

TONY ABBOTT AND THE ISSUE OF VIRGINITY



We all know that Tony had spent some time in his youth training to be a Christian monk. He is a devout Catholic. One can therefore understand his personal bias against premarital sex and virginity. We also know that despite his preferred value for virginity he is said to have had premarital sex with his university girl friend. That matters not for we all have at some time or another failed to live up to our ideals. The first question that comes to mind is: Why treat virginity as a 'gift'? The presence of the hymen is no delight by

product of (human) sexual intercourse but of divine intervention in the natural order of things. This really is the first 'miracle' in Christianity.

In conservative Hindu societies in India and Nepal, any form of premarital sexual intercourse is still frowned upon and is considered an act destined to bring great dishonour and disrespect to the family. It is practically impossible for a non-virgin girl to find a partner from a traditional family in rural areas. In

ation. Premarital sex is typically not meant to for such a goal. By extension of this train of thought a virgin (who has not had sex) is 'pure,' upon whom a man may after marriage play on and deflower. Such a position is hard to maintain rationally as commonsense tells us that sex is a natural instinct in any human just as much as breathing or defecating. And just as much as when breathing or defecating is interrupted severe complications can occur psychologists and psychiatrists have demonstrated that the deprival of sex can lead to severe malfunctioning in humans.

The virginity idea has another problem and this is ethical. Why only expect a woman to be a virgin until marriage whereas a man may philander and plunder a girl of his choice? This seems to indicate that the upholding of virginity values are a product of male chauvinism.



Sanskrit a virgin is called ak?ata-yoni. K?ata meaning "diminished." This notion has spread to even Buddhist societies, although the Buddha has refrained from making a statement on this subject. In a newspaper marriage proposals column a girl who has lost virginity due to 'misbehaviour' is often referred to as having committed a 'vara-da' (wrong). Such a bride is going to have a hard time finding a man

Whatever, these kinds of arguments aver a reality check reveals that most of the Western world, at least, is departing from treating virginity as sanctimonious. "The view that sex is best saved for marriage is no longer mainstream," stated a writer in the Age, "There is an ever-widening gap between the age when people first have sex and the age they marry. Most Australians live in a de facto relationship before tying the knot. Even back in 1981, 31 per cent of couples were living together before marriage, according to Bureau of Statistics figures. By 2002, the figure had risen to 72 per cent.



Shyamon Jayasinghe

Tony Abbott, the Leader of the Opposition, has a penchant for sojourning into controversial areas that are 'private' and not directly of political interest. The most recent smoke-filled controversy was about virginity. This is a likeable quality in a politician for it somehow serves to make him or her more human-faced.

It all began with an interview that Abbott had given to the Australia Womens Weekly. He was asked what his advice would be to his daughters regarding virginity. Tony said, "I would say to my daughters, if they were to ask me this question, I would say ... it is the greatest gift that you can give someone, the ultimate gift of giving and don't give it to someone lightly, that is what I would say."

itself; it has no intrinsic value. Rather, it stands for the idea that virginity does mean that the bride to be would not have had premarital relationships with any other partner and that this is a good thing.

Through many cultures virginity has been extolled. Christian orthodoxy believes that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and this is to give the idea that Jesus had not been a

to marry her unless such man is willing to 'forgive' her (Varadata samawa dena.) Islam also decrees that sexual activity may occur only between married individuals.

I cannot help believing that hidden in the notion of virginity is a proclaimed aversion to sex. This assumption underlies that sex for its own sake is sinful; for instance it must be utilised for another, nobler, end- namely, procre-

"We live in a liberal democracy in which individuals are entitled to all kinds of views, including old-fashioned ones. This is what diversity is all about. There is more than one way to live. If a minority wants to take the unusual step of actually having sex on their wedding night, instead of sleeping off a hangover, good luck to them."

SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES IN CONCERT

10th of April 2010 Saturday AT 6.30 PM



SRI LANKA'S BEST AND THE MOST POPULAR BANDS IN THE 70's WILL PERFORM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MELBOURNE ON 10th APRIL 2010 AT THE BESEN CENTRE BURWOOD. THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES WERE FORMED BY CLARENCE WIJEWARDENE & ANNESLEY MALAWANA IN THE EARLY 70's. CLARENCE AND ANNESLEY CREATED HISTORY IN SINHALA POP MUSIC WHEN THEY FORMED THE MOONSTONES IN 1966. THEY PARTED COMPANY IN 1971 WHEN CLARENCE TOOK TO COMPOSING AND FORMED THE GOLDEN CHIMES AND ANNESLEY TOOK OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MOONSTONES. BUT THESE MUSICAL TWINS COULD NOT STAY SEPERATED FOR LONG. IN 1974 CLARENCE AND ANNESLEY CAME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN AND THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES WERE BORN!!

CLARENCE, ANNESLEY, DIXON, SRIKANTHA AND CONRAD WERE THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE BAND. EVERY SONG THE BAND RECORDED BECAME INSTANT HITS AND SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES BECAME THE MOST POPULAR BAND IN SRI LANKA. THERE WERE MANY CHANGES IN THE LINE-UP AS TIME PASSED BY, BUT CLARENCE, ANNESLEY & DIXON (THE GUITAR MAESTRO) CONTINUED TO BE THE BACKBONE OF THE BAND. IN 1977 ANNESLEY LEFT THE BAND TO PERSUE A CARRIER IN GARMENTS & CLARENCE WENT AHEAD AS A SOLO SINGER & THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES DISBANDED. IN JANUARY 1996 CLARENCE WANTED ANNES-

LEY TO ORGANIZE A REUNION CONCERT OF THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES. UNFORTUNATELY CLARENCE FELL ILL & PASSED AWAY ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER, & THE CONCERT WAS NEVER TO BE. BUT ANNESLEY WANTED TO FULFILL CLARENCE'S REQUEST & SET ABOUT GETTING THE 'OLD BOYS' TOGETHER. IT WAS NOT EASY AS MOST OF THE BOYS WERE SCATTERED AROUND THE GLOBE! IT TOOK ANNESLEY SIX LONG YEARS TO FULFILL THE DREAM OF CLARENCE WIJEWARDANE. THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES REUNION CONCERT WAS HELD ON 2ND OF AUGUST 2003. TICKETS FOR THE SHOW WERE SOLD OUT 2 WEEKS AHEAD! THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY CONCERTS IN 2004 & 2006. ALL SHOWS WERE SELLOUTS, & THE FANS WERE CLAMOURING FOR MORE.

THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES DID THEIR FIRST CONCERT OUT OF SRI-LANKA IN 2005 IN THE U.S.A & CANADA TO PACKED AUDIENCES. NOW THEY WILL BE IN MELBOURNE, TO ENTERTAIN THEIR FANS ON THE

10TH OF APRIL 2010!!!
SRI LANKANS IN MELBOURNE GET READY FOR A HUGE TREAT!!!!!! THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES NOT ONLY DID SINHALA SONGS BUT ALSO WESTERN SONGS & THEY WERE ONE OF THE TOP MOST DANCE BANDS IN S.LANKA. SO NOW THEY ARE READY TO PERFORM LIVE ON THE 10TH AT THE BESEN CENTRE BURWOOD TO KEEP YOU PEOPLE TAPPING YOUR TOES & JOINING THE BOYS IN SINGING!!!!!! THE LINE UP OF THE BAND MEMBERS WILL BE ANNESLEY MALAWANA, DIXON GUNARATNE [LEAD GUITAR] RUKSHAN PERERA [GUITAR, KEYBOARDS, VOCALS] PAUL PERERA [ORIGINAL KEY BOARDIST], NIMAL PERERA [DRUMS & VOCALS] MELANTHA PERERA [RUKSHAN'S BRO. HANDLING BASS & KEYBOARDS]

ALL THE HITS OF SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES & THE MOONSTONES WILL BE SUNG ON THIS DAY. ALSO THE MUCH LOVED 'ACAPELA' STYLED SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES AND MOON STONES SONGS TOGETHER [ARRANGED BY RUKSHAN] WILL BE SUNG.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE & GREAT LEADER OF THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES CLARENCE WIJEWARDANE WILL ALSO BE MADE.

THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFE TIME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SRI-LANKANS IN MELBOURNE TO SEE & HEAR THE NO.1 BAND OF THE 70S IN SRI-LANKA -THE SUPER GOLDEN CHIMES-