

“Neither in the sky nor in the midst of the sea nor by entering into the clefts of mountains is there a known place on earth where stationing himself, a man can escape from his evil deeds.” (Dhammapada, Paapavaggo).

Hype and Haunt

There is a connection between the hype that is being built these days around Gotabhaya Rajapakse, former Defense Secretary and once-powerful brother of the once powerful President, and the the haunt that shadows him wherever he goes. The hype is loud and we can see and hear. The haunt, less visible to naked observation, is that of the ghost of Lasantha Wicrematunge, former editor of the Sunday Leader who was butchered and murdered in broad daylight. Keith Noyar, former editor of The Nation is also haunting Gota; yet Lasantha’s macabre and creeping shadow overwhelms that of Keith.

The stanza in the Dhammapada seems to be crying out when court proceedings are being heard about these sordid cases that happened under the watch of the former Defence Secretary under whom the Army, Navy and Police came. Says the Dhammapada:

“Neither in the sky nor in the midst of the seantor by entering into the clefts of mountains is there a known place on earth where stationing himself, a man can escape from his evil deeds.” (Paapavaggo).

HYPE AND HAUNT HOVERING GOTABHAYA RAJAPAKSE

A sceptic’s view of Viyathmaga

Outrageous

Of course, nobody can at this stage judge Gota as guilty. We have to wait for the court to make that judgment. Until that judgment, Gota is innocent. On the other hand, much of the prima facie evidence that has so far been recorded does not do Gota well at all. His interview with the BBC on this issue is damning. There, Gota threatens: “I will hang him!” referring to former Army Commander General Sarath Fonseka. This evinces an arrogance; a disconcern about the right to life and liberty of men and women; and a proclivity to abuse power at will. All the economics and “vision,” that Gotabhaya Rajapakse came out with at Shnagrila Hotel cannot outdo such outrageous conduct.

Sarath Fonseka (SF), even in a recent interview for the “Satana,TV program kept repeating what he had been all along saying of Gota. SF openly claimed that Gota and his President brother were behind the assassination. SF even stated he would never address either of these two persons as “Mahatha;” but just by name. as he holds no respect for them. He gave detail account of the harrassment he had received at the hands of these two. Sarath

Fonseka’s cool at the interview and his dispassionateness impresses. The former Commander is improving in stature by the day and the fact that he is now in Cabinet rank will help his further political growth.

Gota’s Plunge

Gota is, to say the minimum, under a serious cloud. Disregarding possible future action against him, Gota has taken a gambling plunge into the Presdient’s race due in year 2020. With such a sword of Damocles over him he must be fighting a formidable battle inward in his mind. Had he taken the bold step of cooperating with the law and permitting a full investigation and then clearing his name we could never fault Gota. On the other hand, he has decided to try and distract popular opinion and focus the latter on his self-claimed ability to be an effective President. His Viyathmaga campaign is both a preapration for the Presdiential race and an attempt to build up a wave of public support for him which, if that backing swells, he can utilise it to block his arrest. **This essentially is the linkage between the hype and the haunt.** His brother Mahinda did something like that by his “Mahinda Sulanga,” meetings soon after his defeat. Mahinda screated a public

sympathy and communicated a fear to all officials of his possible return. Gota is hoping he can repeat a ‘Sulanga,’ or even a “Kunaatuwa” (storm).

I am already receiving emails from Sinhal Diasposra with threats to the country’s security if Gota is arrested and found guilty. A gentleman form California (I will call him PF, without revealing his name as a courtesy) sends me a copy of his latest email which reads thus: “An incarcerated Gotabaya would generate an apocalyptic electoral outburst, the likes of which we had never seen before --the coup de grace that would wipe out yahapalanaya—Gotabaya’s popularity is at its peak --an irrefutable fact. PC elections would swing against the government ! “ Now, PF is a former Lake House journalist.

The Economics Pundit

An amusing side of Gota’s reavmping and redefining himself is his cognitive claims to a punditry in economics.

At Viyathmaga, Gota is the economics messiah who appears to deliver the land to a state of First World proseprity. Gota’s intellectual ceredentials do not point to such knowledge. He had barely passed the O’levels and has hardly shown any reading interests thus far. Somebody, like Dr Nalaka Godahewa, would have given him the script. If the notes were suddenly to fly away from Gota’s hold while at the lecturn, he would probably mix up GDP with GST and equity with debt. It is no harm for a leader to read from a script;but

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