

Blindness

Springtime is little bit over
In the quiet valley, there's a river lonely flow
I turned into water, just little to see
Reflect my face on water slightly shake
Breezing with a flower, flowing on water alone
I look into water, meticulously
Oh, blooming the flower, dance on my face
Fragrance surrounding me, why?
All the sweet memories comes with her
My heart got felt with full of rejoice thoughts
Thus, I blind to see depth in water
River is quite and lonely flow soever

Ranjith Gamage Riyadh.

HOME COMING

'She is home! She is home!'
'She is so quiet...Yet, I heard her coming'
'Let's welcome her'
They all cried with excitement
And ran out to see her

She stood there majestically
Like a princess
How regal she looked.....
Wearing bright red
They held their breath astounded
Taken over by her charm

They all wanted to touch her
Sit on her lap
Hug and embrace
To welcome her

Then.....
Like a tenor in a choir
An authoritative voice
Beaming with pride
Questioned.....
Do you like her?

Y...E...S...!
They all screamed in unison
Unable to contain their joy any longer
Blurted out together
Please dad
Take us for a ride
In your brand new car

Lakshmi Gunaratna



Sri Lanka Cricketer
Naveen Dassanayake 6years



Our Garden
Dulanya Dassanayake 3years



My Garden
Ravisha Rajapaksha 7years

A Recollection on the Bandaranaike Era

From Horizon 1

root democracy was successfully implemented.

Having ushered in a mechanism for local governance as a young crusader, Bandaranaike's fascination with refining the electoral system strengthened after the grueling election campaign of 1956.

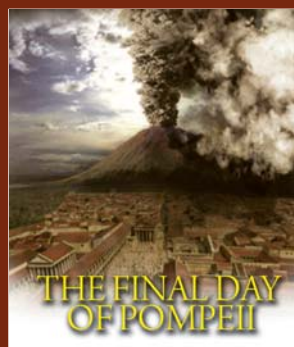
Upon becoming the prime minister, Bandaranaike proceeded to remove the power of money from electoral politics. He legislated that once an election was called, be it for Village Councils or the House of Representatives, there could be no political party propaganda material displayed at public places. He wanted to see no private vehicles on the road on the polling day. Previously people were transported in vehicles carrying the symbols of the candidates and there were political party tents outside the polling booths but the new laws prevented any vehicles on the road, except the official cars on the election day. He said there should be a polling station for every 1000 voters and everyone other than disabled persons should walk or take public transport to the polling station. There were to be no flags, no posters to be put up in public places and on public roads. The posters could be put up only on candidates' houses and even a small shop could not carry a poster because that was a deemed public place. Only a candidate who was traveling in his vehicle could carry his flag and the party symbol. There were no cutouts, no posters. It was done at the

grassroots level so that money was kept out the elections as far as possible.

Every election, from local bodies to the Parliament, held since Budaranaike introduced these revolutionary changes were fought under these laws. Both the general elections of 1960, 1965, and 1970 and 1977 were held with these laws in effect. During this era Sri Lanka recorded most unblemished elections under the Westminster system anywhere in the developing societies with record numbers of eligible voter turnout.

Unfortunately, after 1977, the village councils, town councils and urban councils gave way to the vastly unpopular Pradeshiya Sabhas and Palath Sabhas with high privileges, lucrative salaries which gave way to corruption and inefficiency. With the introduction of proportional representative system, electorates were enlarged from a constituency to the whole district.

In today's system the whole district becomes the electorate and those who have enough money to spread their message throughout the electorate through any means, from posters in any available public place to advertisements in audiovisual and print media, almost invariably top the preference list at the cost of those deserving candidates without the power of money or sponsorship. We have come a long way from the radical reforms of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike.



By Shanali Edirisinghe
RMIT University

"You could hear children crying, men shouting and women lamenting. Some were so afraid of death that they prayed for death itself to engulf them. Many raised their hands to the gods, while some had given up hope that the Gods even existed because this was one unending night for the world" - Pliny (survivor of Pompeii)

It all lasted 19 hours. Then, there was only a long, deathly silence

Within those 19 hours on the 24th August 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius, a large volcano overlooking the Bay of Naples in Italy, erupted burying the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in layers of burning ash.

Under the rule of Roman Emperor Titus, Pompeii was a thriving vibrant city near



Naples in Italian region of Campania. The area had a substantial population which grew prosperous from the region's renowned agricultural fertility. Its fertile and well-drained volcanic soil and placid climate made Pompeii an agricultural hub, and her port and geographic location gave her effortless access to markets near and far.

The wines of Pompeii were well known in the Roman world and Pompeian farmers also specialised in growing vegetables, especially onions, for which the town was famous, and olives for oil. Herders raised sheep for their meat and milk as well as their wool. Shops of all kinds lined the lively main streets of Pompeii; the shopping in Pompeii was world-class for its time (Scales were even used to weigh products!). The bakery was a daily stop for most

The plaster cast bodies of the Pompeii victims are the most vivid shocking reminders of the horrific event that made Pompeii famous.



They filled the place where the body was with plaster in order to get a perfect match for the body position and the facial expression. It is gruesome but an important reminder of the power of nature and the suffering of the Pompeii citizens.

residents; many bakeries contained mills to grind their own grain. People of Pompeii enjoyed meeting day to day at their public bathing locations (there were 3 in the city and a fourth was being built when the tragedy occurred) where men and women had separate areas to bath in fine oils and hot water. Aside from the daily bathing rituals, the spectacles of the amphitheatre (Built 80 BC) were the most popular form of entertainment in Pompeii. The contests were ultra-violent, ranging from gladiator versus Gladiator combat to fight that pitted men against various dangerous animals.

The inhabitants of Pompeii had long been used to minor quaking around the area and at the time people had little or no idea of volcanic eruptions. No one anticipated the events which were to take place in the coming days.

In early August of 79 AD, springs and wells started to dry up. Small earthquakes struck on 20th August and became more recurrent over the next four days, but these warnings were not recognised (Romans did not even have a word for volcano) and on the afternoon of 24 August, the catastrophic eruption of the volcano started.

The eruption unfolded in two phases. A Plinian eruption (Columns of gas and volcanic ash extending high into the atmosphere) that lasted for many hours, producing a rain of pumice (solidified frothy lava) towards Pompeii.

This was when many people decided to escape toward the country side. A pyroclastic flow (fast-moving currents of hot gas and rock which travel away from the volcano at great speeds) followed. Two pyroclastic flows engulfed Pompeii, burning and asphyxiating the stragglers who had remained behind.

It all lasted 19 hours. Then, there was only a long, deathly silence. After thick layers of ash covered the town, it was abandoned and eventually the name and location was forgotten. Pompeii lay buried for nearly 1700 years.

In 1748 archaeologists began slowly uncovering the ancient city, sealed under 9 feet of volcanic ash and frozen in time, preserving the agony of Pompeii's unfortunate inhabitants - people still in their clothes covering in fear and dogs covering children as if to protect them. Many of the buildings, various items and frescos were also amazingly well-preserved.

The ruins at Pompeii have provided archaeologists with valuable information about how people in the Roman Empire lived. A large number of artefacts that came from Pompeii are preserved in the Naples National Archaeological Museum and are being displayed all around the world in exhibitions even to this day. Today, Pompeii is one of the most visited sites in Italy.

send your contributions to "Horizon Youth" sannasa@gmail.com



frescos



Public Bath