

## **Post inspired by the title, ‘Neervazhi padoom’, of award winning Tamil novel**

The Tamil novel ‘Neervazhi padoom’ written by noted Tamil writer Mr. N Rajasekaran (Devi Bharathi) won the coveted Sahitya Akademi award for the year 2023. The Hindu, dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023, through which I knew the news, had quoted the beautiful line ‘Neervazhi Padoom punaipol aaruyir muraivazhi padoom’, (for lovers of Tamil: நீர்வழிப் படுகும் புணைபோல் ஆருயிர் முறைவழிப் படுகும்.) from Sangam literature Purananoru. The line means that just as a float sails along the water, life sails along a pre-destined path. The news brought to me the memories of the great Tamil Poet Kaniyan Poonkundranaar and his eternally inspiring poem, ‘Yaathum oore, Yaavarum Kelir’ which contains the title phrase.

While thinking of the casual turn of events in our life, Tamil movie 12B too came to my thoughts. Though I hadn’t seen the movie I had read in reviews that the story goes like what would have happened if the hero had made it to the bus 12B or missed it. Each life current is a myriad 12B story for us and after getting released from one current we are caught in the next current sooner or later!

The title of the novel makes us introspect our own life. What better explanation other than ‘Neervazhi padoom’ (floating along the waters) can be there for my joining for Ph.D. in IIT, Madras, in July, 2023, in my late sixties and writing this post for LinkedIn! I was a late joiner even in our IOB’s Whatsapp groups and I am a member of those groups for the past two years only. Time constraints were the main reasons. But once joined, the feeling of keeping company with friends gives a lot of reassurance. In Ph.D. life in IIT, Madras, networking is considered as a strength and that prompted me to create a LinkedIn account. Being in a network, of course, gives a sense of belonging. I was keen in creating this LinkedIn account and making

some posts in the short break available before my second semester starts on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The when, what and how aspects of my writing are brought out in the ensuing 3 paragraphs.

My writing journey started in IOB. I wrote about 10 articles in our staff house magazine IOBian between the years 1981 and 2008. Events making an impact in my mind trigger a desire in me to write. Human mind does float along the thoughts impacting it! I write only when there is a burning desire or compelling impulse to write. Some thoughts evaporate in the mind itself without being written or keyed in. Time constraints are also there. So, my writings are far and few between.

Current affairs have always fascinated me as I am a regular newspaper reader since my school days and have continuously kept in touch with professional magazines in my work life and in my retired life. That gave me the courage to go to the office of Ananda Vikatan in Chennai in the year 2013 and to put up a request in the reception for meeting their official in charge of written contributions. Their sub editor Mr. Mana Bhaskaran came promptly to the reception to meet me. I told him that I was a very acknowledged writer in our office and I requested him for a chance to write on current affairs in Anada Vikatan. He patiently replied that there are many people to write on current affairs and that I can consider writing in Aval Vikatan. I told him that I wanted to write in a mainstream magazine and that too for all and not exclusively for ladies. He appreciated my courage and confidence and took leave. My aspiration to write on current affairs was fulfilled when my articles were published in the professional magazines Management Accountant and Bank Quest. The articles I have written so far are available in my website <https://lalithasitaraman.in/>.

It is said that writing is not complete without writing about the real issues in life. When the topics impacting our mind are sensitive it stirs stronger feelings in our minds and sometimes our anger on issues in the external world goes straight in the ladder up to God. Thiruvalluvar himself had expressed his anger against God, on the fear of begging, in the Thirukural,

“இரந்தும் உயிர்வாழ்தல் வேண்டின் பரந்து  
கெடுக உலகியற்றி யான்”

reading

“Iranthum uyir vaazhthal vaendin

paranthu keduka ulakiyatriyaan.”

meaning if a person has to beg for his living, may the creator of the world Himself do like that and suffer. It is okay to be angry with God but finding solutions for social issues is not everyone’s cup of tea and more so for a commoner with meagre resources. Not all can be Buddha or Mahakavi Subramania Bharati. Also, my independent and questioning mind had not let me develop any strong political affiliation. Time and peace of mind are too precious to lose in unnecessary controversies. It is easy to establish fairness and justice at the individual level by standing up for one’s own self-respect and rights and at the same time not encroaching upon the life of others. The synergy of fairness and justice at the micro level is supposed to establish fairness and justice at the macro level. Refuge in God and righteousness is sailing us through in difficult times. These personal opinions prompt me to exercise neutrality and extra care while writing on sensitive subjects.

Coming back to the novel title, ‘Neervazhi padoom’, it also raises the counter question, ‘Is there nothing at all in our hands to try a little bit amidst the turbulent currents?’. That took my memories back to my Tamil article written in the year 1995

in IOBian, ‘வாழ்க்கை முயற்சி வழியா, விதி வழியா?’, reading ‘Vaazhkkai muyarchi vazhiya, vidhi vazhiya?’ meaning ‘Is life based on efforts or destiny?’ available in the link <https://lalithasitaraman.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/vaazhkkai.pdf>.

Looking forward to being in the company of more friends through my expanded network participation...