

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Familiar face.

-Simon Zachariah

Finally, he reached in heaven.
He started looking for faces around,
He couldn't see his family either!
Everyone is busy singing praises.

Finally he saw One...very familiar!
Who is this very familiar face?
Yes, Grandpa had His picture, on wall
He was kneeling down and praying.

Underneath, these words were written:
"My Grace is sufficient for Thee"
He smiled and said, Yes, That is Jesus!
Jesus gave him back a big smile.

If we know Him here, in your home,
He will know you too in His home!

தொங் ஜயிசு

-ஸெஸமஸ் ஸவரிய

தொங் ஜயிசுதெ - பலதான பரத்து
தொங் ஜயிசென அதை பரத்து?
ஏனிலாணைகளிக்கிடிலூ கேடோ,
தொங் ஜயிசுதோ ஏனை ஜயிப்பிசுதோ?

கலிகலித் தூதுவி குருதுது,
அனா கலிகலித் தூனை ஜயிப்பிசு.
ஏன் விஜயத்தித் தூரூபிப்பான் ஹனா,
ஏதுபேர் தொல்வியை குரு வாழுனா!

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Channels of Glory Newsletter
May, 2021



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A Newsletter

Vol. 16 No. 1 2021



Ram Mohan (Age 5)
“A Child facing Literacy Mountain”

NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

We have been hearing a lot about criticism, judgments, favoritism, and discrimination. When we were born as infants, we didn't have many choices. Others made the choices for us. And we were forced to accept whatever others decided on our behalf. Of course, we can cry with our mouths open wide, or show our protest with a sour face and protect ourselves with hands and legs. We had to be satisfied with whatever was available to us in those days. There were not many choices in toys, clothes, slippers, food etc. The word 'satisfied' was more relevant than the word 'comfort'. Growing up in big families, again reduced the choices in everything. When to wake up, what to eat, dress, talk, and even smile or cry were decided by the social culture. These norms were different for everyone depending upon their sex, age, religion, and intelligence. Each individual had to take the role which is entrusted to each one. The society expected you to accept certain privileges given to you and at the same time, you were not entitled to certain other privileges. So we had to be happy with what

was given to us. But things changed along the way and the new generation had a tough time, to evaluate what they have and make a firm decision before they made choices in their life.

Years ago when I was observing a single cell organism in a high power microscope, I noticed that even that single celled organism had a tough time choosing many things from its surroundings. I cannot agree with the old saying, "The more the merrier". Instead I would say, that if anything has a large number of choices, the more complicated and difficult it is to make a final decision. In order to choose something, first one should have the correct knowledge about it. Based on the pre-acquired knowledge, we chose certain things, and start rejecting certain other things. When we say, "Selected" or "Rejected" it means that those actions are conditional. There are some reasons for those actions. One day, when the conditions are changed, all the "Rejected" items will have an opportunity to get selected. God is a God of diversity. He created everything quite differently. People are different, and everyone has certain abilities and qualities. Each individual is unique and is precious in His sight.

There was a story that was taught in all elementary schools in Kerala. In that story, the grandma-practiced the caste system and never allowed her grandson to play with a lower caste boy. Once when she saw him playing with his lower caste friend, she insisted that he should go and take a shower and cleanse himself. In the second part of the story, she was waiting for her grandson to come home from school. She was worried because it was getting too late for the boy to

come home. Soon she found out that her grandson was in the hospital after being involved in a car accident. As she hurried to see him in the hospital, she found that the lower caste boy was selected by the doctors to donate blood for her grandson! This story challenges all those who have some kind of discrimination. We forget that God loves everyone. He created all that are in the universe. But we consider some are good and the others are bad.

Years ago, I went to see the University Registrar to get a recommendation signature. When his personal assistant gave me special permission to see him, I entered his room. To my surprise, in his room there was another professor who was famous for criticizing everyone for no reason at all. I almost wanted to retreat from that room as I was afraid that she will say something objecting my visit. But the registrar invited me with a smile. So I went inside and told the purpose of my visit. While he was reading my papers, the Professor started singing praises about me. The Registrar was very happy to hear all about my good works, and gave me appropriate recommendation. This incident taught me a lesson not to judge anyone by hearing what others say about them. Even if we were mistreated by someone, the same person may turn around and come to our help like a 'Good Samaritan'.

I always remind myself and others, that: "The good thing and the bad thing about people, is that THEY CHANGE." So none of us have the authority to judge, or discriminate because we lack knowledge about their past, or future. So let us leave the judgement to God who knows the past, present and future about everyone.