



Ehelepolas, Molligoda and Kapuvatta with D'Oyly

Part 1

Raja Wickramarachchi

"Aiyobudu sir, henagahanaaparadayakne siddha wune." Dehiwala Juan Appu fell on the ground in front of John D'Oyly. He was crying. "Mahapolowa..." He could not control his emotions. "Budu sir eka mahapolowa uhulanne nethi aparadhayak sir."

"I have heard it Juan Appu. But I do not know it in detail. Now please stop crying. Tell me what happened in Mahaniwara." D'Oyly said in Sinhalese. He was little surprised by his informant's behaviour. The words he had used in Sinhalese had exposed his shock. They used the word Budu to express their great shock or grave sorrow when they were highly disturbed. A grave crime had been done and the perpetrator deserved to be destroyed by a thunder. That was what Juan meant for the incident. And he further believed that even the earth could not bear it. That's how the Sinhalese expressed a terrible happening.

Still lying on the ground his informant who had just returned from Kandy was not in a mood to talk to him. He was sent to gather information about the king's plans to subdue the insurgency in the Saffragam Province. But now his priority was to know what really happened to the Ehelepolas family.

D'Oyly ordered a servant to bring water for Juan Appu. Still lying he drank water quickly. He dragged a chair closer to Juan and sat down.

"Ok. Juan Appu. It has happened. No one can do anything now. Stop crying. You are a strong man. Don't cry like a woman." D'Oyly bent forward closer to Juan Appu. "Tell me the whole story."

"The whole family was murdered. What did those little children do to face such a cruelty?" he said in Sinhalese still trembling. Tears were pouring along his cheek.

D'Oyly could see the fear and disgust as well in his informant's wide open eyes. "Where did it happen?"

"In front of the Pattirippuwa. The king watched the whole tragedy from it."

D'Oyly attempted to imagine the Pattirippuwa, the famous splendid Octagon in Kandy built by the same king. He had seen sketches of it drawn by some European visitors to Kandy. Perhaps this incident could lead to something unimaginable. *Probably for me to see it with my own eyes.*

"Now you are ok. Tell me from the beginning."

"The whole family was brought to the walbodhiya. While the king was nearby the Diyawadana Nilame read out the law. He said that when a traitor cannot be found his whole family should be put to death." Juan Appu paused. He stared at D'Oyly.

"So it is the law of the Kanda UdarataSinhala?"

"No Budu sir, no one has heard such a law. Everyone says that this wicked king has invented one and ordered Diyawadana Nilame to read it out."

"Maybe the law was in the books. But it was not practised."

"You can have anything in books. But if no one knows or has not heard such a cruel punishment how do you say it is anUdarata law?"

"So no family has been killed in this way before?"

"This ruthless king do not care of law. His word is the law. He has killed so many innocent people including prominent Buddhist monks. He has ordered some people to perform duties that were not customary. When they said it was against the customs the king ordered to torture them severely before they were killed. Not only the men but also their families and extended families, their servants were also murdered. In the long history no king has behaved in this way. Only Parangis have behaved in this way killing innocent people."

"So when a chief could not be found the family has never been punished."

"That's what the people say. They say that since the invasions of Kanda Udarata Sinhala by the Parangis from the days of Wimaladharama Deiyoo a number of chiefs have deserted to the Parangis from time to time. And later to the Lansis. No king has

punished the families for the traitorous acts of the chiefs."

"Ok. What happened after the Diyawadana Nilame's statement?"

"Kumarihamy beat her chest with her hands and cried - Am I going to be killed by because of my swamiya has gone against you?"

"Not only you. I am ordering the whole family to face the full brunt of the law. All males must be beheaded. And females must be drowned at the Bogambarawewa."

Juan appu paused. Without uttering a word he raised his head still lying on the floor and kept staring at the roof of the house. D'Oyly was more surprised now to see his informant's emotions. Juan Appu was a very loyal spy for him now and to the English government ever since the arrival of the English to the island about eighteen years ago. Yet his natural, bond with the Kanda Udarata Sinhala had been surfaced through this tragedy. Unlike the higher Sinhalese officials of the English administration these ordinary Sinhalese would like to respect the Kandyan king as their own though living here in coastal areas.

"I know it is painful for you to tell everything to me. But I must know everything that happened to the Ehelepolas family."

"Having heard that they were to be killed all the children bunched together with their mother. The executioners approached them and grabbed the eleven year old eldest son. He escaped from them and tried to hide behind his mother. Then happened the unthinkable. The nine year old second son came forward. He bravely said - Don't be afraid Aiyandi. Don't try to bring disgrace to our family name. I'll show you how to die. He then went forward and put his head on the dangediya. His head was severed by a single strike. Seeing the beheading of his younger brother the eldest son began crying loudly. The executioners dragged him forcefully and beheaded him. The little daughter was trembling with fear grabbing her mother's dress. She was grabbed and beheaded. The youngest, toddler was breast feeding in this commotion. The toddler was snatched from the mother and beheaded. From the throat milk gushed out with blood. The mercilessness of this king did not see bounds. He ordered to place the toddler's head in a motor and the mother to be given a pestle. The king thundered that the

ජගත් ජේ වදිඊසිංහ ගේ පිනි සහ අදිසි වලිඳුක්වීම

සන්නස, පහන, සිංහල, කඩපන යන මූලික මාධ්‍ය

SBS, 3ZZZ, සිංහලෙන් පැය දෙකක්, සිංහල, ලක්මගිර, ලක්මඩ, ස්වර්ණ, රන්සර (සිඩ්නි) ගුවන්විදුලි නාලිකා

ජගත්ට සම්මාන පුද කළ සිංහලෙන් පැය දෙකක් ගුවන් විදුලි සේවයට සහ හිතවතුන්ටත්

මස්කා සහ ලක්මැදුර සංවිධාන

කඩිඳු විකාශන සැපයූ ට්‍රිපල් පේමස්

කම බිම සාරසිලි නාණ්ඩි සැපයීමෙන් ප්‍රවාහනායෙන් කැමරාකරණයෙන් විධියේකරණයෙන් ශාලා සකස්කිරීමෙන් සහය දුන් සැමටත්

නවීනයෙන් ගායනයෙන් රංගනයෙන් සහය දුන් සැමටත්

ප්‍රචාරක අනුග්‍රහය ලබා දුන් සියලුම වෙළඳ ආයතන වලටත්

විවිධ ආකාරයෙන් සහය දුන් සියලුම හිතවතුන්ටත්

සහගාති වූ සැමටත්

අපේ හඳු පිරි ස්තුතිය හිමිවෙයි

සංවිධායක මණ්ඩලය

mother pound the head with the pestle. When she refused the king threatened to give her to a chandaala man. Molligoda Nilame said - Neganiya do it. Do not bring disgrace to the family. She then dropped the pestle onto the motor and felled to the ground unconscious. Later she was made stand by the women workers of the royal palace and taken to the Bogambara wewa with other female relatives. The executioners came with a noose and tried to put it around her neck. She showed her proud family traditions saying - Do not touch me. Only my swamiya can touch me. She took the noose and put it around her neck. Noose was tied to a big stone. Before anyone can touch her she jumped into the wewa. So did the other females.

"Amma mutta kalewath mehemadeyak wela nehe budu sir."

"What do the people say about the killings?"

"Everyone curse the king. Not only the king but also Molligoda nilame is blamed. People say that to snatch the position from the Ehelepolas Maha Adikarama, Molligoda has lied about the MahaNilame to the king. I was there to witness the whole tragedy. It is clear that the king was not conscious of what he was doing. In fact he had been heavily intoxicated which was not an uncommon state for him."

*If they knew that all these things have been initiated by me what would they say of me?* Now it was clear for D'Oyly that the attempts of intoxicating the king by sending valuable alcohol to him as presents by the government of Colombo had brought the desired results.

"What is the people's reaction?"

"What can they do? They can't go to the palace and get rid of the king. There is no leader in the country who can challenge the king. So he does what he wants without thinking of the consequences. He does not care of the victims of his actions.

to be continued