

സെപ്റ്റംബർ 2015
ഓണം പതിപ്പ്

ധ്വനി

മനോഹ - പത്രിക



Onam - The Legend

Lord of the Sinkholes

A Tribute to an Inspiration

നിറംചാർത്തിയ ഓണസ്മൃതികൾ

Animal Cruelty

സർപ്രൈസ്!

Mastering Learning

Malayalee Association of North Florida



മാനന്തപുരം

ഉള്ളടക്കം

മുഖപ്രസംഗം	യൂസഫ് കുളപ്പുറക്കൽ	5
A Tribute to an Inspiration	Ravishankar Nair	6
Animal Cruelty	Rohini Kumar	9
Manofa Achievements & Activities		10
Onam - The Legend	Yusuff Kulapurakkal	12
നിറംചാർത്തിയ ഓണസ്മൃതികൾ	ആശ ജോർജ്ജ്	15
Manofa Arts Competition 2015		16
Manofa Photography Competition 2015		17
Lord of the Sinkholes	Kevin Kurian	18
Frog and the Grasshopper	Joseph Kurumkulam	19
സർപ്രൈസ്!	ഫെബിൻ യൂസഫ്	21
Mastering Learning	Ravishankar Nair	22

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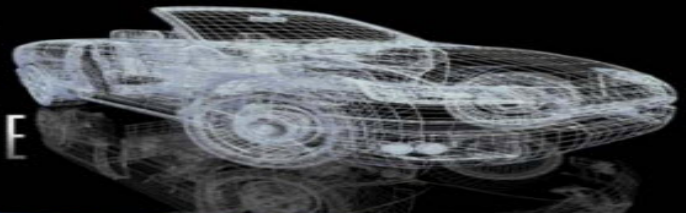


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മുഖപ്രസംഗം

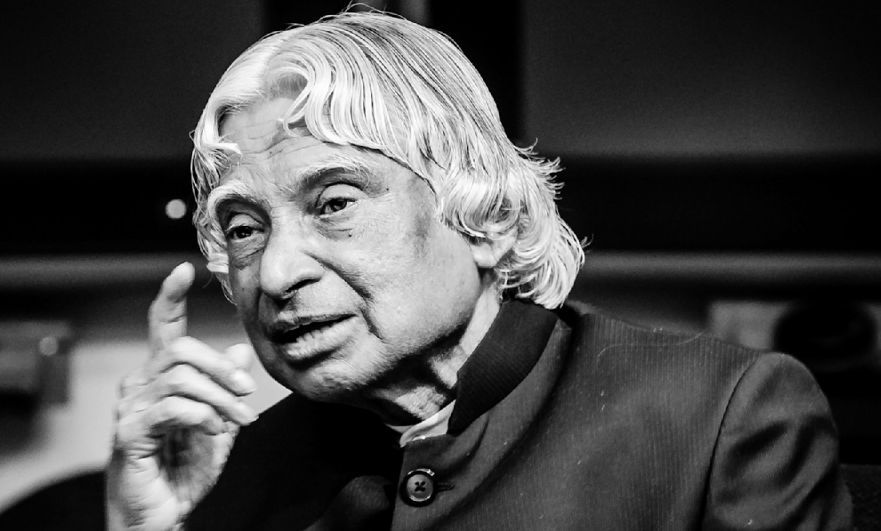
ലോകത്തിന്റെ മറുഭാഗത്ത് ജീവിതം കരുപ്പിടിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള നെട്ടോട്ടത്തിനിടയിലും മലയാളിയെ സ്വന്തം വേരുകളോട് വീണ്ടും ചേർത്ത് പിടിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഓണത്തിനുള്ള പങ്കു ചെറുതല്ല. ഓണനാളുകൾ പോലെ മറുനാടൻ കേരളീയരിൽ ഇത്രയധികം ഗൃഹാതുരത്വം ഉണർത്തുന്ന മറ്റൊരു സമയമുണ്ടോ എന്നത് സംശയകരമാണ്.

പ്രഭാതത്തിലെ ഉണർന്നു പൂക്കൾ പറിക്കുവാനോടുന്ന കുട്ടികളെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ പോലും ഇന്ന് കാണാനില്ല. പുന്നെല്ലിന്റെ മണമുള്ള കാറ്റു വീശുന്ന, തുമ്പികൾ പാറുന്ന തൊടികളും അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി മാറി... എന്നിരുന്നാലും ചിങ്ങമാസം പിറന്നപ്പോൾ ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി നിറപറയും നിലവിളക്കും തുമ്പപ്പൂക്കളും തുളസിക്കിതിരുകളും ഒരു പിടി മധുരരമായ ഓർമ്മകളും മനസ്സിൽ നിറച്ചു പൊന്നോണം വീണ്ടും വരുവായി...

മനോഹയുടെ 2015 ഓണാഘോഷങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി നടത്തിയ ആർട്സ് ആൻഡ് ഫോട്ടോഗ്രഫി (Arts and Photography) മത്സരങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി നമുക്ക് ലഭിച്ച പ്രതികരണങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് മികച്ചവരെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളത് അകംതാളുകളിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് കാണുവാനാവും. അത് പോലെ നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികളുടെ ഭാവന മുന്തി നിൽക്കുന്ന മികച്ച നിലവാരം പുലർത്തുന്ന ഏതാനം പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണങ്ങളും (കെവിൻ ജോർജ്ജ്, രോഹിണി കുമാർ മുതലായവർ) നിങ്ങൾക്ക് ആസ്വദിക്കാം.

ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി പൂക്കളവും പൂവിളിയും ഓണക്കോടികളും ഓണസദ്യയുമായി എല്ലാ മനോഹ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങൾക്കും എന്റെ ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ ഓണാശംസകൾ...





A Tribute to an Inspiration...

From Manofa

The national icon - the trailblazer - the rock star of science is no more. We at Manofa knew the moment the news of the demise reached us, social media would be fraught with messages, condolences and eulogies by one and all. And not one individual would have a bitter thing to say about the Missile Man, the Students' Ideal, the People's President, the man who revamped Indian astronomy.

Could we call him the Carl Sagan of India? Perhaps. But Dr. Kalam was in a class of his own. He had his characteristic coiffure, his simple and high ideals, his untiring efforts and dedication towards his domain of work. He was the quintessential Indian scientist. Of the likes of CV Raman, Ramanujan and JC Bose. He wore many hats- those of a thinker, philosopher, teacher, author and many such, elegantly and admirably so. When the name is APJ Abdul Kalam, one, whoever that one be, can't help feeling a tinge of pride and a surge of inspiration. No barriers of caste, class or religion come to mind. Only the inspiring man with a humble background and an illustrious life. The son of a fisherman, who ferried Hindu pilgrims ashore, Dr. Kalam's life story is more surreal and beautiful than a carefully written piece of fiction. It seems as if each detail of his life had been intricately carved so as to inspire millions with its simplicity and greatness.

The 11th President of India, the Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and the Bharat Ratna awardee, Dr. Kalam is forever alive via his views, quotes, ideas and messages. In 2005, Switzerland declared May 26 as 'Science Day' to commemorate Dr. Kalam's visit to the European country. With his ardent devotion and his vision for 'India 2020', he took the country on space missions and missile launches, on unprecedented advancements in technology and on projects of the skies and the heavens. We are proud to have had a scientist president. How many countries can boast of that?

Dr. Kalam's recent publication- 'Transcendence...' had barely hit the book stands; he was elucidating the concept of a 'pure planet' to the students of IIM - Shillong when a massive cardiac arrest struck him and cut short his worldly voyage. The loss couldn't be greater and couldn't be more greatly felt. The man had a lot of life left in him.

As we close our eyes praying for his soul, we wonder that this man of the stars has reached his stars. When Oct 15 dawns this year as the sixth World Students' Day and the first one sans his presence, we hope that many such Kalams are born here at Jacksonville. It's a fitting tribute to the man with 'Wings of Fire'!



OCTOBER 15, 1931 - JULY 27, 2015

Indomitable spirit

I was swimming in the sea,
Waves came one after the other
I was swimming and swimming to reach my destination.
But one wave, a powerful wave, overpowered me;

It took me along in its own direction,
I was pulled long and along.
When I was about to lose amidst the sea wave power,
One thought flashed to me, yes, that is courage

Courage to reach my goal, courage to defeat the powerful force and succeed;
With courage in my mind, indomitable spirit engulfed me,
With indomitable spirit in mind and action,
I regained lost confidence
I can win, win and win
Strength came back to me, overpowered the sea wave
I reached the destination, my mission.



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all they
have is

makeup products *daily* to see which products are safe for the public to use. And after all of the testing, the cosmetics company ends up making money while the animal lies somewhere in pain. Why should a life be harmed so someone can make money? Why should a life be harmed so someone can look pretty? Fur is only beautiful on the original owner.

Animal Cruelty

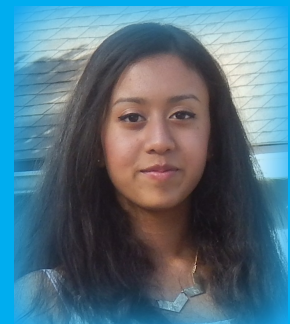
I've only been on this Earth for 14 years. I am not particularly wise. But in those years, I have learned one thing: the human race is selfish. We care only about ourselves. This isn't something we do on purpose; it's often even accidental. The most abundant proof of it is animal cruelty.

Animal cruelty happens every single day by the hands of humans. Thanks to us, animals are tested on, used in torturous experiments, separated from their mothers, pumped with hormones, and slaughtered. These activities don't even happen for human self-preservation; it happens for our comfort. This is not right. A long time ago, when Native Americans walked the Earth, they killed animals. But they killed animals to *survive*. They didn't have tofu, soy, and all the vegan/vegetarian options we have today. Even when they killed an animal, they were not wasteful. Every single part of the animal was used, from the bones to the brains. We are nothing like this. We are wasteful and careless. We take animals for granted.

Usually, someone profits off of animal cruelty. Take cosmetics companies, for example. Thousands of bunnies, rats, and guinea pigs are slathered in eyeshadow, lipstick, and other

When a human child is separated from his/her mother, distress is felt by both. We need to understand that animals feel this distress as well. Calves on veal farms are separated from their mothers a couple hours after they are born. This is extremely traumatic for both the calf and the mother cow, and both show signs of distress for days on end. Separation like this happens all the time, especially on factory farms. Many consumers are not aware of this, and continue to buy products coming from these farms. It's time we start learning where our food is coming from, and from what conditions. Maybe then, everyone would want to make more of a change.

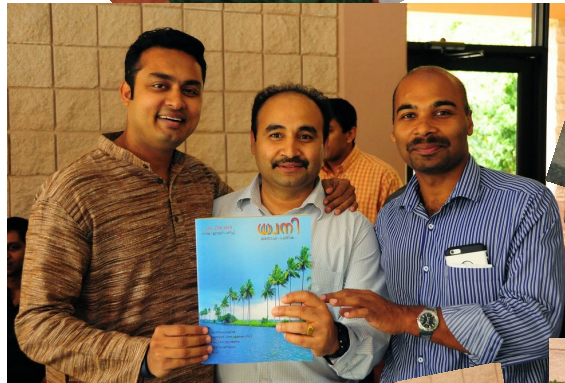
Fortunately, awareness is growing. Numerous groups are working for animals to get their rights. After all, animals do deserve to live just as much as any human does, and there is no argument out there that can negate that. For too long, humans have been using animals with the excuse that it's perfectly okay because they aren't as intelligent as us. This is false, and it needs to end. I encourage you to start making small changes: the next time you go out to buy a purse, stay away from the leather ones. If you eat meat and you're not interested in going vegetarian, then at least buy from companies that treat their animals humanely. Stay away from cosmetics companies that test on animals. You'll feel better about yourself, guaranteed.





April - September 2015

MANOFA - ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES



Easter - Vishu Celebrations

April 2015



April - September 2015

MANOFA - ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES



Alex M Kurikes Memorial Soccer, August 2015



Manofa Cricket Club; May 2015



Youth Basketball; July 2015



The story goes that the beautiful state of Kerala was once ruled by an Asura (demon) king, Mahabali.

The King was greatly respected in his kingdom and was considered to be wise, judicious and extremely generous. It is said that Kerala witnessed its golden era during the reign of King Mahabali.

Everybody was happy in the kingdom, there was no discrimination on the basis of caste or class. Rich and poor were equally treated. There was neither crime, nor corruption. People did not even lock their doors, as there were no thieves in that kingdom. There was no poverty, sorrow or disease in the reign of King Mahabali and everybody was happy and content.

Onam - The Legend

Even though us Malayalees living in the United States make sure to celebrate Onam in all its grandeur since it takes us back to those nostalgic times back in Kerala, many a times we forget to impart a properly detailed legend of the great festival to our kids who were brought up here. The following is mostly intended for our younger generation who were raised here to think and dream in English.

The Reign of King Mahabali

The legend of King Mahabali is the most popular and the most fascinating of all legends behind Onam. Onam celebrates the visit of King Mahabali to the state of Kerala every year. The festival is celebrated with fervor as King Mahabali is greatly admired by his subjects. King Mahabali is also fondly called "Maveli" and "Onathappan".

Conspiracy of the Gods

Looking at the ever-growing popularity and fame of King Mahabali, the Gods became extremely jealous and hence worried. They felt threatened about their own supremacy and got together to think of a strategy to get rid of the dilemma.

To curb the growing reign of Mahabali and maintain their own supremacy, Aditi, the mother of the Gods sought the help of Lord Vishnu (the preserver in the Hindu trinity); whom Mahabali himself worshiped.

It was a very well-known fact that King Mahabali was immensely generous and charitable. Anybody who had approached him with requests for anything had never had to return empty-handed. The king was also a man of his own word in every sense. Keeping this in mind, Lord Vishnu disguised himself as a poor Brahmin called Vamana who was also short in stature. He came to the Kingdom of Mahabali, just after the king had performed his morning prayers and was preparing to listen to the requests of his subjects.



Vamana's Request

Disguised as Vamana, Lord Vishnu said he was a poor Brahmin and asked for a piece of land. The generous King said, he could have as much land as he wanted. The Brahmin replied that he just wanted as much land as could be covered by his three steps. The King was surprised to hear this small request; but agreed to it.

A learned adviser of the King - Shukracharya - sensed that Vamana was not an ordinary person and warned the King against making the promise. But, the generous King replied that it would be a sin for a King to back on his words and asked the Brahmin to take the land. The King could not imagine that the dwarf Brahmin was Lord Vishnu himself.

Just as King Mahabali agreed to grant the land, Vamana began to expand and eventually increased himself to the size of cosmic proportions. With his first step the Vamana covered the whole of earth and with the other step he covered the whole of the skies. He then asked King Mahabali where the space is for him to keep his third foot.

The King now realized that he was no ordinary Brahmin and his third step will destroy the earth.

Mahabali with folded hands bowed before Vamana and asked him to place his last step on his head so that the king could keep his promise.

The Brahmin placed his foot on the head of the King, which pushed him to Paathaalam; the nether world.

There the King requested the Brahmin to reveal his true identity. Lord Vishnu then appeared before the King in his person. The Lord told the King that he came to test him and the King won the test. King Mahabali was pleased to see his lord. Lord Vishnu also granted a boon to the King

The King's Request to Visit Kerala

The King was so deeply attached with his Kingdom and people that he requested that he be allowed to visit Kerala once in a year. Lord Vishnu was moved by the King's nobility and was pleased to grant the wish to visit his subjects once annually. He also blessed the King and said even after losing all his worldly possessions, the King would always be loved by Lord Vishnu and his people.

The day of the visit of King Mahabali to Kerala is celebrated as Onam every year. The festival is celebrated as a tribute to the sacrifice of King Mahabali. Every year people make elaborate preparations to welcome their beloved "Onathappan". The second day, Thiruvonam is the biggest and the most important day of this festival. It is believed that King Mahabali visits his people on the second day.





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നിറംചാർത്തിയ ഓണസ്മൃതികൾ...

"നിറങ്ങൾ ചാലിച്ചെഴുതുന്നില്ല ധൃതിയിൽ ഏഴുപിറയെ
ഉണക്കിത്, ചിന്തയ്ക്കുള്ളിലെ ഭാണത്തിൽ
ഒരായിരം നിറങ്ങളുടെ ചാർത്തലാണ്!"

ഭാരതത്തിൽ ചാർത്തലുകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി നാണിയാവാണം
ഭാണമെന്ന, വാങ്ങലുകളുടെ ഉത്സവത്തിൽ.
വേനാടിന് സ്വപ്നസാക്ഷിയായി പൂർവ്വകാലീന
വെളിച്ചം, വെളിച്ചം എഴുതും സങ്കല്പവേദനം.

ചിന്താസന്നിധി പൊതുവെ ചിന്തിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടില്ല
പേലോടെ പ്രവേശിക്കും സങ്കല്പം
ചിന്താസന്നിധി വിശിഷ്ടതയിൽ പൂർവ്വകാലീന
ചാലിച്ചെഴുതുന്ന നിറങ്ങളിലും ഉത്സവവേദനം.

നിറങ്ങൾ വെളിച്ചം ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതുന്ന പേലോടെ
താലോലിക്കും ഭാണത്തിൽ നിറങ്ങൾ പൂർവ്വകാലീന
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താലോലിക്കും വെളിച്ചം ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും പൂർവ്വകാലീന.

നിറങ്ങൾ ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതുന്ന പേലോടെ
താലോലിക്കും, പൂർവ്വകാലീനതയിൽ നിറങ്ങൾ ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും
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ഉത്സാഹത്തിൽ നിറങ്ങളിൽ, ഭാണത്തിൽ,
ഉത്സാഹത്തിൽ പേലോടെ ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും
ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും, നിറങ്ങളിൽ വെളിച്ചം ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും
ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും, നിറങ്ങളിൽ വെളിച്ചം ചിന്തിച്ചെഴുതും.

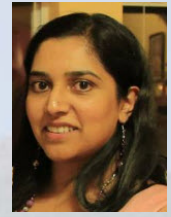
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Manofa Arts Competition 2015



Elizabeth Smitha Antony

Winning Entry

Other Notable Entries



**Remya
Nambuthiri**



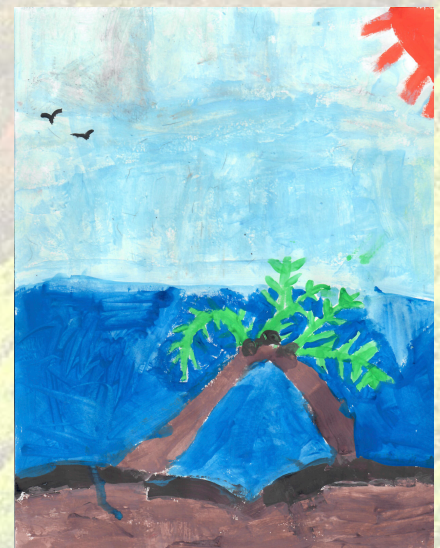
**Sreehari
Binoy**



**Kevin
Jesin**



**Shreya
Kalarikkal**



**Sanjana
Kalarikkal**

Manofa Photography Competition 2015

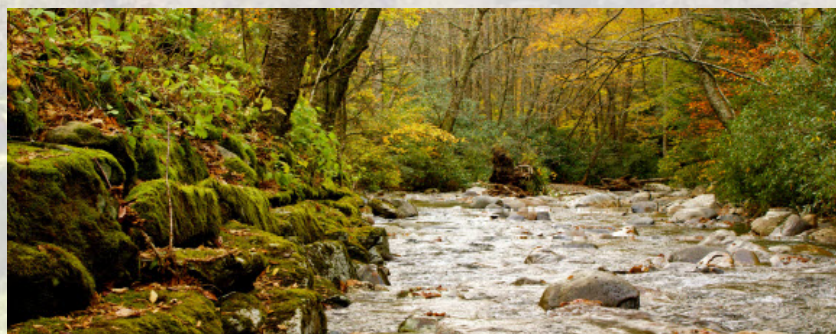


Winning Entry - "Smoky Mountain Sunrise"



Sandeep Vasudevan

Other Notable Entries



"Stream of My Life"

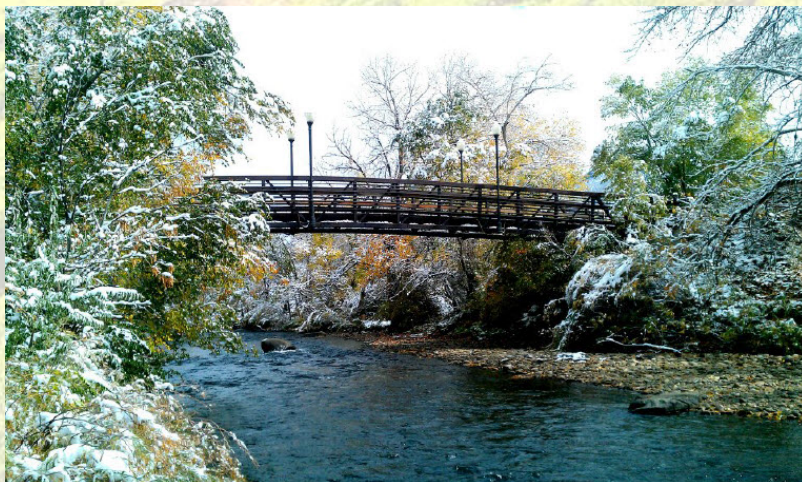


Anoop Mohan

"Fall and Winter in Harmony"



Beno Varghese



Lord of the Sinkholes



Chapter 1 - Good Old Days

Once upon a time, there was a nature's treasure in the southern edge of the land, the land of sunny Florida, green and beautiful. A great land with white sandy beaches, green meadows and evergreen trees. The rivers and creeks made music as they flew and they were full of fishes, birds chirped all around, bees and butterfly flew from flower to flower. Deer's pranced the plains in peace and trees that grew so tall, as if it wanted to touch the sky. The native people of the land were nurturing, kind and careful with nature. The people of the land worshipped the God of nature, Doraemon. The people kept the land perfectly because they did not want to awaken the wrath of the God and harm the balance of nature. The people hunted for what they needed and did not harm the animals; they gathered fruits and vegetable and planted crops, took care of the land and kept an equal balance for nature. In return of their devotion, God of nature, Doraemon rewarded them with perfect weather, great scenery, and an abundance of water and food supply.



Chapter 2 - Migration of Terror

People from other parts of the world start noticing how great the land of Florida with all it has to offer, they started moving in large numbers taking up any space they can find and start settling down. With this quick and large migration, there came builders, merchants, traders and business people. Many of them were greedy and wanted to be rich. So they started cutting down trees and building skyscrapers, dams across rivers, factories near rivers and hotels along the beaches. Soon a lot forest land has become suburban communities, factories and warehouses, beaches become polluted with waste. The sound of factories and smoke polluted the air and birds and animals got scared away. The new crowd of people and business started consuming all natural resources without even bothering about replenishing it. They soon ignored nature's balance turned a beautiful land to a mess. They took advantage of what was a wonderful piece of land.

They cut the trees, polluted the air and water, killed the animals, ruined the soil, littered the ground, etc. The immigrants took over the land and suddenly it was like every other land they had taken over. It was ugly. With less forest and pollution, climate has become warmer in summer and colder in winter. The flowers and plants, birds and fish all started dying.

Chapter 3 - Fall of Paradise



Native people resisted this take over and destruction. There were many protests by the native people but those were not effective. The leader of the immigrant people was Aragorn. He was a powerful military leader and had a strong army of criminals to help him; with their brutal strength he has a strong command over all immigrant people and business. They had money, weapons and power, which suppressed all protests. The native people who were captured would be tortured and would be thrown into a pit left to die. Eventually there were not many native people left and the ones that were left were scattered into small tribes. They formed tiny civilizations in bushy swamps but their lives were not very sustainable. They had a hard time finding food and water as nature has changed so much and their living conditions had become very bad.

Chapter 4 - Rise of a Leader



Years gone by and then there was a new hope for the native people. A new leader started to rise from the swamp civilization. His name was Aaryan, a wise and courageous leader who worshipped nature. He united all scattered tribes and started a rebellion against the powerful immigrant business people. Aryan inspired the native people to fight back and stop the immigrants from ruining the beautiful land even more. Many were hesitant at first about this idea but later on Aaryan convinced them that this was their last hope for freedom and what is good for the land and God of nature. He trained a small group of native fighters. On the day of attack they moved in to the city. At night, they attacked the big building, a fortress from where Aragorn has ruled over the land.

It was a heavily guarded and Aaryan and his men tried to climb up through the high side walls with their bamboo ladders, ropes and hook. While they were climbing the wall, one person slipped and fell down with a thud noise. That sound got the attention of the guards and soon Aaryan and his men were surrounded by Aragorn's guards. Aaryan and his brave men fought hard but they were outnumbered and soon defeated. Aragorn's guards killed all of Aaryan's men and captured Aaryan.

Aragorn decided to execute Aaryan to teach a lesson to all native people and scare them from any rebellion. But before killing him he wanted to know all the details about rest of the native people, their strengths and secrets, all future plans of attack and their hiding places. So he locked up Aaryan in a dungeon and ordered to starve him so that he loses his strength and spirit. Aragorn's army would torture him and Aaryan suffered a lot of pain from it. He would not tell them anything they wanted to hear and they continued to beat and bleed him. Helpless and alone in the dark dungeon, Aaryan prayed hard to the God of Nature, Doraemon. He prayed every day, he prayed even while he was being brutally beaten up and tortured. The torture was so hard Aaryan could no longer stand it, his body was weak and soon died.

Chapter 5 - Gift of Doraemon

By seeing what happened to his nature and the people who nurtured the land and the leader Aaryan who fought for the native people and nature, Doraemon become very sad. Doraemon as a God has the power of creation but did not have the power over death. In nature all human deaths are supposed natural and the God of Nature cannot bring back someone from the dead. But he was very proud and pleased with Aaryan he decided to give a blessing of rebirth to Aaryan away from the brutality of Aragorn and his men.

Doraemon blessed Aaryan with a second life, a life in the new world he created for Aaryan with beauty and calm surroundings far from the pollution and ugliness of the land. It was a heavenly way underneath earth's surface, where there is no pain and agony, just joys of nature and calmness. He made him the Lord of the heaven underneath. Doraemon knew how much Aaryan loved the nature above, the blue sky and the chirping of birds and sound of beach's waves that hits shore. So he gave a special gift to the reborn Aaryan, a power over the soil and ability to make windows into his favorite sky whenever he want to see the blue sky and everything above the ground he loved and fought for so much in his past life. He can make a tunnel through the soil and rocks to reach above the ground.

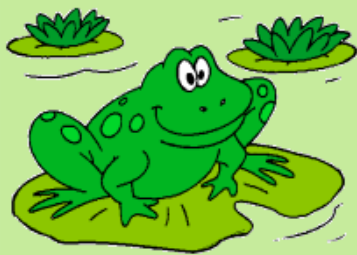
Chapter 6 - Lord of Sinkholes

Doraemon knew there would be some damage when such windows were made, so he advised Aaryan to be considerate and kind while he used his special power as the lord of heaven underneath. He asked Aaryan to make a window from his heaven underneath and see the power himself. Aaryan pointed his staff towards the sky from his heaven underneath and all of a sudden a huge tunnel from deep underneath formed and sucked Aragorn and his fortress into the depths. He could see the lovely blue sky of the day and the stars of the night like watching the sky through a telescope and he thanked Doraemon.

Aragorn and his brutal army were long gone and the generations of people ever since were more grateful to nature and try to keep a better balance of nature and its resources. They had witnessed deep tunnels appearing in the ground occasionally that would suck everything leaving a huge hole so deep into the earth. They called it Sinkholes and learned through the generations of folk tales. It is the price modern civilization had to pay for torturing and killing a great nature loving leader. They remember Aaryan with pride and share his pain whenever a sinkhole appears. They remember him as the Lord of Sinkholes!



Frog and the Grasshopper



Once there lived a frog and a grasshopper. They decided to have a race from China across the Pacific ocean to North America. The frog did not practice well. He thought he knew how to swim.

But grasshopper practiced jumping very far. It was time for the race. Grasshopper did a big jump from China to Japan and from Japan to North America and he won the race.



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സർപ്രൈസ്!

നാളെ തിരിച്ചു പോവണം നാട്ടിലേക്ക്. രണ്ട് വർഷം മുൻപ് ഒരു ന്യൂ ഇയർ പാർട്ടിയുടെ ഹാങ്ങ് ഓവറിൽ സ്വന്തമായി ബിസിനസ് തുടങ്ങാൻ കാൽ തന്നില്ല എന്ന് പറഞ്ഞു വീട്ടിൽ തല്ലുണ്ടാക്കി ഇറങ്ങിയതാണ്. അപ്പനും അന്ന് രണ്ടെണ്ണം വിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. സാധാരണ ചോദിക്കുന്നത് പോലെ വഴി ചെലവിനു കാൽ ഉണ്ടോടാ എന്ന് പോലും ചോദിച്ചില്ല; "ഇറങ്ങിപ്പോടാ!" എന്നൊരലർച്ച മാത്രമേ അവിടെ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടായുള്ളൂ. അമ്മച്ചി പിന്നെ സീരിയൽ കാണുമ്പോൾ കരയുന്നത് പോലെ കരഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ട് ഗേറ്റ് വരെ വന്നു. നിമ്മിയാണെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ ഇതൊക്കെ എത്ര കണ്ടതാ എന്ന മട്ടിൽ മിഥുനത്തിൽ ഇന്നസെന്റ് പൂജയുടെ സമയത്ത് നിൽക്കണ പോലെ ഒറ്റ നിൽപ്പാണ്. അവളുടെ മോന്തയടച്ചു ഒന്ന് പൊട്ടിക്കാൻ തോന്നി അത് കണ്ടപ്പോ.

നാലഞ്ചു ദിവസം എറണാകുളത്ത് തെണ്ടി തിരിച്ചു പോവാൻ ആർന്നു പ്ലാൻ. എന്റെ ഒരു ഭാഗ്യത്തിന് ഒരു ഫ്രണ്ട്സിന്റെ അമ്മാവൻ ബിസിനസ് തൊടങ്ങിയ സമയാർന്നു. അങ്ങേർ കൂടെ കൂടി കൊള്ളാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. കുഴപ്പില്ലാത്ത ശമ്പളം ആയതോണ്ട് ഞാനും സമ്മതം മൂളി. കയ്യിൽ കാൽ വന്നപ്പോ എനിക്കും വന്നു ഈഗോ. ഈ പൈസയുടെ ഒരു പവർ അപ്പോഴാണ് മനസിലായത്. ജനിപ്പിച്ച അപ്പച്ചനോട് വരെ ഈഗോ. എന്താ കഥ. ഇടക്കൊക്കെ അമ്മച്ചിയെ വിളിച്ചു ജീവനോടെ ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കും. അത് മാത്രമായി പിന്നെ വീടുമായുള്ള ബന്ധം.

വെച്ചോണ്ട് ഇരുന്നിട്ട് കാര്യമില്ല. എന്തായാലും ഇനി തിരിച്ചു പോവണം. അപ്പച്ചനും അമ്മച്ചിക്കും നിമ്മിക്കും എന്റെ വക ഒരു ന്യൂ ഇയർ സർപ്രൈസ്.

എത്രയും പെട്ടെന്ന് നാളെ ആയാൽ മതിയാർന്നു....

ജനുവരി ഒന്നിന് കുറിച്ച ഈ ഒരു കുറിപ്പ് മാത്രമേ ആ ഡയറിയിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. വേറെ ഒരു സൂചനയും ലഭിച്ചില്ല. ബോഡിയുടെ കൂടെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന ബാക്കി സാധനങ്ങൾക്കൊപ്പം ആ ഡയറിയും ഞാൻ സിൽ ചെയ്ത പോളിത്തീൻ കവറിലേക്ക് മാറ്റി.



Mastering Learning

Couple of months ago, I was fortunate enough attend a kindergarten graduation ceremony (☺) for my son - he is just passing the kindergarten along with five others and going to first standard.

While I was looking at my boy smiling at the audience for successfully learning some ABC's, the occasion allowed me to have a wistful return to a former time in my life. And I could connect to a very big network beyond imagination, much bigger than Facebook and Twitter of the world.

Ravi - what's Euler's formula?

$F+V-E=2$, that is for any polyhedron that doesn't intersect itself, number of faces plus number of vertices minus number of edges is always equal to 2.

It was my father who asked this, and it was me who answered it during '83-'84 after I learned the same from him a year back.

How did I answer it at that time? How did I recollect it now? It's about 30 years after right?

The awesome piece of art called birth generates an absolutely plain, fresh land of an amazing part of human body at the time of arrival to this world - the brain. A big library with blank books, no titles for books, empty pages, no ordering between them, no categories and no readers. It's just formed by the self, and it's so scalable that anything and everything would be stored there.

The very next moment onward, the new baby starts understanding the taste of breast milk, it learns how to get it, and a fresh page is getting authored in the background, swiftly, slowly moving ahead with more sentences, more paragraphs, more pictures, may be more videos and more chapters and thus forming a book. Initial pages of the book might be the mother, the father, and the close relatives like grandma or grandpa. And then a series of books are being written. Some more detailed, some less scribbled. Some with highlighted texts, some less. The process is called learning. Most importantly nobody is there to teach - it's self-learning. Parents, school, teachers, colleagues, environment, internet, sun, and moon - each



object in the universe plays a significant part, one way or other in this book. After some years, the library, hosted in the brain of the baby has many books. The baby developed an awesome capability to recollect anything from anywhere in any of the books. Within fraction of seconds, millions of neurons work in unison to bring out the answers from these books. That small library is powerful than Hadoop, Big Data, or any technology going to come in the next one million years - it handles unstructured and structured together, seamlessly and new pages are automatically added, new books are processed into the system, auto sharding is in-built, it's the commodity machine which is cheapest on the earth.. How does all these happen, you may firm up your belief in almighty, there is something beyond what Science and Archimedes can explain. Its definite, it's there.

Then the grown-ups enter into the market. Next stage is to apply what they have learnt. A highly effective, distributed application governed by neurons help navigating through different books of the library to get the information they want right in-front of them in nanoseconds. When they apply them again and again, solving problems like calculus, discrete mathematics, finite automata, switching theory etc. the grown up slowly transforms into a master. It's in fact a dual role - master and learner - where the master keeps updating the books every now and then. The whole life until the last breath, the mastering and learning continues. Whether you like or not, it just happens.

Those were the quick interpretations I had at the time of the graduation ceremony. Soon I realized that my new role at a company I co-founded has something to do with this learner master paradigm.

Let's look at a retail banking system. The moment a transaction happens, the time a new product is released, the click by which a customer has selected an offer are like an incarnation of a birth - these events give us enough clues to start forming a library for that customer. Please have a look at a healthcare ecosystem – when an X-ray is taken, when an MRI scan is ordered, you receive some triggers. Valuable information about the customer, whether it's a patient, user of a bank or a traveler. As we move along with the client, the library is enriched with more and more personalized details about the customer, the

likes, the dislikes, the frequent travel destinations, the food habits, the medicines, the prescriptions etc.

Now the biggest issue is we, human beings are not powerful as the almighty, who did help the baby to grow by teaching from life. What should we do?

Hours of thinking on the same line made scientists, philosophers and nerds to invent the new science – machine learning. You may find this in the broad area of artificial intelligence. The ability to program a systems from some training data, and then let the system decide what is best for the customer, Have you seen this when you log into Amazon or Netflix, where you are shown with many offers depending on your selection behavior earlier?

Grab some materials today, understand the beauty of what science is building; try to go to that amazing world of predictive analytics. Those who are growing, and those who are in technology, its high time to dive into these areas of artificial intelligence – It will bring new opportunities, new way to deal with your customers, new thoughts to personalize the targets.

The world will be more beautiful with the choices that you want, not the choices what the merchant wants...You will get attached with your merchants more closely. Merchant will become a master by learning what you have selected or chosen, and the two way communication goes on and on. All decisions from the merchant will be following your likes – in fact you, the customer will be the decision maker.

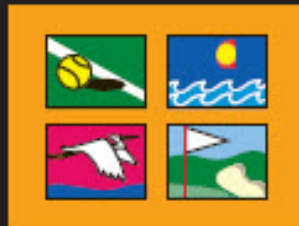
Learning, Mastering and then decision making.

I am sure when I will be attending the big graduation ceremony of my son, the notion I described above might have had filled the entire ecosystem we live in. I will be most glad when I see someone getting inspired by this and becoming a part of this transformation.



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