

Article
Serial 2

AVATARS OF ACTION AND COMPASSION

MY ENCOUNTERS

by

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ॐ श्रीः कौशिक कौशिक

Yoga is skill in ~~the~~ actions.

My mind is so full of
Poojya Sri H.H. Balagangadharanatha
Swamigal, that I would like to continue
the story of my ~~own~~ ~~own~~ narration
of my many other encounters with
him ~~at~~ darshan. As also with
Jagadguru Sri Sri Nirmalandanatha
Swamigal and my many discussions
with him when he was since 2000's
on many scientific, technical, and
management topics.

I am going to avoid

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The Chronological sequence ^{of my} ~~and~~ meetings with ~~the great~~ ^{the} two great Avatars, ~~Gandhi~~, and as to why I treat them as Avatars.

I am also going to use the style of Mahabharata to weave in several other events in my life which made me meet a number of great persons ~~and~~ In some way or another they were getting interconnected, without my knowledge. I see the interconnections better now, at my age, ~~at~~ and away from such events.

I now go back to the ~~great~~ large national exercise done ~~under~~ by TIFAC (Technology Information Forecasting & Assessment Council) of which I was ~~Executive~~ founder Executive Director since 1988. ~~and~~ Dr. Kalam ~~took~~ over as Chairman of ~~took~~

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the Governing Council since 1993.

~~The~~ The ~~exercise~~ massive exercise was about Technology Vision for India 2020, to make India a Developed Country, which appeared feasible even judged in 1994, 1995 timeframe. It was a two year exercise involving

some 5000 persons and 500 persons dedicated to ^{the} details, though they had

their own work in Industry, Academia and National laboratories. It was their labour of love ^{to the country.} It involved 17 sectors

crucial to Indian economy, society, security and welfare of Indian people.

The 25 documents were released to the nation on 2 August 1996 by the then Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda.

I am not describing each of them.

I am just mentioning about the Sector Agriculture. It was led by (late) Dr. S. K. Sinha, a great agricultural

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Scientist Dr. Kalam was very much appreciative of his dedication to the cause of Indian farmers. There is so much to tell about Dr. S. K. Sinha but I avoid ~~due to~~ it here. Dr. Kalam asked him to follow up the recommendations to realise them on the ground. TIFAC funded the follow up actions. Dr. S. K. Sinha was not an arm chair scientist. He ~~was~~ worked ~~in~~ with ~~actual fields of~~ farmers in their fields. As per Dr. Kalam's desire he started his work at Bihar, Extender to Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, U.P. Dr. S. K. Sinha always believed in finding dedicated and knowledgeable persons, knowing the local customs and language. So much to describe but I fast forward and skip many items.

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It is about the work of Dr S.K. Sinha and the team at Kancheeipuram with the farmers there. At the instance of Poojya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal the ~~work~~ was Vision 2020 follow up work extended to other areas in and around Kancheeipuram. The ~~silk~~ silk weavers, jari and also the ~~pre~~ preliminary work on PURA (~~Prond~~ Dr. Kalam's favourite project.

(Providing Urban facilities in Rural Areas)

A team of about 5-6 scientists from TIFAC used to visit for review. I was also one of them. We had

several visits.

Poojya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal also participated in ^{initial and final} summary reviews ~~before we started work and~~ ^h after we completed our ~~work~~ work ~~and~~ ^h

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His suggestions were useful as he knew the local people. He had a rule: "NO tourist visit of Kancheepuram till you finish your work". After the work we used to take

his advice on the visits to the famous temples of Kanchi. We used to visit with guide provided by the ~~Md. The~~ ^{Mad. The} Swamigal.

His depth and breadth of Kanchi's history, about its hundreds of temples, the Jaina and Buddha Kanthi etc which are parts of history, were remarkable.

He once described about the Swarna Kala Bhairava installed by Adi Sankara.

Since the temple was a little far away, it was not visited by the team. ~~They~~ ^{Mostly them} were not interested. But I was. So on

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one occasion the Swamigal had arranged for me to visit with a lady guide, who ~~later~~ knew all about it ^{somehow} ~~my~~ ^{during} ~~time~~ ^{October 2001} for departure to Chennai for flight was tight ~~when we~~ as we had to drive down from Kanchheepuram.

I was counting minutes. We finally reached the temple of Lord Swarna Kala Bhairava. A small temple. Many people were waiting. There were lots of dogs also. As they had done prior arrangements from the ^{Kanchi} Math, I was taken inside, ~~near the~~ Some persons were waiting there, sitting on ground taking out their gold chains to be placed for Bhairava and ~~to~~ to be taken back after blessing.

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There was no place to sit through the priest was trying to push me through. But I did not want to displace any ^{body's} So I

stood ~~behind~~ near the corner of ^{old fashioned} big wooden door there. I could have a darshan. A huge key

from the door fell on my little finger of my leg. I could feel blood ~~is~~ flowing and it was painful. I did not make any noise. Nor did I move.

After ~~the~~ abhisehekam, puja etc were over, the priest came to me also. He noticed the blood — ran out to get some ~~plasters & ant cotton & plasters~~ & seamed my finger.

old fashioned

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I have expressed it in a
Tamil poem which occurred then.
I took ^{it} that Lord Bhairava has
taken out all ~~my~~ the evils of
my ~~past Karma~~ Karma ~~and~~
~~blessed me, will~~ with a small
punishment and blessed me. That
is what I say in the spontaneous
poem. It is printed in my poetry book titled
"Azhiyaatha Uyirgal" / I narrated ~~it~~ to Dr. Kalam,
as is my habit. this incidence

A few months later
~~much later~~ after the event,
when Dr. Kalam left the office of
the Principal Adviser on S & T to Govt of
India and went to Anna University
I accompanied ~~them~~ ^{him} to Chennai. It
was Dec 5, 2001. A day before
I had received an ~~with~~ ~~invitation~~
invitation.

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for attending the Kumbabhisekham
at the Kanchi, Bhairava temple.

It was around the same time
when Dr. Kalam was taking ~~over~~ charge
as ~~the~~ Professor in Anna Univ. I
~~was to~~ ~~come~~ to Chennai to be with him.

When he learnt about the Kumbabhisekham
he told me in his special style.

"Rajan, why don't you go to
Kandheepuram to take the blessings

of your Bhairava and see ~~my~~
me in the evening?" I ~~wanted to~~
~~wanted to~~

be with Dr. Kalam ^{on the first day} at his

of new office; I came to Chennai for that.

That is the deepest
connection of Lord Kalabhairaveshwara
in my life, which perhaps led me
to ~~to~~ meet Poojya Sri B.G.S Swamikal
and get fully absorbed in many

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activities he wanted me to be of some help. And above all ~~to~~ to learn about ~~B~~ Poojyashree BGS Swamigal's plan to ~~do~~ build ~~at~~ a ~~great~~ grand Bhairava temple at Adichunchama - gitti. He had shown all stones different places. He made me talk to the ~~Shapathi~~ ^{Shapathi} from Thanjavur he had brought for this work.

now
Going back to Dr. S.K. ~~Sh~~ Sinha who did wonderfully job with farmers. ~~&~~ Bihar farmers ^{in Polyganj area} skill remember him; they have build up many ~~&~~ value adding businesses. He also helped TIFAC to evaluate and fund ~~at~~ a new institution called National Agro Foundation (NAF) proposed by the late C. Subramaniam ~~CS~~ (fondly called CS) who brought in Green Revolution ~~&~~ in India and removed

(The terrible)

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in the country during 1960's and even earlier

↳ food scarcity. At an age close to 90 years, CS wanted Indian Agriculture to graduate beyond the usual ~~area~~ ^{nitrogen}, phosphorus & potassium (NPK) to micronutrients, which will ~~reduce~~ reduce the ~~need~~ ^{quantity} ~~for~~ NPK ~~that~~ needed for the plants. But to give the nutrients one has to characterise the soils. ^{Parameters} ~~samples~~ which can change even within an acre of land. So fast checking instruments are needed. This is the method used by Dr. Sinha in Bihar & other places.

The irony of working of Indian system! CS could not get about a couple of ^{of rupees} ~~crosses~~ from Govt for ~~this~~ NAF. This is where TIFAC stepped in. CS saw its establishment with all equipment and passed away a few weeks later! Dr. Sinha played a major role in seeing it through from TIFAC side. ~~After~~ After many years, the procedures which has

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~~was~~ brought in by NAF ^{successfully} to benefit many farmers in Tamil Nadu is being adopted by the Centre as ~~an~~ Soil Health Care scheme.

I had desired that CS will be living longer so that NAF like ~~the~~ laboratory centres can be established all over India, some 100. But he passed away.

~~But~~ Alas! it did not end there. Dr. S. K. Srinha who was just ^{this mid-} ~~late~~ sixties also passed away in March 2002.

It was difficult to replace this great scientist helping Indian farmers and agricultural workers.

There was a violent outburst of a poem from me fighting with Siva. Why did ~~you~~ ^{you}

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brought ^{them} ~~in~~ ^{for the first place} to help Indian people.
and ~~not~~ ^{humanely} taking them away.
What is the need for ~~you~~? Rarely
I write in Tamil & English the
same poem. It occurred in both.
~~languages~~
Siva gives a reply to me in
that poem!

Looking back CS &
S.K. Sinha were Avatars ~~and~~
of Action and Compassion. CS
could have ^{successfully} continued ~~in~~ ~~para~~-politics
and S K S ^(could have had) many prominent positions
in Govt / Academia. But they
were compelled by their love for
Indian poor and did many actions
to help them. ~~They~~ I was
happy I ~~saw~~ was closely working
with them and helped their
Mission of Action and Compassion.

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But also ~~so~~ very sad that Siva took them ^{away} when things actions taken by them ~~the~~ had started showing excellent results with a good possibility of reaching all over India. As per Siva's ~~answer~~ to reply to me in the

poem, Siva wants all of us to work hard on the lines of the Avatars, ~~he~~ He sends to ^{to show the path} work and not just leave all the ~~pa~~ ~~burden~~ burdens on them.

§ Did Siva did the same ~~in~~ in 2013? Yes, but ~~he~~ He had allowed ~~a~~ ~~gap~~ for a great continuity with another able Avatar.
