

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Circle

-Simon Zachariah

Four sides for a 'Rectangle'
Three sides for a 'Triangle'
How many sides for a circle?

The smart one said, "Two"
What are those two sides?
One shouted: "*Inside & Outside!*"

All God's creations have two sides,
God has no beginning & no end,
And we were created as a circle too.

Will the circle ever be broken?
But when the circle is broken,
It becomes one-united with God.

കറവപ്പൂശ

-സൈമൺ സബറിയ

'കറവപ്പൂശ' എന്നു നിങ്ങൾ കേട്ടിരിക്കാം
'കറവപ്പൂശ' പലർക്കും പലതാണല്ലോ
ചിലർക്കതു പ്രിയപ്പെട്ടവരാം സത്യം!
ഉപകാരം ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ പോറ്റി വളർത്താം!

പശുവിന്നറിയല്ല അതിൻ പരമസത്യം,
കറവ വറ്റിയാൽ അതറിയും നഗ്നസത്യം.
പിന്നെ വിലപറയും, വിലപേശും ലോകം
ഉപകാരം ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെന്തു കാര്യം!

നിനക്കുണ്ടോ വീട്ടിൽ കറവപ്പൂശ?
അതോ നീയാണോ ആർക്കെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു?
ഒന്നു മാത്രം ഓർക്കണം നാമെല്ലാം,
ചുള്ളിക്കൊമ്പ് നാളെ നിൻ ഊന്നു വടിയാകാം!

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Channels of Glory Newsletter
December, 2019



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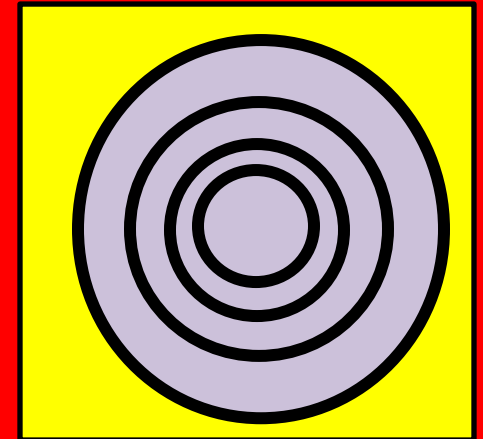
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(Est. 2005)

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A Newsletter

Vol. 14 No. 3 2019



Unbroken circles



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

Have you ever stood on a weighing machine? Many of us always worry about our weight. Most of us are not very happy about our own weight. Some want to gain few pounds and others want to shed some. As Christmas and New Year approach, I don't have to explain about this. I feel that we ought to consider our weight as one of our possessions. Some people do forty days fasting and prayer and of course they will lose some weight. Some give away presents and they find joy in it. But others, like to gain weight during this time of the season. Likewise some of us like to receive gifts. When I compare the living conditions in fifties and sixties, to the recent years, materially we are doing much better. But what about the mental and spiritual condition of the people? Greed & guilt, have increased resulting in spiritual blindness. As communities and individuals, we are slowly indifferent about our fellow human beings, as well as our future generations. Even though the media reminds us about the recent

incidents, we are developing a tendency to ask "So what?" I have heard preachers comparing selfish people to a cotton weaver. The right hand of the weaver will move from left to right and then right to left. The left hand then move towards himself. They say that he is singing to himself:

"For me, for my wife, and for my children"

Basically he is not much concerned about others. When we think about ancient Indian culture, poor people are a part of society. Even if one is rich, at some point he gives away everything he has and opts a life of poverty or a simple life. Many pilgrimages are designed with this principle. We used to play with captive dragon flies when we were young. The main game is to hold the fly by the wings and order the fly to pick up a small stone. It always obeys the child and immediately holds the stone tightly. But no matter how many times he orders to drop the stone, it won't obey! The modern man is like that. He wants to possess everything he can. But he doesn't know the joy and relief of leaving everything to others. I have read a story of a boy who worked hard for a farmer. After several years, the rich farmer gave him a bag of gold coins and told him to go and live a happy life. On his way he first finds a horse rider, and the rider convinced him that the horse is better than the money. Later he exchanged the horse for a cow as he was convinced the cow is better than the horse. Eventually, he exchanged it for a goat, then a duck and finally a knife sharpening stone! In each of these exchanges, he thought the latter one is better than the former. Finally, when he knelt down to drink some water from a pond, the stone also fell into the deep water. In the last page of this children's story book,

I still remember the picture of that happy boy swinging both his hands and returning to his master empty handed. This story did not make much sense to me at that age. But now when I see the rich people having hard time to give away their possessions, I feel that the boy in the story has a lesson for all of us. Everyone comes to this world empty handed and leaves empty handed. Every wise man should practice this daily in life. The strongest person whom we all should be afraid of is "the man who has nothing to lose". When we see or hear about someone in an accident or sickness, the first person to help will be the poor, since they have nothing to lose. We all should be trained to practice self-denial. We have often seen that people who have power hesitate to smile, or come down to the level of common people. The reason is because they are afraid of losing something. I have heard an incident about one person who had to travel with a large amount of money. He later told me that he was so much focused on it, that he could not perform normally as he was afraid of losing it.

In the coming New Year let us all empty our selfishness and try to fill it up with kind thoughts about others; especially others who have no one to care about them. Since they are empty, no one really gathers around them. But we have to remember that the emptiness will empower one to do great things. When we empty ourselves, and clean up our inside and make room for others, we will again become powerful and useful for others and for God.

Let us light more candles so that everyone can see others better. We wish you all a bright and joyful New Year!