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**Making Sense**

It was evident that God played a discernible role in the ICC Cricket World Cup tournament. He did so not by entering the field but by being an object of supplication by the players. Almost every player wanted his God to intervene on his behalf and almost every player was seen thanking his God for what he thought was a favour delivered. Looking at the cosmos after a wicket meant a thanks giving to God. Christian bowlers making a sign of the cross before delivering a ball were seeking the help of the Holy Trinity. The less spiritual kissed the ground but there was a hidden spirituality there,

**THE ROLE OF GOD IN THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP**

too. According to reports that we have received rival players and their country mates had been in long preparation by prayer to the divine. Kovils were visited; Mosques visited and even the non-Godly Buddhists of Sri Lanka visited temples. Our cricket administrators looked hilarious by getting a cricket ball tied around with pirith nool! Our boys also had pirith noolas as thick as those worn by our crooked politicians to save themselves from the wrath of the divine. Bodhi poojas were held in numerous temples in Sri Lanka. The Catholics and other Christians had bathed themselves with blessed water for days before the matches. The respective clergy of the different denominations cooperated in this collective effort.

To cap it all our President, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse, for a moment thought of having a break from a Godless Buddhist environment and beating it to the Kovil to pray bare-bodied with the Hindu deity there! No wonder, I thought to myself, Buddhism disappeared from the land of its birth- a land where people were firm dog believers who found no appeal in a rational interpretation of the universe and our being. People believed that divine hands were ruling their lives. Even in Sri Lanka Buddhist temples house some of these Indian deities and at least our politicians believe in them thus demonstrating that even Buddhism did not succeed in elimi-

*The problem is that God followers do not see such inconsistencies and illogicalities. They go by the Holy Book. Our cricketers did the same. Or were they desperate?*

nating the popular faith in the divine. If our President, Sports Minister and cricket administrators were convinced that the law of cause and effect alone governs the result they would have focused on ensuring a better selection of team players by avoiding the pitfalls of political meddling.

Let us review the religious assumption of our cricketers: Could God have decided the result?

Some may point out that God would have eventually decided to favour numbers: Over 2 billion worshippers had a say over the others with far less numbers. Sri Lanka has only 20 million. Is such an assumption, then, fair by God? God is supposed to be fair by all and infinitely good and compassionate. That being the case our cricketers should not have expected God to favour

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