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TEA SHOP 19

Pon Kulendiren

The cuckoo bird in the wall clock in Appuhamy's Tea shop welcomed Chinna, Cassim, and Chandra with a sound like a common cuckoo's call ten times indicating the time is morning 10 a.m. It was an unusual welcome for the three friends

Chinna: I know that it is an antique clock which has been in since the 18th century and has remained almost without variation until the present day. It is a costly clock. A few years back I had a clock like this; later I gave it to my daughter when she got married. Who presented this clock to you Appuhamy?

Appuhamy: My friend, the late Nihal Perera who was Tea estate superintendent of Noori Tea Estate in Deriniyagala presented it to me. Every time the cuckoo bird makes a sound it reminds me of my friend Nihal. He was a devoted planter with 40 years of service. He sacrificed his life to bring back peace in that estate.

Chandra: Oh dear, what a great man he was. I have read about the gang murder of your friend Nihal Perera at Noori estate. I have been to that estate once after his death. My cousin was the Tea Maker. He knows your friend Nihal.

Appuhamy: That was a sad story. For fifteen years the estate was controlled by a gang under the leadership of Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Anil Champika alias 'Atha Kota' and 17 other suspects were convicted and sentenced to death over the murder of Noori Estate Superintendent, Nihal Perera in 2013. Atha Kota was a friend of Sabragamuwa Chief Minister Herath. Atha Kota was a mafia leader under Rajapakse regime. At that time Gotabaya defence minister, hence the Police danced to his orders. He was like Hitler controlling the defense forces.

Cassim: I know that this estate was founded by one Francis Academy and named it after his daughter Noori. In Arabic Noori means "My light. "It appears that that founder had an Arab link.

One could walk from that estate to Adams Peak located about 12 miles from the estate. The estate is managed by Walters Bay and produces the best green tea and exported to the US

Appuhamy: Today I will be serving Green tea from Noori estate. Enjoy it with the specially prepared prawn Vaddai by my wife.

Chinna: Thank you Appuhamy the prawn Vaddai reminds me of the Ponnuthurai's toddy tavern in my village at Iddaikaddu in Jaffna. I enjoyed with my friends the Palmyra toddy in the receptacle made from Palmyra leaf.

Appuhamy's daughter serves the green tea in a Teapot for all three of them

Chandra: There is much violence is taking place in the country because of the increase in drug usage, especially by the youth. It is good business for drug traffickers and a quick way to earn money at the expense of the morality of people. The younger generation is badly affected. They sell drugs in schools.

Cassim: Out of the 21 convicts in Noori murder, three were acquitted, The balance 18 including the leader Atta Kota were sentenced to death by hanging. The gang was involved in Drug trafficking Kassipu business, robbery and rape of estate worker women.

Chinna: That is a good verdict. Are these names is in the first list of people to be hanged for Drug offense.?

Chandra: The government is going by list given by Attorney Generals' office. Since Atha Kota, and his gang may appeal against the verdict their names, not on the list. Maithripala Sirisena may consider signing the order to hang them in the next batch unless there is a change of government or the convicts win the appeal. Meanwhile, the Prison Department announced last week, which it would call for applications to recruit two hangmen (Alugosu) to execute the death sentences.

Chinna: I heard that ten estate Tamil youths from that area are in that list of eighteen convicted. That means that were involved in drugs. It is here the singhalese and Tamils joined hands to commit a crime

Cassim: Chinna, what is your view of drug-related crimes in the Northern province;

Chinna: The drug trade is an attractive business in the Coastal areas in the south where rich tourist spends a large sum of money in hotels. In the North, there is an allegation that a political party in

link with the Navy in charge of island import drugs from Kerala and Tamil Nadu as these places are not too far from the islands around Jaffna peninsula. There are accusations that Police and Army do not take much attention in eradicating drug abuse in Jaffna. Some social media say that Southern Sri Lanka has the intention of the deteriorating the disciplined culture of Northern and Eastern Tamil speaking people. One time the focus Jaffna youth was on education, and government jobs but it gradually changed after the independence due to standardization policy in education by the SLFP government. In the past, local coconut and Palmyra toddy and Arrack such as Gal Oya. 7-year-old Arrack was available. But the culture has changed to taking drugs by Jaffna youth. They do not understand the long-term impact on their nervous system resulting in various diseases. Sufficient money is needed to buy expensive drugs. Unemployed youth do not have that money. Since money flows into the Northern province from the expatriate population living abroad, the standard of living of people mainly youth has increased. They travel in expensive two-wheelers replacing Raleigh bicycles that were used a few decades ago. They engage themselves in drug offenses and in committing violence by forming groups such as AAVA. The gang-rape and murder of school student from Pungudutivu was linked to Drug, the inflow of money from foreign countries such as Switzerland, vengeance, and lust. The murder of 6-year-old Sivaneshwaran Regina at the Jaffna, Sulipuram, is another child violence linked to the drug.

Cassim: Down southern Sri Lanka, there are several cases of rape and killing of children such as Saya from Gampaha area and serial killing in Ratnapura area. The youth intoxicated by drug lose their balance, do not control themselves and hence look for children or women of any age to satisfy their sexual appetite. It is a pity that it happens in a Buddhist country like Sri Lanka

Chandra: What is this talk about Hitler and Pirpakaran by the parliamentarians. They compared Gotabaya to Hitler. Mrs. Vijayakala Maheswaran from UNP only commented after analyzing the security of women in the northern province, that during Pirbaharan's rule a woman could walk with jewels in the middle of the night in the street without fear hence that type of rule should come. That is a fact which the government does not want to give credit to LTTE leader. Now that Sri Lankan government frequently boast over the victory of LTTE with the assistance of fourteen countries but their fear of Pirabaharan is embedded among the Sinhalese people's mind. Mrs. Vijayakala

Maheswaran also mentioned that her husband was not killed by LTTE but by another Tamil political party

Cassim: Now that Provincial council elections are around the corner, everyone's

focus is in the Northern province provincial council election. There is speculation by the media that Vijayakala and the present CM may form an alliance. Malai Senathirajah wants to be the CM because of his political experience. Sumanthiran is backing him. Although Sampanthan is staying uncommitted. Within himself, he prefers present CM Wagnerian to continue for another term.

Chinna: In US presidential elections maximum two terms each of four years is allowed. Hence, in the same way, present CM should be permitted to continue for another term. He is an educated, corruption free person.

Chandra: There are many suggestions by the media about the name of the person who will contest for the President's post. UNP is focussing on the Ranil who has the backing of the western countries. SLFP may want Maithripala to continue for another term. Rajapakse group is undecided as to whether to nominate a family member from Rajapakse dynasty or an outsider such as G L Peris or distant relation of Rajapakse dynasty. He has the backing from China. Whoever comes as president, the supremacy of Singhalese will not change. Tamils in North and East should be happy if the provincial council gets more power with less control from the central government.

Cassim: You all know the verdict given by Jaffna judiciary over the former minister Deneeswaram. As per the verdict, the Governor has more power than CM. It is ridiculous as the people elect the CM whereas the governor is nominated by the central government to keep watch on the CM. The democracy fails in Sri Lanka. It looks as if Judiciary is promoting corruption by giving a verdict in favor of Deneeswaran.

Chinna: Judiciary in Sri Lanka has become a laughing stock. No wonder UN is insisting on international judges to inquire into HR violations. The verdicts are only on paper. You know that the student Krishanthi and family murderers are happily living in the Jail from 1998. They should hang the convicts of a death sentence from the date it was withheld 1976 The issue of capital punishment has taken a political turn. President will decide based on Attorney general's recommendation how will be hanged first. There are about few Tamils and four Pakistanis who will be hanged for a drug offense. There are many countries in the world capital punishment is

implemented for a drug offense. It is funny that Canada is not in favor of it. In Canada, the serial killer from Scarborough who took the lives of eight people including two Sri Lankan Tamil youths will not be hanged.

Chandra: For Sri Lanka, we need a strong man like Sir John Kottalawalle. He once said “ Go to work or go home” to the strikers. He was a disciplinarian. His father John Kottalawalle Snr, following accusations of murder of his brother-in-law, committed suicide when his Sir John was 11 years. Sir John's mother Alice Kottalawalle was originally a Buddhist later she converted herself to Christianity after her husband’s death.

Chinna: In India, the death sentence is in progress. Only the Rajeev Gandhi murder convicts were given life sentence after initially passing the death sentence. The real culprit Subramania Samy is out and making statements for his publicity.

Cassim: We all know about that joker BJP politician Subramaniya Samy. He made a recent statement that Pottu Amman is alive in Italy and undergoing treatment. If Pottu Amman is an accuse in Rajeev Gandhi murder case, Samy can ask Sonia Gandhi, an Italian by birth, to use her influence to arrest Pottu Amman.

Chandra: Subramaniya Samy is against Sedhu Samudra project. He being a brahmin, believes that Rama built Rama's bridge from Danuskodi to Talaimannar with the help of monkey warriors. Chinna what is your opinion about it.

Chinna: Did Rama’s monkey warriors build the Rama’s bridge from Danuskodi South India to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. Many BJP politicians and Brahmins maintain this as true. This question has become a political issue. It was an obstacle for Sedhu Samudra project to be completed that will benefit Tamil Nadu and Nadu and resolve Kachaitheevu crisis. As per astrological prediction, Rama was born in 7323 B.C. Rama’s Bridge was built on the ocean about 7292 B.C (9300 years ago). At that time Rama ’s age was 31 years. Rama killed Ravana within one year after he built the bridge during 7292 B.C.

Chandra: In case of Rama’s bridge the battle between Science & Spirituality is running for over a decade. Science relies on logic, facts & proofs whereas Spirituality is largely related to belief. According to Hindu belief, Ram Setu was built by Lord Rama to cross the sea. Stones used to make

the bridge floated on water because Rama was written on stones. But there is a complete scientific explanation why stones floated on water & why now Ram Sethu is under water.

Chandra: If air is trapped within a shell of silica it would look like a stone but would be very light and would thus float. Another example is Ice. When put into glass having liquid, ice floats on liquid & after some time it sinks. Another prime example is of “Pumice” stone. A scientist has been claiming far and wide that the stones of Ram Sethu are coral formation. NASA scientists even release the photo where they claim the Ram Sethu underwater bridge to be coral formation. It should be noted that Peral grows in the Gulf of Mannar which has a link to corals NASA do not want to get involved with Indian politics as such they are very careful in making statements about Rama’s bridge

Chinna: The bridge is 50 km (30 mi) length. Some of the sandbanks are dry, and the sea in the area is very shallow, being only 1 to 10 meters (3 to 30 ft) deep in places, which hinders navigation. It was reportedly passable on foot up to the 15th century until storms deepened the channel: temple records seem to say that Adam's Bridge was completely above sea level until it broke in a cyclone in 1480. Geological evidence suggests that this bridge is a former land connection between India and Sri Lanka Dating of corals, indicate Rameswaram Island evolved beginning 125,000 years ago. Radiocarbon dating of samples in this study suggests the domain between Rameswaram and Talaimannar may have been exposed sometime between 7,000 and 18,000 years ago.¹ Thermoluminescence dating concludes that the dunes between Danuskodi and Adam's Bridge started forming about 500–600 years ago. As per astronomical dating of the Rama -Ravana war, it happened about 9000 years ago

Cassim: Carbon dating of the stones in the bridge So these dates are not based on proper records in stone inscriptions other than astronomical record we infer the following Ramas Vaanaram did not build Rama's; bridge, He would have crossed into Sri Lanka over the sandy landmass that existed at that time Mannar means Sandy area Thalai Mannar means the top of Sand. That would have linked by sand with Danuskodi many thousands of years ago

Chinna: One-time Rishis were good storytellers I during Vedic period. They traveled in place with time using their power. They changed shapes. They predicted during the Vedic time. Valmiki one time a highway robber who turned Rishis would have had visions of catastrophes that took place through Earthquake, Meteoroid strike, or Tsunami or continental shift separated Sri Lanka from

South India. He used his vision to write the imaginative story about Rama's bridge. One thing is evident this belief is blocking the Sedhu Samudra project which would have befitted Tamil Nadu and Eelam. Of course, if the project is executed Kachaitheevu island will vanish and solves the crisis between Sri Lanka and India. Sri Lanka.

Chinna: Rama's bridge as per Rama would have built by Vaanaram at least few years before 5561 during the time Rama lived. Say the approximate date is 5570BC. Hence carbon dating of the floating stones in the bridge joining Danuskodi (தனுஷ்கோடி) and Talaimannar (தலைமன்னார்) should reflect this period. If not then the bridge was not constructed by Rama's vaanaram.

The second possibility is that Sri Lanka and Tip of South India were together under Lumera continent. Two Sangam's existed further south of Kanyakumari. Third Tamil Sangam now exists in Madurai. Tamaraparani (தாமரபரணி) river was lined with Malavatu Oya (மல்வத்து ஓயா). That is why Sri Lanka is called Taprobane and Vijayan landed with his 700 friends in Thaambapaani near Kudiramalai in west of Willpattu on Puttalam Mannar Road, Pearl fishing was carried out in Arripu near this area. One time Kuveni had a palace in Willpattu. Excavation proves it. There is a legendray story that Alli Rani lived in Kudiramalai and traded with the Arab world. She exchanged Pearls for with Arab horses. She had a flower garden in Poonaryn as such that tow got that name. Well, there are no historical proof for this. Ali range came from Kerala which spot too far from Malabar. She crossed over to Kalpitiya and met a prince from Kerala who lived in Kalpitiya. One time Kalpitiya was connected with Kudiramalai (குதிரைமலை) by land. Now after a Tsunami the Dutch bay is the strip of land that extends from Kalpitiya.

Chandra: During the height of the battle Rama -Ravana war Indrajit (இந்திரஜித்) the elder son of Ravana beheaded a lookalike of Sita Devi in front of Hanuman to break his spirit. This place is known as Sitawake in the Avissawella area. Yudhaganawa, battle field in Sinhala is a place in Wasgamuwa (East of Dambulla and South of Pollanaruwa - It is a national park now) where the major battles took place. Yudhaganawa means in singhalese a place where war the took place .

Cassim: What are your opinion about Rajapakse trying to come back to power. He claims that he implemented several projects after the war and defeated the Tamil rebels.

Chandra: A man who once tasted political power for more than a decade and built his won dynasty will never give up the privileges he and his relations enjoyed. Mattala (Mahinda) International Airport is a white elephant of Sri Lanka. This airport is in a forested area a 250-kilometer drive from Colombo. The airport has a 12,000 square meter terminal building, 12 check-in counters, two gates, a runway long enough to handle the largest commercial jets, and capacity for one million passengers per year. At the cost of \$209 million, \$190 million of which coming in the form of loans from China. Now Sri lank is finding it to pay back the loan. They have leased the Airport to India. Sri Lanka will get only 30% of the profit.

Cassim: By the way, Chinna did you attend the funeral of the dual language literary writer Late Mrs. Lalitha Indrani Brudie? I heard that she was a progressive-minded, talented old Tamil lady.

Chinna: There is no funeral only a memorial service as she donated her body for medical research, To be honest, I never came across in my life talented lady as Lalitha Brudie She was a member of Peel Tamil seniors' association. About a month before she passed away the visited the Tamils Seniors in her wheelchair and gave one hour talk about women's issues in current society. Even after her husband, a retired planter expired, she uses to have red bindu (சூங்குமப் பொட்டு) and never wore white saree like a Jaffna Tamil widow. She donated her body for medical research. She is a progressive-minded lady. She writes the preface for my book "The sufferings of innocent souls" covering Human rights violations in Sri Lanka. May her soul rest in peace by the way Brudie clan name has some link to Scotland. Hence I think it would have come to Jaffna during British rule as many Scottish planters started Tea estates

Chandra: Ok machchan It is time for us to go home. We will meet again next month. Bye for all now
