

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Failure.

-Simon Zachariah

I opened the mail; it was my result!
My mom asked: "Did you fail?"
I was shocked when I heard that.
How did you know? I asked my mom.

She said: "failure won't come suddenly!
If one is late for everything, he fails!
If one procrastinates, surely, one will fail,
But whoever never quits, will always win!"

നീളമുള്ള നാളെകൾ

-സൈമൺ സഖറിയ

ഇന്നിനെ സംതൃപ്തിയാക്കി വിട്ടാൽ
നാളെയെ ഓർത്തൊട്ടും ആധി വേണ്ട!
നേരെ പോകുന്ന സൂര്യരശ്മി പോലും,
ചുളിഞ്ഞും വളഞ്ഞും നേരെ പോകും.

ഇന്നുകൊണ്ട് നീ വലിച്ചു നീട്ടിപ്പോയി,
നാളെകളെയും നീ വലിച്ചു നീട്ടിപ്പോയി,
നാളെ നാളെ എന്നാൽ നീളെ നീളെ,
നീ അത് കാണുമോ ആരുകണ്ടു?

വീണാൽ നീ ചാടി ഏണീറ്റിപ്പോണം
മുന്നിൽ പോയവനും തട്ടി താഴെവീഴാം
ഒന്നാമനായിരുന്നില്ലേ നീ ഒരു നാൾ?
ഒന്നാമനാകും വീണ്ടും നീ വരും നാൾ!

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A Newsletter

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"O may no earth-born cloud arise,
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes."

NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

Last month was a very important month for many people who were lucky to see the total solar eclipse. It seems that it is a once in a lifetime event for a person to see it. Since I already had retinal surgery a few years ago, I didn't want to risk my eyesight. So, I slept well and cherished my memories of watching it many years ago. But my family and friends gave a detailed narrative of what they saw and photographed.

The whole thing felt to me that the moon was trying to swallow the sun. This thought brought a children's riddle into my mind; which goes like this: "Why was number six afraid of seven?" Most of us know the answer: "Because seven ate (eight) nine! But today I found the second part of that riddle. It goes like this, "But why did seven ate nine?" The answer to that is very funny. "Because one is supposed to eat three squired meal a day!" I hope you liked this joke and if you share it with a child, his/her day will be brightened.

When we talk about having three meals a day, it brings memories about the women and children who go hungry in different war zones of the world. I have been helping people who are in need for many years. Let me admit that I had to correct myself of all the previous myths I had about the poor and rich. I also want to redefine some words like, needy, beggars, less fortunate, mentally ill, filthy rich, miser, hypocrite, and so on. Such words are often used as stereotypical words. My father used to correct us whenever we used such rude words. He knew the other side of the story of those people. People are like paper boats which are controlled by the surrounding currents of water. In other words, most of us behave depending on what society teaches us. It needs a lot of courage and willpower to stand up for what is right. Everyone is poor and needy in one way or another. Everyone is rich in one way or another. A human being does not know what he is capable of till he is faced with a challenge.

Another thought came to my mind when I saw the beautiful picture of the solar eclipse. Some people are like the Moon. They shine and pretend to be self-illuminated. But they cannot shine a bit in the absence of light from the sun. These people can take away the brightness of the sun from us. But not for very long. These people are the pessimistic ones. Even though the sun is brightly shining on the other side of the moon, we see the sad face of the moon. We must wait till these people move away from our life. Then again, we will be able to enjoy the light.

One Malayalam poet has written: "The light brings clarity to our flaws, so darkness is comfortable!" The poet is exposing the inner thought of an evil man. People who commit crimes and evil always prefer darkness. I intentionally use the word 'People' because I don't want to make you feel guilty. We all knowingly or unknowingly do many evil things and we do not want anyone to bring up that incident in public.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of prayer. Recently quite a few people requested my prayer for their specific need. But most of them never updated me on what happened to their prayer request. One family requested my earnest prayers almost every day, because the breadwinner of that family is still unconscious in the hospital, even as I am writing this. During passion week I saw two men carrying a cross over a netted walkway in Bloomington. I had a friendly talk with one of them and he prayed for me laying his hands on my head. I was so impressed with his courage to publicly carry that cross despite a lot of people's criticism.

Yes, it is not easy to be light in this world. It is very hard to say "No" when the whole world shouts "Yes". When someone started learning spoken English, the phrase "hang on!" was an interesting usage for him. So even if it is very difficult to stand up for the right thing, you should "hang on!" One day the shadows which are bothering us will move away and then we can shed our bright light to all those who need it.