needy people for this friend of the common man. He is married to Blossom Fernandes and has two adult children, a son and a daughter.

Gist of his daughter Oshanie's Eulogy : Oscar Fernandes, made his foray into politics, first in municipal council elections in Udupi in the 70s and then went on to become Udupi Block Youth President for the Congress. He won his first Lok Sabha election in 1980 at the early age of 39 and managed to defeat the great, eminent and the tallest leader of the region of that time, Dr. T.A. Pai. With a record win of five consecutive Lok Sabha elections and serving 4 terms in the Rajya Sabha, here's an example of someone who worked his way up from the grassroot to the highest echelons of power with a career spanning over five decades



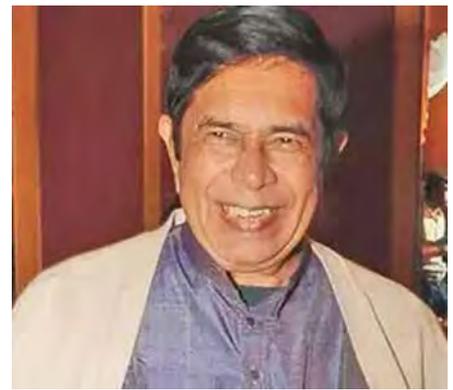
by **Ivan Saldanha-Shet**

in politics.

Oscar, at the time of his death, 80 years of age was perhaps the senior most parliamentarian with 41 consecutive years as an M.P., his organisational skills were acknowledged very early and he was parachuted to Delhi and given a National role. He served as one of 3 Parliamentary secretaries to the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985, served two terms as Congress Chief for Karnataka, General Sec. AICC, was Union Cabinet Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Labour and Employment besides many other portfolios he held. His contribution to the field of HIV/AIDS prevention in the country deserves a place in history books. Needless to say, he has made the region, state, country and community immensely proud.

Regardless of the positions he held, he was always a man for the common people, he connected with everyone on a human/ humane level. He didn't consider his health important enough as his commitment for his work mattered more. In recognition of his services in public life, he was conferred with an honorary doctorate by Mangalore University and bestowed with the Nelson Mandela Award for Peace in New York. The powerful personality he possessed is what is to be remembered, he was seen to live for others. He was never seen to lose his cool or temper even once.

He explained "one must approach any situation with some sort of objectivity... understand the problem at hand and work towards a solution... Bob Marley's famous song, "Don't worry about a thing, coz everything's gonna be alright " reminds a lot about him, he was always Mr. Cool, Mr. Wise and Mr. Patient. He was practically the most versatile of people and his tal-



ents knew no bounds. From being a passionate, trained Kuchipudi dancer to performing the Yakshagana, an exemplary master chef, a yoga enthusiast to an incredible base vocalist, a fantastic harmonica player to a pianist who played by ear, he kept his talents always ignited - he is admired for singing lines of a Tulu folk song in the Rajya Sabha. An avid reader who could get lost in books.. he was a Shakespearean ... a human being par excellence, far more vivacious than merely the humble politician that many knew and we his family and close ones were privileged to witness that side of him.

There was not a single vice he possessed. A teetotaler, non smoker and the list can go on but that's not what you draw inspiration from. It was his acts of kindness, politeness and compassionate ways that stood out more than anything else. Leadership for him meant touching hearts, inspiring others, guiding people regardless of the position in public life he held. Expressing small acts of gratitude was his way of gratitude, much that we can all learn from his life. A regular church goer, a man who put the bible and its teachings into practice. I've never heard him speak ill of any person, let alone harming anyone and that's perhaps why he's loved by all even those who subscribe to opposing political ideologies.

Oscar Fernandes was the most lovable father and human. Such was a man so grounded to his morals, ethics and example. He reached the highest echelons of power, yet showed the highest forms of conscientiousness, simplicity, humility and patience. The

(Contd.. on p. 11)

(Contd.. from p. 10)

higher he climbed, the more firm his feet were on the ground. He led a life void of material fondness, wealth accumulation etc. We've never measured wealth in terms of money; values, principles, music, good food, humour and taught us to love unconditionally, exhibit empathy and compassion which makes him outweigh any wealth accumulator in the world. The strength of a man isn't seen in the width of his shoulders, but is seen in the width of his arms that circles you. A true gentleman is one who puts in much more into the world than what he takes out and that was our Oscar.

Oscar Fernandes, is mourned by his wife Blossom who was very close and inseparable, children - Daughter, Oshanie married to Mark Saldanha they have a son Odin Saldanha; A son, Oshhan Fernandes married to Frazil they have a daughter Ohanna Fernandes. Many near and dear ones and a sea of admirers throughout India and abroad mourn his loss as irreplaceable. A sincere and honest politician, by his death India has lost a true and good leader. His mortal remains were respectfully draped with the national flag and an official guard of honour was accorded before internment. Our Rev. Cardinal Oswald Gracias has expressed a deep loss to the Church. Archbishop of Bangalore and all Bishops of Karnataka took part in the funeral rituals at Udupi, Mangalore and Bangalore on September 14, 15, 16, 2021 spelling out the deep grief all felt and the honours they wished to pay for being a great support to all over the years, always to remain in fond memory.

(Contd.. from p. 9)

Having said this, we are constantly reminded that the end is not in sight. A new wave has emerged in London and Europe and in some areas of India too. Known as the Delta, this is more transmissible and it is not known whether the vaccines developed so far will combat the virus. The vaccines we have so far is to provide immunity and try to ensure non-transferability. The medical fraternity here as elsewhere can only prescribe the existing vaccines and self-protection by constant washing of hands, social distancing, and wearing of face masks. And, in the end, may be it would seem best to stay locked-in!

However, experience has shown that staying indoors for long periods as its own disadvantages because the lack of sunlight deprives us of essential vitamin D, creates disharmony, despair, despondency and often depression. Let us therefore hope and pray that we emerge from these dark days sooner than later. It would be recalled it the midst of the first wave one of our unethical netas suggested we chant "Go Covid go.." and that would be the end, but the virus is still very much here. Commendable therefore are efforts to brighten the scene and as we wait like Jerome Kern's "Till the clouds roll by..." some enterprising musicians have composed a lilting melody with lyrics to match about the pandemic ending soon titled "Someday soon..." with an appropriate finale "we'll snuff out this virus at last". Positive outlook, surely!

(Contd.. from p. 2)

creased considerably, it would however be sensible for the public to continue maintaining COVID appropriate behaviour. Coronavirus is mutating, and mutating fast!

With the season of festivals underway in the country, it calls for a lot of restraint by the public to celebrate them in a safe mode. Of course the pandemic induced restrictions and challenges should not dampen the spirits of the people.

But the festive mood that people get into during these celebrated occasions has always left much to be desired, especially during the pandemic.

With massive crowds thronging marketplaces violating the norms of social distancing, a steady rise in cases is but a natural consequence. The family gatherings and jollities during these festivals only add to the risks.

Moreover, the public has been quite conspicuous by its abject disregard for the safety guidelines prescribed and are generally found throwing all caution to the wind.

While the vehement opposition by people to any sort of bindings and limitations on the celebrations imposed by the government is understandable, it is the manner in which the sentiments of the locals have swayed government decisions in such instances that has been incomprehensible.

Considering that the public furore over the strictures imposed dissipates no sooner the government dilutes its earlier orders, it is pertinent to have the government in turn ascertaining the strict enforcement of the safety guidelines laid down!

If at all festivals are to be celebrated with full fervour during the pandemic, prudence demands the compliance of all necessary precautions by the public.

But will that ever be in evidence!

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Wife: "How would you describe me?"
 Husband: "ABCDEFGH IJK."
 Wife: "What does that mean?"
 Husband: "Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous, and hot."
 Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about IJK?"
 Husband: "I'm just kidding!"



 My friend asked me, "Why are you getting a divorce?" I responded, "My wife wasn't home the entire night and in the morning she said she spent the night at her sister's house." He said, "So?" And I responded, "She's lying. I spent the night at her sister's house!"

 The secret to a long marriage is that we take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes on Tuesdays. I go on Fridays.

 A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back toward his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?" The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?" The mourner took a moment to collect himself and replied, "My wife's first husband."

 Q: Why didn't the man report his stolen credit card?
 A: The thief was spending less than his wife.

 A bus full of housewives going on a picnic crashed with no survivors. Each husband cried for a week, but one husband continued for more than two weeks. When asked he replied miserably, "My wife missed the bus."

 Q: Why are most hurricanes named

after women?
 A: Because when they come they are wet and wild and when they leave they take your house and your car.

 A child goes to his father and asks, "Father, how do parents think of names for their children?" The father answers, "Well, son, the night before the mother gives birth, the father goes into the woods and camps for the night. When he wakes the following morning, the first thing he sees is what he names his child, which is why your sister is named Soaring Eagle. Why do you ask, Bear Poop?"

 Q: Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?
 A: Because it's pointless!

 An Amish husband, wife and son travel to the city on vacation. They visit a shopping mall and while the mother is shopping, the father and son are standing in awe in front of an elevator (having no idea what it is). As they watch, an elderly lady walks into the strange silver doors and the doors close. The father and son watch as the numbers go up, and then back down. When the doors open, a beautiful young woman walks out. The father leans over and whispers to the son, "Son, go get your mother!"

Two old friends crossed paths after not seeing one another for almost a decade.

Utkarsh: "What are you doing these days?"
 Sparsh: "PHD."
 Utkarsh: "Wow! You're a doctor!"
 Sparsh: "No, Pizza Home Delivery."

 Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many will you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."
 Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many will you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."
 Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you 2 apples, and another 2 apples and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."
 Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"
 Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"
 Johnny: Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

 Q: Why did they have to bury George Washington standing up?
 A: Because he could never lie.

 Q: What did the verb say when the words have, has, and had were removed from the English language?
 A: "Nobody's perfect!"

 Q: What's the difference between a lawyer and a leech?
 A: After you die, a leech stops sucking your blood.

 A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, the nurse said, "No change yet."

 Q: Who was the smallest man in the Bible?
 A: King David because he was only 12 inches tall as he was a ruler.

Google will tell you that the number 1 sign of alcoholism is drinking alone. I feel that the number 1 sign of alcoholism is having to Google "number 1 sign of alcoholism."

 Q: How do you put an elephant into a Safeway bag?
 A: You take the "f" out of safe & the "f" out of way- wait, there's no "f" in way!

Ph. D. awarded to Fr. Roshan Castelino, SJ



Fr. Roshan Castelino, SJ, of the department of Physics, St Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru has been awarded Doctorate in Physics from Department of Physics, University of Namur, Belgium for his research and thesis on 'Molecular beam epitaxy growth of molybdenum ditelluride(MoTe₂) on grapheme/6H-SiC(0001): Phase controlled synthesis and characterization' on 30th July 2021. This research on the topic of Semi Conductor was done under the guidance of Prof. Robert Sporken, University of Namur.

Fr. Roshan is the son of George Castelino (National Teacher Awardee – 2006) and Reena Castelino, Nakre - Karkala both retired teachers. Fr Roshan is the old student of Mahalingeshwara H. P. School, Nakre and Government High School, Nakre, St Aloysius College, Mangalore and Christ University Bengaluru.

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Oats And Chia Parfait Ingredients

Fabelle 67% Dark Chocolate shavings 2 tbsp Oats 2 tbsp Chia Seeds 2 tbsp Milk 1 cup Saffron 3-4 strands Honey 2 tbsp Cinnamon Powder 1 pinch Chopped Almond 4/5 nos Water 8 tbsp

METHOD: Soak the chia seeds in warm water for 20 mins in a bowl. In a second bowl, pour hot milk over oats and saffron & let it soak for 15 mins. To arrange the parfait, take a glass or bowl. Spoon half of the soaked oats at the bottom. Drizzle a little honey. Add grated Fabelle chocolate shavings. Then layer with soaked chia seeds. Again, place a layer of oats. Drizzle honey. Sprinkle cinnamon powder. Add soaked chia seeds and finally the Fabelle chocolate shavings layer. Garnish with chopped almonds

VEGAN DARK HOT CHOCOLATE INGREDIENTS

Chopped Fabelle St. Domingue 72% Dark chocolate 1/4 cup Cocoa Powder 1/2 tbsp Stevia Powder (Can be substituted with Date or Maple Syrup) 1/2 tbsp Soy Milk or Almond Milk 1 cup



Jayanthy Subramaniam

METHOD: Boil the soy/almond milk on medium heat. Add the cocoa powder and whisk till it's smooth. Add the chopped Fabelle dark chocolate pieces. Whisk till the chocolate melts and the beverage is creamy. Add the stevia powder. Serve hot. Garnish with a little grated chocolate on top.



DIVO Konkani Weekly

Published from Mumbai
27th year of regular publishing

Subscription rates:

One year by post Rs. 500

Five years by post Rs. 2000

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Thanksgiving



Thanks to Mother Teresa for the favours granted.
Praying for more favours.

—George, Miraroad

Sins Of The Mahatma

Outrageous! How dare one make such a statement on the eve of his 152nd birth anniversary? The “sins” that I am referring to are the Seven Social Sins that the Mahatma had identified and published in Young India magazine on 22/10/1925, almost a hundred years ago. How relevant are they today? Here they are:

1. Wealth without work
2. Pleasure without conscience
3. Knowledge without character
4. Commerce without morality
5. Science without humanity
6. Worship without sacrifice
7. Politics without principles

A rudimentary reading would make it difficult to disagree. One would be inclined to endorse what was then said. Nevertheless digging a little deeper won't hurt.

How were wealth and work perceived a hundred years ago? Despite the Industrial Revolution, in itself another hundred years old, wealth would still largely have been perceived as inherited, either by royalty or landlords. Such wealth would not have been by virtue of the present owner's work, thereby attracting the Mahatma's attention. Today, however, most wealth (moveable and immovable assets) would, to a large extent, be self-generated. A recent report said that 156 street vendors in my city had been identified as crorepatris!

Secondly, the definition of work has also changed. Earlier it would be identified with manual labour, as in agriculture and mining (the primary sector); and to a lesser extent in skills like masonry or carpentry (the secondary sector). Today most people work in various services, including Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) that fall in the tertiary sector of the economy. Post pandemic we have another work culture – work

from home. In today's context all these qualify as genuine work.

The second sin is pleasure without conscience. I daresay that today pleasure has assumed primary importance and the conscience is as good as dead. Here again it is possible that the Mahatma may have been hinting at sexual pleasure as evidenced in the Hindi translation “bhog”. We do know that the Mahatma had a prejudiced view of sex as seen in his opting for married brahamacharya (total continence even in marriage). This idea obviously had very few takers, like Jayprakash Narain. Now sex is quite literally out of the closet and is in your face everywhere. A god given gift, it is like a knife. I could use it for cutting vegetables or for stabbing somebody in the back. So it is good or bad depending on its usage.



by chhotebhai *

In any case, the word pleasure can in no way be limited to sex. I may get pleasure from indulging in sport, playing with my grandchild or petting my dog. There is no conscience involved in such mundane acts. On the other hand, if I drink heavily and then beat up my wife and children; if I use sex as a weapon to exploit or rape another person, then indeed it is a case of deriving pleasure while hurting others and deadening my conscience. Even in little things like telling lies, pilfering or going late to work, our conscience does not seem to prick us.

The third sin is knowledge without character. I don't think that these two can be yoked together. For example, character comes from conscience, religious and social upbringing. It is in no way linked to knowledge. Again, as with conscience, character seems to be at a premium today. As for knowledge, it may be expanded to include intelligence and wisdom. Knowledge is the mere accumulation of informa-



tion, as in maths, physics or history. Intelligence is the ability to apply that knowledge for a useful purpose. Wisdom is the gift of knowing whether that application is good or bad for others. For example, I may have the knowledge and intelligence to prepare a nuclear weapon. Wisdom would caution me against the use of such knowledge or expertise. This is where character comes in to play.

The fourth sin is commerce without morality. This is closely linked to the generation of wealth and does not bear repetition. In turn, morality (the ability to distinguish between good and evil) is a derivative of both conscience and character.

The fifth is science without humanity. This too is very similar to the use of knowledge without character. Science can be either productive or destructive. We see this thread running through almost all human relationships and situations. Today it is widely believed that the Corona virus was developed in a lab, probably in Wuhan, China. The vaccines for the same are also a gift of science. One was destroying the human race, the other was saving it. The Mahatma is inviting all of us to use our wealth, knowledge and science for the common good, and not for selfish gain.

The sixth sin is on a different plane entirely – worship without sacrifice. I must again take recourse to the Hindi

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(Contd.. from p. 14)

version to deeper understand what the Mahatma was driving at – “tyag viheen pooja”. In Hinduism pooja is a ritual, usually performed by a third person – a brahmin or an ascetic, to placate a deity or seek its blessings. Usually the language used is incomprehensible to the beneficiary. If the pooja is self-performed it usually involves various rituals and sacred objects like flowers or incense. It does not entail any sacrifice on the part of the one performing the ritual. With pooja kits and rituals available online it now costs the devotee little or nothing.

Perhaps this is what the Mahatma had in mind when he referred to worship without sacrifice. In this context the words of Mother Teresa are most appropriate, “When you give, don’t give from your excess, but give from what hurts”. That is why Jesus extolled the contribution of the widow’s mite in the Temple, even though in absolute terms it was a pittance as compared to the flashy tithing of the Pharisees. (cf Mk 12:41ff).

Unfortunately today almost all religious activity, cutting across the religious divide, has been reduced to mere ritualism or tokenism. Other than paying for the ritual, there is no personal sacrifice involved, so one would be inclined to fully agree with the Mahatma on this score.

In today’s politics driven world the seventh sin is the big fish – politics without principles. It differs from the other “sins” in that this one is more collective in contrast to the others that are more individualistic acts. The ramifica-

tions of politics are far reaching. Any policy decision (enactment of law or legislation) can have far reaching consequences, be it on cow protection or the so-called “Freedom of Religion” bills. Legislation can be economic, sociological, or at times directly targeting a community, be it ethnic, religious or a class of people.

Unfortunately, at least in India today, politics is driven not by principles of common good, but by the single minded pursuit of electoral gains. Almost every political decision or announcement is driven by that, principles be damned. What impact these “policy decisions” have on farmers, labour, petty traders, religious minorities or castes, is now largely determined by the electorate in mind. In like manner, so-called surgical strikes, be they in the defence sector or the economic ones, could be using a high degree of unprincipled subterfuge to have the desired impact.

Unprincipled politics gets further heightened when it plays out on the world stage; be it in the form of cold wars, invasions, or religious fundamentalism. It is indeed the greatest threat to world peace for which the Mahatma had forewarned us.

Interestingly, he scribbled these same words on a piece of paper and gave it to his grandson Arun, just a few days before his assassination. So it would have been very much on his mind. May it now be engraved on our hearts. JAI HIND.

• *The writer is the Vice President of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Kanpur.*

When Churches Opening in Mumbai

We welcome the opening of churches in Mumbai. At the same time we need to be careful and adhere strictly to Covid appropriate behaviour . In addition to the norms and SOPs, allow me to make some suggestions pertinent to the Catholic church:

During the weekend masses on Saturdays and Sundays, masses are usually scheduled every hour. People usually linger in the church compound for 10 minutes on average . Also people start trooping in for the following mass 10 to 15 minutes before the commencement of the next mass. Socializing in the church compound must be discouraged as social distancing is rarely observed. Also, it will send a wrong signal to the people on the street outside. Hence I suggest that the duration of the mass must be curtailed so that the gap between 2 masses is increased. I suggest that homilies should be of 7-8 minutes duration and not exceeding 10 minutes in any case, as prescribed by the Holy Father.

Singing must be restricted only to those part of the mass that need to be sung. Moreover, we are aware that the virus is airborne for some time. When singing we exhale more forcefully, which can be dangerous even if one person is infected in the congregation. In a closed environment, this could be disastrous.

—Prof Robert Castellino
Malad

Thanksgiving



Thanks to Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Vailankani, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor and St. Anthony

—C. Pereira, Dadar

Thanksgiving

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Adored, Glorified and Loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever.Amen!!

Ask St. Clare for three favours two impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for 9 days with a lighted candle and publish on the 9th day your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is

—V. N. Nazreth, Bangaluru



Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - GROOMS

7257. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1991), Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 74 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDM Marketing, Occupation :Marketing Professional. Contact email : craig_v@hotmail.com

7226. CANADA : Canadian Citizen Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., in Environmental Science and in Energy Management postgraduate degrees from the University of Toronto. Working for a reputed company as Energy Management Analyst in Totonto. Contact email : francisper@gmail.com

7185. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1984) Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion,Edn. B.Com., working for Bank. Contact email : shaun.neo00.outlook.com

7249. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in November 1956), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 75 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. S.Y.B.A., Retired and well settled. Contact Mob.: 9221792354 or Email : collinmonteiro58@yahoo.com

7224. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1986), Ht. 6', Wt. 93 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Marine Engineering, working as a 3rd Engineer in Ship. Contact Mob.: 9773541522

7221. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in May 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 72 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in a Oil rig. Contact email : renithamas@yahoo.co.in

7220. MUMBAI : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Divorcee, (Born in May 1978), Ht. 5' 10", Wt. 76 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as a HR. Contact email : rodrigsmargaret69@gmail.com

7216. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1988), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, HR speacialization, Profession : Lead Recruiter. Contact email : willujames310@gmail.com

7213. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1989), Ht.6', Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc. in Hospitality Studies, working in a reputed organization. Contact email : merwyn1989pinto@gmail.com

7207. CHANDIGARH : Anglo Indian Catholic Divorcee, (Born in April 1972), Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 80 kgs, Very Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., MFC, MA English, Teacher by profession. Contact email : vishalsud81@gmail.com

7206. NEW DELHI : Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in October 1995), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 43 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.E. Computer Engineer, working as a Project Manager with Paytm. Contact email : dcosta.ria@gmail.com

7203. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in October 1985), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn.B.E. MBA, working for International Company. Contact email : delphinempinto@gmail.com

7202. MUMBAI : Keralite Syrian Catholic Bachelor (Born in May 1973), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 73 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., English Literature, Profession : Consultant Administration. Left Hand & Leg is weak due to earlier motorbike accident. Contact Email : josephmullakara1973@gmail.com

7196. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Born in March 1981), Ht. 6', Wt. 80 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.Com., HR Professional. Contact email : denstun@hotmail.com

7188. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor (Hearing Impaired) (Born in September 1989), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 62 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. HSC., Dip. in Computer Hardware. Working as a Cashier. Contact email : clifford9948@gmail.com OR 9920331773

7183. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in February 1991) Ht. 5' 11", Wt. 86 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. PGDM and BMS., working as a Relationship Manager. Contact email : ritadhawan10@gmail.com

7172. MUMBAI :Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in August 1992) Ht. 6' 1", Wt. 90 kgs, Fair, Edn. Graduate, Diploma in Social Communications in Sophia and then done a Fellowship with Piramal House of Leadership. Working with an NGO -sports foundation. Contact email : florencemendonca@rediffmail.com

7168. USA : US Citizen Goan Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in June 1985) Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 73 kgs, Fair, Edn. M.Sc., working for a Global Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : lspinto84@gmail.com

7152. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in December 1989) Ht. 6', Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., having business. Contact email : emi_dalmeida@yahoo.com

7159. MUMBAI : Roman Catholic Bachelor, (Born in September 1982) Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 65 kgs, Ethical, Healthy, Simple, Sober, Wheatish, B.E. Software Engineer, works @ Mumbai, 9224335003, mariosofttech@gmail.com seeks matrimonial alliance from Mumbai based Catholic Spinster. Please exchange relevant information.

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Royal Christian Family MATRIMONIALS - BRIDES

7248 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in March 1992), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 59 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Graduate - Human Resources. Currently working in Mumbai as an Executive for a International I.T. Company. (Full UK recruitment.) Contact email : librans19@yahoo.com or Whatsapp No. 9833116683

7238. AHMEDABAD : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1989), Ht. 5' 6", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as a Sr. Recruitment Consultant. Contact email : fernandeseugenia58@gmail.com

7228. KOLKATA : Anglo Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1988), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Good looking, Smart, Edn. B.A., working as a HR. Contact email : advtresponse85@gmail.com

7229. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in May 1994), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 55 kgs, Fair Complexion, Good looking, Smart, Edn. MBA PGDM, working as a HR Marketing and Customer Service in UAE. Contact email : goanmatri7@gmail.com

7223. MUMBAI : Born Again Spinster, (Born in November 1994), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 70 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. Masters in HR. working as Asst. Manager Learning and Development in Cargo Logistics firm. Seeks suitable match, first preference Born Again or Others. Contact email : bernie_wicket@yahoo.com

7205. NEW DELHI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 3", Wt. 38 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. BDS, Bachelor in Dental Surgery, woking as a Dental Doctor in PUNE. Contact email : mariadcosta0505@gmail.com

7217. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in June 1995), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 77 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., & Post Graduate Diploma in Event Management, working in an reputed Multinational Company. Contact email : naseemdmello786@gmail.com

7222. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1984), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working as accountant. Contact email : josephppereira@gmail.com

7215. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1996), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 54 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. BMS, CWM, pursuing CFA Level 2, working as a Operations Analyst in Limited Company. Contact email : rachel.serrao96@gmail.com

7209. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 9", Wt. 100 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.A., & PG HR, working as a Trainer. Contact email : sweetroan17@gmail.com

7174. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1990), Ht. 5' 6", Fair Complexion, Beautiful, Edn. B.Com., MBA, PGDM, working for a Ad Agency in Toronto, CANADA. Contact email : roshanmehra@hotmail.com

7204. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster (Born in October 1989), Ht. 4' 11", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, PGD in Broadcast Journalism, working for National News Channel in BANGALORE. Contact email : stacypereira89@gmail.com

7193. MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1990), Ht. 5' 2", Wt. 50 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., M.A., B.Ed., working as a Teacher in DUBAI. Contact email : marina.rodrigues1954@gmail.com

7162 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5'5", Wt. 58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Secretary. Contact email : t.banze@rediffmail.com

7197. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in April 1995), Ht. 5' 1", Wt. 55 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate & pursuing MBA in Hotel and Tourism, working as a Travel Executive in Sharp Travel Private Limited. Contact email : joseph.monteiro84@yahoo.com, Mob. : 9869860580.

7158 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1986), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 64 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. B.A., working as a Patient Care Manager. Contact email : ceciliacookie@gmail.com

7149 GUJRAT : Anglo Indian Catholic Spinster, (Born in July 1991), Ht. 5'2", Wt. 60 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. MBA, PGDM., working. Contact email : barnes.rufina@yahoo.com

7156 MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5'1", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA., working in an IT Company as an Executive Assistant. Contact email : mumbai.lavi@gmail.com

7147 MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic

Spinster, (Born in July 1992), Ht. 5'4", Wt. 65 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBA Finance, working as a Fund Accountant. Contact email : stefasha09@gmail.com

7145 MUMBAI : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1992), Ht. 4'11", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. M.Sc., Lecturer by profession. Contact email : andrea210358@gmail.com

7259. USA : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1994), Ht. 5' 23", Wt.70 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Graduate, working. Contact email : sevu.sequeira@gmail.com

7258. MUMBAI : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in September 1993), Ht. 5' 5", Wt.58 kgs, Wheatish Complexion, Edn. Post Graduate, Content Professional in a reputed MNC and freelancing as a copywriter ad social media Professional. Contact email : forheralliance@gmail.com

7244. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1992), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 54 kgs, Edn. Chartered Accountant and M.Com., Employed in one of the Top reputed companies in Mumbai. Well cultured and good family background. An only Child. Contact email : fionadesouza18@gmail.com

7243. NEW ZEALAND : East Indian Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in December 1996), Ht. 5' 8", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Sc., Nursing, Profession : Staff Nurse. Ready to settle in New Zealand. Contact email : sales@nomaplastechind.in

7234. MANGALORE : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in November 1993), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 60 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. MBBS, MD (ongoing), Doctor by profession. Contact email : samaddy2013@gmail.com

7230. MUMBAI : Silm, Smart, Beautiful Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in August 1995), Ht. 5' 7", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. B.Com., working in Pharmaceutical Company. Contact email : alex1947@rediffmail.com

7214. MUMBAI : Goan Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in October 1986), Ht. 5' 4", Wt. 52 kgs, Fair Complexion, Edn. CA CFA Ms Finance M.Com., working as a Senior Manager. Contact email : frfernandes020@gmail.com

7210. AURANGABAD : Mangalorean Roman Catholic Spinster, (Born in January 1994), Ht. 5' 5", Wt. 50 kgs, Fair Complexion, good looking, beautiful, Coming from business family, Edn. Chartered Accountant, C.A. by Profession. Contact email : putturaurangabad@gmail.com

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Engineer of Charity

(Bl. Alberto Marvelli)

By Fr. F. M. Britto

“**One** can be in politics and be a saint. This is a very great message that comes from the life of Alberto Marvelli,” remarked Archbishop Angelo Comastri of Loreto.

Alberto Marvelli was born in Ferrara, Italy, on March 21, 1918, to Luigi Marvelli and Maria Mayr. Later when the family moved to Rimini, the 12 years old Alberto Marvelli attended the Salesian oratory school and got involved in the parish Catholic Action group. These had a special influence on the boy. He also loved all kinds of sports, especially cycling. Unfortunately, a few months after the birth of the sixth child, his young banker father died.

Since the burden of running the family fell on his mother, being the second child, the 15 years old Alberto Marvelli lent a hand to her. Despite family burden, his mother continued to have a great concern for the poor; which too had a great impact on the teenager.

Maintaining a spiritual diary from the age of 15 itself, Marvelli had written about his daily schedule: “I rise as early as possible, as soon as the alarm rings, a half hour of meditation, half an hour of spiritual reading, every morning Mass and Holy Communion, confession once a week, frequent spiritual direction, daily recitation of the Rosary and Angelus.” He wanted to imitate Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Dominic Savio. His life programme was “to be with Jesus, the pope and the Church.” He often said, “My programme of life is summed up in one word: holy.”

He then went to the university to do his engineering. He wrote, “I undertake my university studies to fulfil my duty to give more and more glory to our Lord, by my behaviour among my university mates.” Attracted towards a young girl named Marilena, the 21 years old Marvelli first thought of mar-

rying her. But, after much reflections and prayers, he decided to treat her like a sister.

After obtaining his degree in engineering, the 23 years old Marvelli worked with Fiat in Turin. He also became a member of the Italian Society of Civil Engineers. Though forced to serve in the military, after a few months he was exempted since his brothers served in the army. Then he began teaching in a high school.

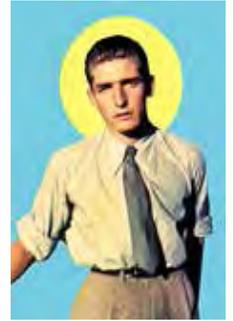
During the World War II, his city Rimini was almost razed to the ground and all the inhabitants had been compelled to flee. His family moved to Vergiano, seven km away. During the cruel war, Marvelli was worried about his fellow citizens, especially the poor. He urged and took along the youngsters to Rimini to assist the wounded and the homeless at a great personal risk and cost. He offered them food, clothes, blankets, and even at times his shoes and cycle. He also urged his mother to give to the poor the mattress, pots and the coverlets. Consoling them, he instilled hope and prayed with them.

With his companions, Marvelli saved numerous people from deportation to the concentration camps by freeing them from the sealed carriages of the trains. Though busy, he would still attend daily Mass, receive Communion and kneeling at his bed, recite the Rosary late in the evening.

After the end of the war, his family returned to Rimini on Sept 23, 1945, now in ruins and without running water, electricity and sanitation. His heart was so broken by the pains of people that he engaged in caring them.

Appointed a town councillor, the young engineer was entrusted to allot houses. Marvelli did this work efficiently with professionalism, combined with charity. He opened a soup kitchen for the poor, went to them loaded with food and clothes, listened to their woes and prayed with them.

Though Marvelli had not belonged



to any political party, after the war he joined the Christian Democrats and became an active member. He publicly denounced the ideology of his adversaries, the communists. He took politics as an important service of faith and justice to the society. As a most popular candidate of the party, he was respected by all for his honesty and dedication to the well-being of the community.

Running for the election, he was cycling to address an election meeting on the evening of Oct 5, 1946. A van of the armed forces struck the 28 years old Marvelli on a dark road and killed him. His political opponents then wrote, “The communists of Bel-larvia bow in reverence and hail the son, the brother who has made so much good in this land.” People voted for his mother in his place.

His beatification cause was opened on Jan 16, 1975. Pope John Paul II beatified him on Sept 5, 2004 in Loreto.

Calling him, “The engineer of charity”, Pope John Paul II remarked of Marvelli, “He has shown how, in the changing times and situations, Christian laymen are able to devote themselves unreservedly to the construction of God’s kingdom in family, work, culture and politics, taking the gospel in the heart of society.”

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REVERBERATIONS

Short Story

Incredible, the young man was seven feet, seven inches tall, fair in complexion, with colored eyes and round shoulders. He walked with long strides, his golden hair glowed behind the neck like a brilliant halo. Surprisingly, the tone of his voice did not conform to the vocal sound of the human being. His name was strange, RaHim-el. There was a time when he said he was not a son of man.

RaHim-el stood in front of the Park Circus flyover in the bitter cold. It was 3 am. This was the place where he had to find the one chosen by God. He had been instructed to meet an eighteen years old youth called by name, Thomas.

For the next two years the young Thomas would be tutored in the art of human relationship, the environment of a fast changing world, and all about the 'End Times' knocking at the door of humanity. RaHim-el spoke to Thomas of redemption, salvation, forgiveness and love. This was serious therapy, and Thomas took it seriously as though God had whispered it to his soul.

RaHim-el had a strong leather bag, tough sandals on his large feet, and a grey robe with a white cord around the waist. He looked like an ancient monk who had stepped out of a time zone after Creation.

From very young Thomas had grown up on the streets of the city using his wits, charm and always being honest in all his roadside dealings. One afternoon while they rested under a tree, Thomas asked his companion:

"Tell me RaHim-el, if you have no parents as you told me earlier, where do you come from in India?"

"From nowhere in this world," RaHim-el rolled his eyes, threw back his long hair and laughed. "Should I tell you

the truth it might disturb our friendship."

"I don't know any big words to offer you my trust and confidence. This I know, nothing can upset our true friendship. "So, where do you come from, in India.?"

Proudly and silently, RaHim-el stood up to his full seven feet, seven inches. "I come from heaven!" he smiled, adding, "I am one of the twelve sons of God. Four rebelled and are evil."

"Are you one of the evil four?" Thomas laughed, adding: "I don't suppose you are?"

"No," smiled RaHim-el, "I am one of the good sons of God".

"That's a relief. Is it mentioned in the Bible that God had sons?"

"Yes, in Genesis" he said in a peculiar tone of voice. I will tell you about it: Chapter 6 Verse 4; the Nephiliam were on earth in those days, and also afterwards, when the sons of God came into the daughters of man, and they bore children to them. These were the heroes of old, the men of renown."

"Is there a meaning to 'sons of God'?" "Asked Thomas, the chosen one by Almighty God.

"In Hebrew, 'sons of God' means "divine beings". Then, went on RaHim-el, "At the beginning of the world the celestial beings were put to a test, with the fall of many among them".

"Tell me, why are you here?" Thomas asked with an amused look on his face. "It's over two years we have been together."

"My Lord and Master sent me to appoint you as the first Prophet in this twenty-first century, before the last days arrive."

Thomas smiled. "Because of your teaching I know enough about the faith to preach and to teach its message of the Word..."

RaHim-el raised a hand and stopped him in mid-sentence. "The Holy Spirit will come down upon you, and you will know all there is to save souls and fight the powers of darkness in the world." He said calmly.

"When will this happen?" Thomas asked.

"Soon, I will now return to being a servant and son of God! Be brave, for the Lord is with you."

The surge of killings swelled around the world. A whole new generation of demons kept perpetuating hate and violence. Thomas sat alone deep in prayer and meditation. He was waiting to be inspired, but it was not the right time.

Fifteen years later, the time came, the Spirit of God came upon Thomas and he rose to join the ranks of all those God had chosen to win souls and drive the evil forces into the depths of the hidden darkness.

The earth will survive:

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

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