



Sannasa
HORIZON
 SEE BEYOND

February 2010

President Mahinda Rajapaksha with Sannasa

When Mahinda Rajapakse became the first ever speaker at the UN General Assembly, to address the world body in the language of 'aggrieved minority' of my motherland, I heaved a sigh of relief. That was because I felt this man is capable of ushering in a new era for Sri Lanka. I did not have the faintest idea that he would bring the struggle against the LTTE to a successful conclusion. But he did, perhaps against the expectations of many within and without the island.

And because of that conviction, I did hope for an easy victory for him at the presidential polls. However, I do understand the reality on the ground in that country. I do not have a say in what the people decide in the end. I only can hope for my choice to be re-elected. It is with that hope that I write this piece which is going to be published after the event.

It may well be that the large majority of Sri Lankan voters can select Sarath Fonseka to continue the good work and rebuild the country, on their conviction that it was Sarath and not Mahinda who really got the country out of the clutches of the terrorists.

There again I have no say, and still I can hope for the future that I envisage as ideal for the island. In this effort of mine, I have the support of an unknown person, which comes at a time I never expected. Not that this person has any obligation to offer me support or encouragement. It was something I happened to glance through on the internet. Sri Lanka Watch of 04 January 2010, carries an article by a moderate Tamil lady, by the name of Megan Dhashini Shatrughan addressed to her Tamil brothers and sisters, under the title 'Make Your Choice fellow Tamilians!'

I cannot add to what she says or embellish her enlightening thoughts, but can praise her words and her courage in coming out with them at a critical moment in the history of the country.

She begins with the words, 'So, I am a Tamil and proud of it.' What she says immediately after that is also important. Let me quote her again.

'(I am) proud of my culture, proud of my language, proud of the achievements of many of my fellow Tamilians all over the world. Born here, right here in sunny Sri Lanka. And I've finally decided to say something.'

Aware of the possible reaction of some of her friends and colleagues she comes out with her thoughts, which I hope will awaken many Sinhalese from their slumber and make them take note of her stand and the very encouraging prospects her words can lead us to.

I have been under the impression that although the leaders have claimed victory, many Tamils would still be feeling betrayed. There is at least one person who

She goes on to emphasize her message with these very poignant thoughts.

'THIS is our country. THIS is a country that so many years ago, was ahead of even Singapore. WHEN will we get there? When we can do things together. Please knock that into your deranged brainwashed heads. PLEASE, let this, OUR country get some real happiness. It's about time.'

HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Some useful thoughts from a moderate lady

tells me otherwise. It is this lady making this rather daring statement, i.e.

'Here is where the feathers get ruffled. I am happy too, I am happy that the war is 'over'. Happy that He is dead. (oh yes, I said it) happy that maybe, just maybe, if the politics and powers that be play their cards right, this

addressed to her own Tamil people apply equally well to all the Sinhalese as well?

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT ALL OUR SINHALA PEOPLE TOO TAKE A HINT FROM THIS LADY AND THINK OF THE COUNTRY AS COMMON PROPERTY OF BOTH TAMIL AND SNHLA PEOPLE BORN THERE.

Let our people also sing a similar song to what this lady quotes in her letter. I feel sorry that I cannot understand Tamil to fully grasp its meaning. I too have to depend on the English translation which she provides as follows.

O! Tamil, our tomorrow is all our tomorrow
 O! Tamil this I land is all our land!
 Say that my home is the Lankan motherland.
 Be firm that my name is always Sri Lankan...
 The community may vary, but the values are one
 The place may vary, but the country is one
 The language may vary, but the meaning is one
 The staff may vary, but the Flag is one
 The direction may vary, but the Land is one
 The music may be different, but the melody is one
 We are all Lanka, we are one.
 O Tamil! Don't shed any tears
 O Tamil! It will dawn, don't be fade inside
 Isn't there Sri Lankan blood inside you?
 Then wouldn't united Sri Lanka protect you?
 Our land is common to all
 It is born out of hard toil.
 Diversity was the fertilizer used to create it
 We are roots that make it strong.
 O human! It is strong
 There shouldn't be division on this land, O Lord!'

How wonderful would it be, if all of us can sing in unison?

That is the future I wish for my motherland, whoever becomes the next President.



country, my country, can actually go somewhere. Develop, be a happy place. Maybe'

She sees a problem too. When she looks at the positive side of things, she says, that, 'racism has actually increased' It is on the side of her own people that she sees this tendency. I would like to turn the same accusation or observation towards our own people, the Sinhalese.

Has or has not, this same thing happened on the side of the majority community?

If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, then things are not working out well for the future. That is what all Sri Lankans should be worried about. If that is so, then Sri Lanka has to buckle up and face the problem at once.

She tells her own people what she thinks they ought to do. I am quoting her again. 'NO, I am not asking you to help other terrorists, our dear government who are guilty of many, many crimes, but I am asking you to help yourselves. If you live abroad, use your dollars and pounds to fund development of your people here, rather than contribute it towards arms to kill someone. If you live here, then try spreading some positivity, rather than telling the whole world that the Tamils can't live in pace and still want a firkin separate state.'

Don't these words,

