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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

**UNTOLD EXPRESSIONS OF THE STUDENTS**

# **MINDSPARK**

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING  
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE  
RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRILANKA**

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# **MINDSPARK**

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD**

# GREAT SPACE



Greater than the wall of China  
Mount Everest, Egypt's Giza  
and even the Romeo's love  
Gaps are the bridges to the Great Future

Mother-father, Sister-brother, Husband-wife  
Male and female; what are these gaps?  
Notorious space! Oh! Poor youth  
Romance eliminates the space...

Social distance created by whom?  
Make lovers cry, mothers weep  
Hierarchy and casts; soul makers  
No God is good! Space buttons...

Even the keyhole has a gap  
to unlock the doors  
Open your minds. People of the Earth!  
Replace the gap with the word 'Freedom'...



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**IF NOT  
US  
WHO?  
IF NOT  
NOW**

**WHEN?**



# ECONOMY CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has faced the worst situation ever within its post-independence history, with the ongoing economic crisis, political instability, and post-pandemic challenges. Nowadays, every party in the country, from a primary student to an old man, from the richest to the poorer asks for a system change. But is it just a physical change they are asking for? Throughout the world history, there were numerous examples of system changes. Not to create another Japan or Singapore, we should find our path, our way to stand as Sri Lankans near future. What we have experienced all over the decades as Sri Lankans, eloquently shows agriculture, education, and attitudes are the main pillars that should undergo a revolution.

Considering the prevailing situation within the country, the concept of green behaviour and sustainable agriculture should be inculcated among people, before it depreciates as the rupee. Home gardening is the best solution



as it is a production system at some level that the poor can easily enter with virtually no economic resources, using locally available planting materials, green manure, live fencing, and indigenous methods of pest control. According to the World Bank indicators, Sri Lanka was reported at 1, 2020 in child malnutrition. And also, 10.4% of children have usually not eaten even breakfast before going to school for the

past 6 months. Therefore, change should not merely stick around a person or an object. Sri Lanka needs a national policy for agriculture, a strengthened agricultural value chain where consumers can buy quality products at a reasonable price, and a producer can sell his products with a reasonable profit. New reforms should be introduced that enable the accessibility of farmers to new technology, and new agri-



cultural concepts to increase national production. There are several drivers behind the crisis except for poor leadership and guidance. With stagnant growth of crops over the recent years, 35% of crops end up being wasted without even reaching the consumer's hands and overnight policy changes including inorganic fertilizer ban along with economic mismanagement leading the country finally to bankruptcy.

in crisis due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Prolonged and repeated school and university closures hinder the ability of the country to overcome existing poverty for years. Once Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Therefore, rather than searching for quick and short-sighted answers to the current situation, education should be given priority considering as a future investment. Needy reforms within the existing

powerful mindset and good hearts. A sensitive person with a positive attitude is built with experiences and practice. Correct guidance and a suitable environment for a new-born child can make him a person who loves not only his belongings but also an entire country, a person who cares not only about his assets but also about public properties, and a person who raises not only against injustice to his family but also to any citizen in the country. The entire sys-



Default foreign loans have plummeted foreign currency reserves, making it challenging to import fuel and other essential commodities. Rapid inflation rates and skyrocketing food prices make the situation worse for many low-income Sri Lankans, not enabling them to afford an adequate meal for the day. Growing economic and political turmoil hurts the education and students' education which was already

education system should be done as soon as possible. Necessary actions should be taken to re-open the schools to continue the activities. It is not the first thing to close schools and universities at once during a crisis but find possible solutions to prevent the closure of the country's future as the same.

It isn't a sword or a gun that requires to change the system, but citizens with a

tem should be changed to create a society with people who know about the law of the country and who can respect the law of the country. Rather than looking for others to make the change, every citizen has their role to fulfil towards the country in this tough time. If not us, who? If not now, when?

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# STRUGGLE

Your murmuring flew towards me  
Mixed with the zephyr  
Breaking in my idling along by the river  
And stayed in a corner of my heart  
Struggling with my own feelings....

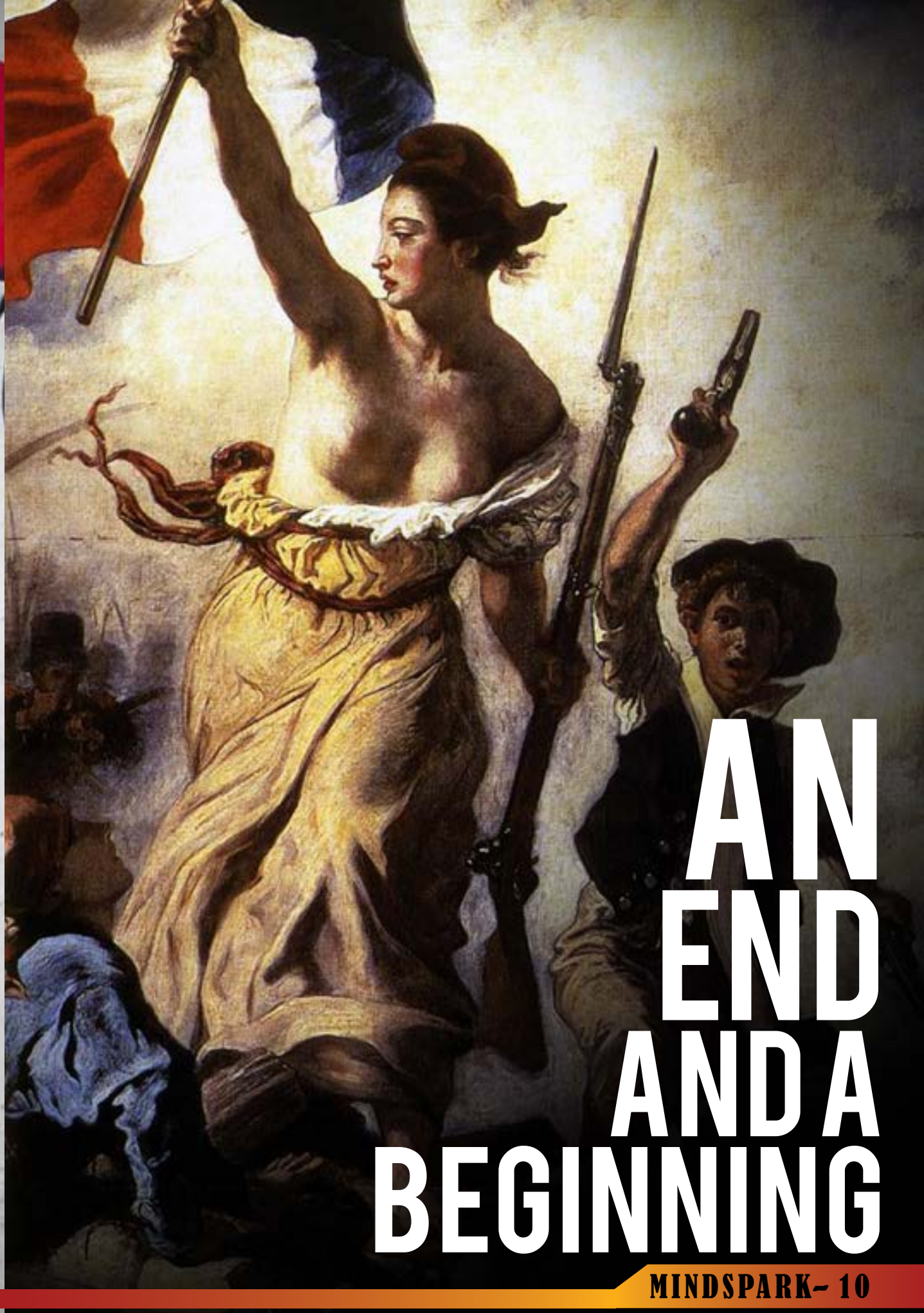
Then, our eyes met on that day  
And flattered all along the way  
We got closer and closer  
Struggle faded away

When your eyes caught by him  
In that moment  
Oh... no...  
You push me in to fire  
I am still burning with my soul  
Still struggling

Love is a struggle  
Blooms in the heart  
Fades in the heart



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# AN END AND A BEGINNING



Colette was one of the political detainees held at the French Bastille jail. Her offense, in the eyes of the state, was speaking up for the revolution. Collette suffered from horrific torment. She was not even thought of as a human by the prison guards. She was regarded as a traitor and the initiator of the crimson revolution.

“How is your revolution coming along, Collette?” The prison guard grinned. The bleeding face, which was previously facing downward, now faces upward. The eyes shone with radiance. Her back was now straight. Her face had a pleasing smile on it.

“After tomorrow, a new chapter will begin. Drums will be echoed, and it will resonate with your heartbeat. We won’t allow tyranny to silence us once more, and we won’t let ourselves be oppressed. We are people and we have power!”, she uttered.

She received a slap on the face in return.

“Witch, what revolution? craziness it is. You are merely a serf! Lifelong servitude!”, He yelled.

July 14 was the following day. All of the political prisoners





were grouped together despite the suffering. To breach the Bastille wall, the entire populace organized. They had an iron will. People without power, those who are viewed as the bottom rung of the social ladder, those who were allowed to starve while the regime basked in all the luxury, were going to demonstrate their strength.

As the exterior of the Bastille's walls glistened in the sunlight, within the Bastille's walls, the mayhem started. The prisoners who had been subject to the abuse began to rebel and fight back.

Together, the Parisians over-

powered the soldiers and guards at the prison.

“Be honest with yourself, why are you allowing innocent civilians to perish for a monarch who cannot even afford to pay for the basic needs of his citizens?” A queen who is ignorant enough to ask people to eat cake when we can't buy bread and a king who steals the hard-earned money and labor of the people as well as the fundamental human decency of the people? Avoid being absurd! Show compassion! Don't turn a blind eye to the problems; after all, we all reside in this nation and experience the same prob-

lems. Come and work with us to demonstrate the strength of the populace!” Collette yelled at the troops.

Many military personnel joined the revolt. There was a lot of diversity among the people moving towards the palace. Everyone was marching in unison with a single goal, from the helpless slave to the high-ranking governor, or aristocrat. All of the citizens were moving together, hand in hand, toward the end of a monarchy regime and the beginning of a new era of equality.

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# ANTHARE

How men in power behave so  
different  
The corruption is taking a heavy  
toll  
“Anthare” have seen the brutality  
of the power bug....

Still there is hope  
Even if the wind falls  
“Anthare” will be there in your  
name  
They lead with a promising  
word....

The sacrifices for the lawless  
system  
Will never be forgotten  
“Anthare” will be remembered...

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# SOUL OF A HEROIC CITIZEN





I was living in a heroic island  
I was proud of it,  
My friends had dreams to fly,  
To buy luxuries; even happiness,  
But the leader crew had cruel  
businesses,  
They launched the selfishness.

My Citizens are crying for  
lives,  
Even a water droplet is ex-

pensive now  
Remote jackfruit is saving  
our breath  
People are saying “Shall We  
die”

Totally depressed day by day  
Without having successful  
routines.  
As a whole island

But one day,  
We started the revolution  
Posted the cruelty in front of

the worst crew  
Our blood started to boil and  
thickened  
For a refreshed future.

Here we started to shoot our  
pain,  
In a coastal area, an army  
was collected,  
Army of voices and feelings  
with supreme unity.  
Army of a young generation;  
even of children.





No more energy for anything  
or anyone,  
No electricity; have only broken  
dreams,  
But the worst crew is drinking  
our tears  
Their night parties with our  
blood vine and man burgers.  
Wash hands with hand wash  
of cruelty.

People are wishing “No more

births here”  
We shouted, we fought  
They raised barriers, summoned  
armies against us.  
But still we are silently fight-

ing for definite victory.  
Till our last breath.

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# SHOULD WE GO ORGANIC

As an agricultural country in the South East, agriculture has occupied a significant extent in the Sri Lankan economy and social system. We do agriculture to get an economically valuable harvest, we remove either the leaves (the vegetative part) or the grains (the reproductive part). Through this, we remove lots of nutrients out of that system for our consumption. That means, when we do the continuous cultivations, we remove the nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and several others from the soil. Unless we replenish this amount, plants will not give the anticipated yield next time. The substances that we use to replenish the soil, are called the “fertilizers”.

There are two types of fertilizers, Organic and synthetic (Inorganic fertilizers). Organic fertilizers are actually derived from plants and animals. They can be a plant part, an animal part, waste or any other material that has been derived from plants and animals. But when

it comes to synthetic fertilizers, though the origin may be a natural substance, there is always a manufacturing process. This is the basic difference between organic and synthetic fertilizers, but there are some other differences too. Synthetic fertilizers may be rich in one to maximally three nutrients, but the organic fertilizers are always a mixture of nutrients.

Laymen may think that organic fertilizer is better than synthetic under this context, that means being a mixture of nutrients, but the problem with organic is the amount it contains. To demystify this, let me give a preamble to this. If we take urea, a synthetic fertilizer, it may contain around 46% of nitrogen WW. But when it comes to organic fertilizers, it may contain maximally 1% - 1.5% of nitrogen. That means, we have to add organic fertilizer around 50 folds (46 folds to be precise) to tally with urea. This is the quantity-based problem with organic and there is another main problem, the release of

the nutrients. Synthetic fertilizer may usually show a rapid release of nutrients and organic fertilizer shows a very slow release. We, human beings, need nutrients from womb to tomb. The most important point is, the correct nutrient, in correct quantity and in the correct time frame. That’s how we grow out. The thing is same regarding the plants because they are living creatures too. We cannot cover up the plant nutrient demand in these three aspects, solely on organic fertilizers.

In the past, we know that we had been called as “The granary of the east”, something that we should be proud of. And, layman may raise an argument that, in that era, where we used to export rice too, we didn’t have synthetic fertilizer at all but we survived and had a very strong and powerful agriculture system only through organic and why we can’t now. After we had been invaded by the Portuguese, Dutch and British, our persisted agriculture system was changed gradu-



ally to a more plantation type one because that is what they were interested in. And, the other thing is, in 1940, we had only 6 million populations and now, in 2022, we have roughly around 21.8 million population in Sri Lanka. To feed this exponentially growing population, breeders and scientists have invented new, high yielding rice varieties. So, to get that anticipated yield from them, they need more nutrients and agrochemicals. We grow 8000 hectares in Maha Season and 5000 hectares in Yala Season, paddy solely in a given year. 98% of the land extent we have for rice now, has been cultivated with these new high yielding varieties and we have a bumper harvest too. Traditional varieties occupy only less than 1%. If I go with the statistics, average yield of rice in 1940 is 0.65 tons per hectare and in 2020, it has increased up to 4.8 tons per hectare. The yield has increased in 7.4 folds but the cultivated land extent has increased only in less than 2 folds throughout this 80 years' time. This mira-

cle has been done with the new high yielding varieties. A research that has been carried out in Bathalagoda rice research institute for 11 years, by Mr. D.N. Sirisena, a well reputed soil scientist, implies that the rice yield may reduce in 21.5% - 31%, if we go only for organic production. At the same time, a country's agriculture sector should fulfill two ambitions,

enhance the productivity.

make sure the contribution of agriculture sector to the national food security, is going to be maximum.

But, above examples well demonstrate that these two cannot be fulfilled only through organic. This is the reason why we can't do organic agriculture solely just like in the past. So, no traditional type agriculture is executed in Sri Lanka anymore. If we did so, it would be quite detrimental. The repercussion may be a huge impact on the food security with the inability to feed the population

and eventually the brunt will be the bad impact on national security of the country which has not been a problem for a long period of time in Sri Lanka.

As a country, we can't go organic completely. We should learn from the examples of the global scenarios. Nepal is the first ever country that declared in 2014, that they were going to be completely organic by 2020. But in 2018, they found and claimed that 63% of the rice, 21% of the maize and 23% of the vegetables they utilize were being imported to the country. So, the decision to go organic has badly affected their gross domestic production and the national food security. Therefore, they reversed their decision. There is a one state in India which has gone completely organic. That is Sikkim. But they did it for economic ambition, to increase the tourism in that country. But most of the food items they eat come from other states, which use synthetic fertilizers.

In Sri Lanka, president Mr.



Gotabhaya Rajapaksha banned importing and utilization of synthetic fertilizer with one cabinet paper in a night while the scholars were showing their strong objections. These decisions were taken based on the myths and fancies prevailing in the society saying that the synthetic fertilizers cause rampant chronic kidney disease (CKD). But the chairman of the national research council claimed that researchers have identified two factors that have caused the CKD in Rajarata area. They are,

the farming community and people in Rajarata area, do not drink water adequately

the high fluoride content in the ground water

So, this strongly shows that the usage of synthetic fertilizer and CKD don't have the cause result effect. This is the place where the authority went wrong. There can be associations with two variables but that do not mean that they are cause and result. If the decision to go only for organic prevailed so long, people may tend to make organic fertilizers themselves. They may tend to use municipal wastes too as they need tons of organic matter to make the adequate amount. But the problem is, municipal waste may contain heavy metals and they can con-

taminate the water streams and eventually cause CKD. So, if we want to reduce the usage of synthetic chemicals under any other reason, that should be done in a fathomable, feasible manner, not just in one night.

Now, the bad impacts have raised. Farmers are on the roads up in arms with rampant grievance. This is what the scholars claimed that should not be allowed to happen. The authority has claimed that they will give 12,500 rupees per hectare which has lost the yield but the thing they should understand is, a way should be made to increase the fallen production again because every farmer is



a consumer. When the production goes down, we can't eat money.

Present government imported tons of substances saying that they were organic fertilizers. But the plant quarantine center claimed that those contain harmful bacteria. This is the bad impact that can arise when importing organic fertilizers. Even though those lab reports get through, there is a risk of importing them. One is, it is very difficult to import adequate quantities as, when going organic, we need high amounts. The second thing is, there are only very few countries that produce organic substances.

So, they may have a strong intervention in the Sri Lankan economy.

Let the organic farming be promoted in Sri Lanka because it earns lots of foreign exchange to our country as it has a higher demand overseas. But that doesn't secure the productivity and the food security anticipated. We have to maximize the contribution of the agriculture sector to the food security. But based on the all evidence in Sri Lanka and global scenarios, I'm repeatedly saying that, we cannot achieve that if we try to move totally to the organic matter application avoiding the synthetic chemicals. Then, the

thing that should be practiced is, the application of mixture of organic and synthetic. Synthetic does a significant part in the yield which cannot be replaced. Organic matter application also contributes to the yield as compost gives humus which helps to develop the soil structure.

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# VELVET revolution

## DON'T EVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT

### **The Background**

The fall of the Communist camp in Eastern Europe in 1989 marked a turning point in the world history. The fall of the Berlin Wall was the prime moment here. But governments in the other communist countries also collapsed. The Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia was one such instance.

Czechoslovakia is one of the countries in the former Soviet bloc. Unlike other countries, it was a democratic country for a long time between the First and Second World Wars. That changed after the German conquest in 1938 and 1939. Every other Eastern European country was ruled by dictators be-

tween the two world wars.

### **Communism**

At the end of World War II, Soviet troops liberated Czechoslovakia, but no communist rule emerged at once. It is true that the Communist Party was the main party in that country. At the 1946 general election, it became the largest single party in Czechoslovakia's parliament, but won only 93 of the 300 seats. It received 31.2 percent of the vote.

The communist rule in Czechoslovakia was established on February 25, 1948. This is what the communists call the February Revolution in Czechoslovakia and what the anti-

communists call the February coup. Thus, in February 1948, Klement Gottwald became Czechoslovak Prime Minister. In June of the same year, he became the President.

After Gottwald's death in 1953, Antonin Novotny became the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. He too later became the President of the country. He was ousted from the post of General Secretary of the party on January 5, 1968, and in March of the same year he was ousted from the post of President. This marked the beginning of a reform movement known as the Pre-Spring. Its leader was Alexander Dubček, who replaced



“  
**The fall of the Communist  
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the world history.**

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Novotny as party general secretary.

This process of reform did not please the Soviet Union. The result was the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Soviet troops on August 20, 1968.

Neither Dubček nor then President Ludvig himself was removed from office at once. But their renovations were gradually halted. In April 1969, Gustav Hussein, a Slovak, was appointed the General Secretary of the party. In 1975, he was also elected the President. He resigned as General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1987, but held the presidency until the Velvet Revolution.





### **Resistance**

One of the highlights of the Czechoslovak public's opposition to communist rule was the suicide of a young student, Jan Palach, in January 1969. Palach, a 20-year-old student, was burned to death on January 19, 1969, in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia.

After the 1968 invasion, Soviet troops were stationed in Czechoslovakia, but they did not appear to be

on average. To a stranger, that country might not seem like a Soviet-influenced country. But it is clear that without the Soviet army, communist rule in that country would not have lasted long.

Protests among the Czechoslovak people and intellectuals arose on several occasions. Charter 77 is such an opportunity. The collection of signatures for this document, which criticized the failure of the Czechoslovak government on human rights, began in late 1976. This document was published on January 6, 1977 in several Western newspapers. This became the most important document in the struggle against Communist rule in Czechoslovakia, and the protest movement that followed was also known as the 77th Charter. Profession-





als, artists, etc. in various fields signed the 77th Charter and the government took stern action against some of them. Distribution of Charter 77 was considered a criminal offence. Many of the leading leaders involved in this movement later became important figures in Czech and Slovak politics. Vaclav Havel became the President of Czechoslovakia after the fall of communist rule.

### **The revolution has begun**

Despite political crises in some parts of the Eastern Europe, Czechoslovakia remained silent for much of 1989. The situation remained the same after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

This situation changed due to a student protest held on November 17, 1989. November 17 is the International Student Day. It was celebrated on November 17, 1939, to commemorate the Nazis' crackdown on student protests in Czechoslovakia. On

the day of the 50th anniversary of the incident, the re-emergence of a student agitation in the same country where the incident took place was a travesty of fate. But unlike the 1939 agitation, the 1989 agitation was to be successful.

The student campaign was organized by the Socialist Youth Union affiliated to the Communist Party. But the participants turned it into an anti-communist campaign. This became a signal for the anti-communist protests and strikes that would take place in the coming days. As students began to strike, a wave of strikes spread to other areas. There were strikes and protests in Prague as well as in other major cities. Massive protests took place in Wenceslas Square in Prague.

On November 19, was an important turning point in the campaign. 77 The Charter

Movement and several other organizations jointly organized a protest movement. In the next few days, they went for talks with the government.

On November 24, the General Council, including the General Secretary Milos Jakes, resigned, and Karel Urbánek was appointed the General Secretary. Urbánek, a moderate communist, hoped to secure the appointment by introducing reforms and defending communist rule. But the protesters did not believe that the Communists were working to introduce reforms. They wanted to overthrow the communist regime itself.

On November 29, the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly changed its constitution and abolished the Communist Party's dominance. This was a sign that there was an opportunity for new political parties and that communist rule was over. A new cabinet without Communists was sworn in on December 10, shortly after Gustav Hussein stepped down as the president. He was replaced by Vaclav Havel. He was sworn in on December 29.

The new government reached an agreement with the Soviet Union to expel Soviet troops. In June 1990, free general elections were held.

Subsequently, the idea of the separation of the two parts of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, spread and came to fruition despite protests from some quarters, including the former Communist Party. Thus, on January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia officially became the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

# CHORDS

You touch the strings  
gently  
Creates dazzling jazz  
My voice starts to murmur  
Together, disperse over the  
stars  
Flow the chords by the  
breeze  
No matter how it goes too  
far  
Hearts get healed fully of  
melody daubs  
Moments in peace come  
too fast  
Beasts listen to harmonies  
in calm  
Feel like wild let to sing in  
the dark  
Sunset makes a shade in  
your arms  
Blessings give throughout  
the path  
End the day with a soul I  
love  
The memory of the song  
notes in the past.

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# THE DEMAGOGUE

Happy?

Is that a question?  
Does 'Yes' could be the answer?  
From the bottom of my heart;  
Would that be true?

Revolution?

Is that too heavy?  
For what are we doing it?  
Just to be happy?  
But, what if we need to fight for our happiness?  
Indeed; it becomes the revolution of "Happiness".

Happiness?

Is it stochastic?  
It is the roll of genetic dice,  
It is what we need,  
To become mentally broad and build.  
Could that be measurable?  
Of course... It is...  
The way we live, the way we behave, the way we  
admire...  
It is the nature of our containment...

Does anyone live happily?

Nope... It's a big "No"  
Everyone, Just fight, for your deep-down happiness  
Be your own reason for your happiness...

Life is worth to be lived

Just give up the crippled mentality  
Find it, Fight for it, Be with it  
The Revolution of Happiness  
Be your own demagogue;  
Your soul would be gladsome...

One day; For the question;  
Happy?

The answer would be an incredible 'Yes'



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# CHILDREN OF WOMEN

Suffering is endless even after the death bed. Some says that trying to live at least another day is the greatest gift in life. But what is the worthiness of extending a useless life or a life of a cruel dictator who ruled the 'Favel', a country with huge bracken ferns of more than 16 meters in height. 40 000 years ago there was a country called France which was surrounded (on the northeast) by Belgium and Luxembourg, (on the east) by Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, (on the south) by the Mediterranean Sea.

'Farvel' was the glorious family name of rulers who led men for civilization in Favel after the second 'Sand Age' in 100th century AD. Thus, the city which was built by combining previously mentioned countries together was named after their name, Farvel, by its citizens. 'Sand pipers' were given the control of all the pipelines and

wind suckers. Their job was to make sure the water is pumped out from earth's crust to the sand glass houses for drinking and agricultural purpose. They used wind suckers to generate the energy needed in pumping action.

'Manria' is a hunt-woman who lives in a sand cave in 'Gemina'

city which was a deserted city next to the Favel's capital, 'Dra-gengia'. Manria comes from a slave dynasty who were famous 'Saw Dusters'. Who knows the fate's wisdom? It was said that the saw dusters were the people responsible for the sand ages to happen. The heated sand created by them had enhanced the evaporation of Hygroscopic



water too. No one needs further explanation on their contribution to occur sand layers, as their name 'Saw Dusters' explains itself about the hidden truth. Manria was adopted by a foster mother of sacred hunt-women campaign. Do they hunt for food or water? No. They hunt for men who separate from the Dragengia city life style and reach the Gemina city. As the name 'Gemina' suggest the meaning of 'Gemini' or 'a couple', any human being can understand the tragic lifestyle of women here. Sad truth was our dictator his majesty 'Sovuman' had commissioned to continue the tragedy by starting a hunt for protein by taking all the male births as the main source of food protein in the desert.

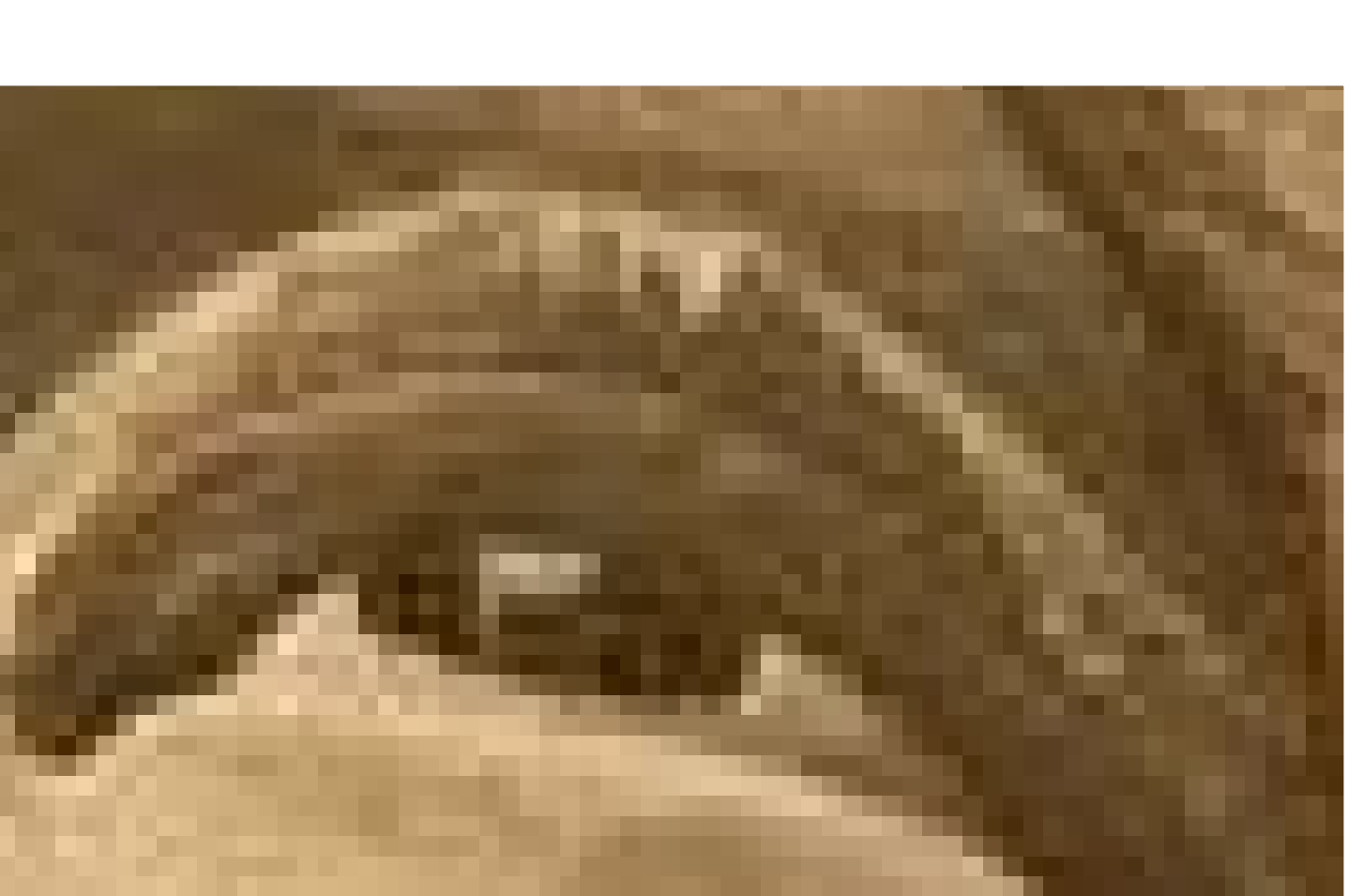
'Sandalime' trees; a hybrid tree with parental lines from Sandal tree and Lime plant which was engineered by the geneticists who had lived million years before the present day, are common in this sand world. The symbol of both Farvel family and Favel kingdom was this precious tree. The fruits arouse from the tree didn't stop by growing only on tree trunk, but also continued the fruiting on every live set of tissue. The symbol of the sand temple; the central sacred place of all Favelians was named as the 'no-God temple', as all the theistic believers had been assassinated cruelly under the rule of great-grand father of Sovuman Farvel during the past decades. The craziest fact about this temple is that it doesn't need clergymen or nuns or any kind of

priest or monk to be respected by people. Fear itself has bound people with the no-God temple. Inside the main sand cave of the temple there is a huge clay pot like structure filled from the water dripping very slowly along a spear like sandy rock arouse from the roof wall of the temple cave. No one is allowed to drink a sip of water from that sacred pot except the dictator himself only. People has a belief about a hidden mechanism of locking around and near the pot protecting its sacred water from thieves. No one had been braved enough in the past to enter the circle around it yet. Who knows the truth?

No metal had been strong enough to conduct the heat of two suns. Only protective covering against those suns now available on earth's crust is a type of sand called 'black sand'. All the houses were built from 'sandment'; a kind of cement produced by subjecting the black sand to cold press and crushing continuously for few hours.

A sawduster group is walking on the yellow grass layer between two huge jungles. A wild species of huge lizard is also locomoting nearby but no one of the group doesn't know about that creature. Lizards too have regeneration ability in their body parts most commonly in their tail. The leader of saw duster group suddenly smells something after stopping his sidekick member from his fingers. Then, he sees one of the members is having a bleeding nose with running blood from nostrils. Leader moves his hand under the nasal cavity and sneezes immediately pouring red-blood on to his palm. Other





members become quick in action and start running away from the scene.

Fishing boat with nine men aboard is sailing on the black sea towards Favel. One sailor throws a huge fishbone into sea from the frontal area of the boat. Suddenly, a white light starts to move with the sea waves like crystals floating on water. The previously fishbone thrower starts to scratch not only his hand but also the whole skin. All other sailors look at him and in next few seconds it looks like the whole boat has turned upside down; only the sound of sea waves hitting the boat chassis is second to the sound of scratching. Alas! It is not funny like a fictitious story. Manria is searching for a sacred 'thing'. Who knows? It may be a lustful rich man from Dra-

genigia or may be a 'wrystal'. Wystals are not just water crystals about the size of a sugar crystal. They are some special kinds of sandy crystals. Inside of a wrystal appears to be like a water filled normal crystal. But no material is there on this sand world to get that liquid out from the wrystal. No man had enlightened Manria in the dark city, Gemina. Because even though she was a hunt-woman, she had hidden gens of Sawdusters. No man could make a dune out of her.

Cyclider is the common vehicle in this dune world. The solar power is the one and only power flowing in its mechanical system made by the sandsmiths of Swolosky. Swolosky is a city far away from Dragengia, governed by the best friend forever of our dictator Sovuman. His real

name is unrevealed. People of Swolosky call him 'Mobilicks'; the name explains itself about his knowledge and skills about automobiles. He has a son who became 25 years old on May.

Manria is 25 years old until the 26th of November. Marrying a 5-6 months old woman than the man is not an acceptable ethic in our sand world of 100th century. Atheists of no-God temple believes that marrying a 5 years older woman will decrease the distance to the sacred 'Enlightenment'. I am just a writer who writes a real story with different names.

'Who knows the wisdom of Love?'

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# Last man STANDING

You may have seen ‘the 300 movie’ directed by Zack Snyder in 2007. The film is based on the ancient battle of Thermopile. The film manages to entertain as well as inform. The leader of the Greeks in this battle was Leonidas of Sparta. Who is King Leonidas? What happened in the battle of Thermopile? That is what this article is about.



## King Leonidas

According to the Greek historian Herodotus, Leonidas was the son of Alexander, the Great's first wife. Although the wife's name is not mentioned, she is a relative of the king. Leonidas was not the first child born to the king's second wife, Cleomenes, before he was born. Then, the king's first wife had a child named Dorius. He is the elder brother of Leonidas. Shortly after Dorius was born, his first wife, Leonidas, became pregnant. At the same time, she gave birth to a child named Cleombrotus. According to Herodotus, Leonidas and Cleombrotus are thought to have been twins. In 489, being the king's third son, Leonidas was unable to get an idea of the kingship. After the death of King Alexandrite, his eldest son, Cleomenes, succeeded to the throne of Sparta. But the king died without having a son. Then the eldest son, Dorius, died in the battle at Sicily. Thus, Leonidas became the eldest son of the living children. Leonidas married Gorgo, the daughter of his older brother, Cleomenes.

Leonidas did not have an easy task ahead of him. A few years later, the Persians invaded Greece under King Darius I. It was to teach a lesson to the Persian kingdoms of Athens and Eritrea, which aided the revolt against Persian rule during the Persian rule of Ionia. In 490 BC, this battle of the marathon was won by the city-state of Athens. But it was not long before King Darius planned to retaliate with all his might. But King Darius was not quick to attack Greece because at that time there were riots in certain parts of the Persian Empire.

## The Vengeance

Around BC 486, King Darius died during a war. So, his son Xerxes became king. Determined to avenge his father's defeat, this son made sure to strengthen his army day by day. Around 480 BC, he formed a large army. It contained 150,000 men and 600 ships. In 480 BC, he declared war on Greece in late August or early September. This is known as the Battle of Thermopile. Unlike other battles,

the Greeks were defeated here. The battle of Leonidas of Sparta, led by a very small army of Greek city-states, took place at Thermopile, a narrow strip of mountains and sea in central Greece. The 300 Spartans on the Greek side were very famous, but they were not the only ones on the Greek side. On the Greek side were troops from other Greek city-states. According to Herodotus, there were about 5,000 Greeks. According to current findings, the entire Greek army consisted of about 20,000 soldiers. Before Leonidas went to war, Oracle, the prophetess, said that he would die in the battle. So, he chose men with children from the Spartans for the war because if they die after that war, the children will be able to carry on the family. The city of Sparta took the lead in the war against the Persians because of their prowess in the previous wars. The Greeks used it to defend a narrow area in the central highlands of Greece. This area is called the thermopile. This was one of the routes in the north of Greece. The Persians

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came and camped for a few days without war. Meanwhile, the Persian king Xerxes secretly sent a man to find out where the Greeks were preparing for war. The king was astonished at what he said when he returned to the king. That is to say, 300 Spartans were exercising and preparing for war in front of the wall that crosses the road ahead. He said the Spartans were very brave and ready to fight until they died.

The Persians, who were very restrained, finally began to attack. The Greeks defended their position by attacking the Persians from behind the wall that was blocking the road. Due to the narrowness of the road, the Persians were unable to attack the Greeks

at large, despite their large numbers. This was very advantageous to the Greeks. The helmets and armor of the Greeks were made of very strong materials, but not of the Persians. Not only were the Greeks' armor but also their weapons more advanced than the Persians. The spears of the Greeks were so long that the Greeks were able to strike and kill them before they reached the Persians. The Spartans, meanwhile, used many tactics. One of them was to deceive the Persians into turning away and attacking them, claiming that they were fleeing in fear. With this tactic, the Spartans were able to kill a large number of Persians. Thus, two days passed. The Persians were unable to defeat a very small

Greek army. Moreover, by this time a large number of Persians had been killed by a very small Greek army. Meanwhile, the fortunes of the Greeks were turned upside down. That is, the betrayal of a Greek king by telling him the secrets of the Greek army.

Above the road at Thermopile, there was an obscure path through the hills. This path was known only to the ordinary Greek people. By this route, you will be able to reach the point where the Greek army will be attacking and get behind them. When this was done, the Greek army was bound to be trapped in front and behind. After dark, the Persian king secretly sent some of his best soldiers to encircle the



Greeks. By dawn on the third day, the Greeks realized that they had been betrayed. However, Leonidas, the leader of the Greek army, decided to fight to the end. That is, they were well aware that they would be losing this battle. At this point, he told his comrades to flee as much as possible. However, the Spartans said they would fight Leonidas until the end. These Greeks fought to the best of their ability and the Persians were largely killed. Herodotus said that when the Greeks' weapons were broken they were struck with their hands and teeth. Knowing that they could not fight face to face and win, the Persians attacked from a distance and massacred the Greeks.

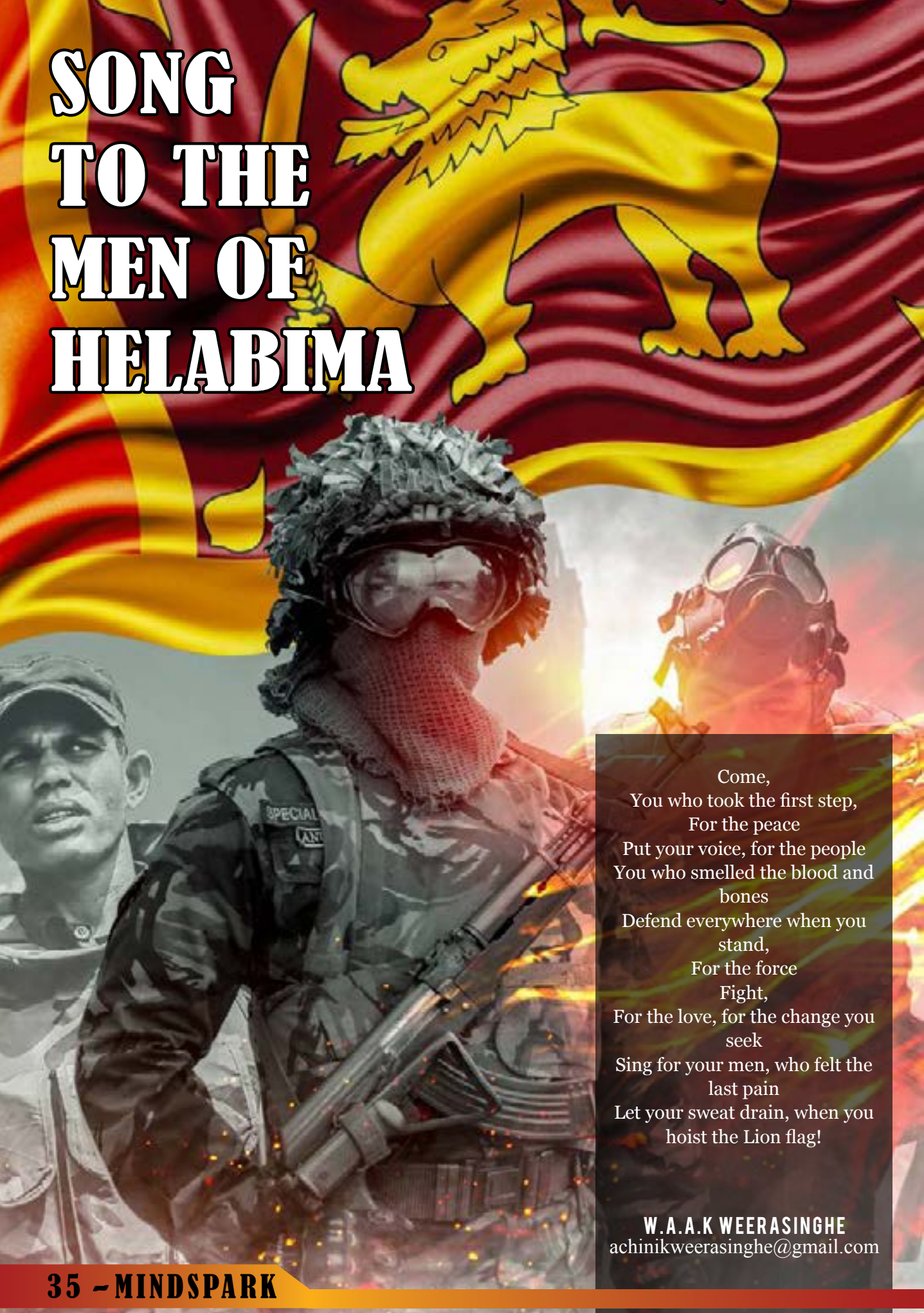
It is said that King Leonidas died of a stroke. It was the custom of the Persians to treat the defeated enemy with respect. However, enraged by this defeat, Xerxes decapitated Leonidas' head and ordered his crucifixion, and the Spartans and other Greek soldiers fought to the death. Although the Persians won the Battle of Thermopylae, they were unable to capture Greece. This unwavering courage of the Spartans was stimulated by the other Greek armies.

#### **Afterwards**

Themistocles, an Athenian politician and army commander, devised a plan to provide the Greeks with basic defenses against the Persians. He also

decided where to fight in the Thermopylae. All in all, this was a significant decision in the battle of Thermopylae. He betrayed his motherland in the hope of money and gifts. Leonidas knew of a route that ran through the mountains and had employed 1,000 foci to guard the route from the beginning. But they left because of the false information that their homeland, Fosis, had been attacked. Knowing that they would be defeated in the battle, Leonidas allowed the Greek army to escape as best he could, but 300 Spartans, 700 Thessalonians and 400 Thebans decided to fight to the end. By the end of the battle at Thermopylae, not only 300 but about 1,400 people remained to fight.

# SONG TO THE MEN OF HELABIMA



Come,  
You who took the first step,  
For the peace  
Put your voice, for the people  
You who smelled the blood and  
bones  
Defend everywhere when you  
stand,  
For the force  
Fight,  
For the love, for the change you  
seek  
Sing for your men, who felt the  
last pain  
Let your sweat drain, when you  
hoist the Lion flag!

**W. A. A. K WEERASINGHE**  
achinikweerasinghe@gmail.com

# There is Revolution

From "I love myself"  
To "I love you"  
From having respect  
To giving respect  
From kneel  
To obey

Simply,  
Revolution is existing  
From myself to ourselves.

**W. CHANDIRA HEMANTHA**  
Chandira99@gmail.com



# A TEAR

A secret tear  
hangs with a beautiful shine  
and a hidden pearl of love  
in the ocean of thoughts

A single tear  
bears a strange pain  
and a pure hope for a shove  
towards the reality through  
dreams

A honest tear  
follows the silence to gain  
the victory of comfort  
by innocent aim in tiresome  
life

A precious tear  
waits to shed when destine  
not for grief but for delight  
with the smiles of a new begin-  
ning

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# THE LOST ONE

One dream shifts another dream and I just got lost in that dream again. I should say it was a beautiful dream, it was perfect I was there with my family, my mom, dad, my brother and his wife and my partner. All of them seemed so happy in there and it was peaceful till I suddenly got awakened by someone,

“Doctor Kavin ... Doctor Kavin, we got an emergency case. Are you awake?”

Panicked voice of my coworker suddenly woke me from my beautiful and peaceful dream and one thing highlighted in my mind, “Emergency”

I got off my bed on one jump and grabbed my coat and spectacles.

When I opened the door of my room, there stood a nurse that had a panicked face and from the looks of her face, I knew this one is going to be a serious case.

I followed the nurse as quickest as I

could and we both went to the emergency ward through the darkness of the night.

The emergency ward was a busy place. A nurse and another doctor were so busy inside the ward and from the looks, I knew that it was my friend inside the emergency ward working with other nurses. And for a split second, my eyes met my friend’s face and the only thing I saw on his face was be in a hurry, and the next thing just happened automatically and I ran into the emergency ward. It was so bloody to see two guys in a bike accident and situation of both of the patients was critical. Both of them were hit by the drunken truck driver and both of them were injured in the head, so I tried to treat the second patient. Blood transfusion, treat the open wounds and stop the internal bleeding. With all of these, I was busy and I didn’t even care about who was the patient. The only thing I knew was that the patient was a young

boy and his face was covered with blood.

On the other way, my friend was busy too shouting at other coworkers to do things. After that, the patient was sent for a surgery and also I knew my patient needed a surgery too. So, I told my coworkers to take him for a surgery and I went to talk to my friend.

“Hey man...”

“Hey...”

“I thought you had gone home.”, asked my friend.

“I came earlier and was on the way to see you when patients arrived.”

“How is your patient?”

“He is stable for now but he needs a surgery as he has an internal bleeding. I’m waiting for his report to arrive. How about yours?”

“Same as yours. I sent him to the theater as he needs a surgery. But, I don’t think that I can perform it we need to ask doctor Rajiv to do it.”



other end of the line,  
“Hey Thilini, I’m so sorry for disturbing. Is doctor Rajiv there? Here we have an emergency and we need him.”  
“Yes, he is here but we both are in Kandy.”

“Oh, shit!”  
“Thilini, who’s that?”

I heard doctor Rajiv’s voice on the line and in a quick moment the voice on the phone changed into another man’s voice.”

“Hey kiddo.”

A gentle voice spoke to me and I got happy for a few moments the way doctor Rajiv called me. He is always like that. He thinks that I’m his baby brother or his son, so, he always calls me as kiddo.”

“Hey doctor, we need you as there is an emergency in hospital and I can’t perform the surgery without you.”

“Hey, slow down kiddo and take a deep breath.”

So, I stopped talking and took a deep breath.

“Are you settled down?”

“Yes...I’m sorry.”

“It’s ok and tell me about the situation.”

So, I told him everything, about the patient, my opinion on what should be done and what kind of a surgery needs to be performed.

“So, what should I do now? I need you as I can’t do this without you and the patient is not in good condition.”

“You need to perform the surgery without me.”

“What, I can’t do that. I’ve never done this caliber of surgery without assistance. I don’t think I can do the surgery on my own.”

“Yes, you can and you should. There are no buses. I can’t come there and you can’t transfer the patient, so surgery must be performed and you are well qualified to do that, believe in yourself and you can do this. Good luck kiddo!”

“Thank you.”

“Ok, go and get ready. Bye! Call me after the surgery and tell me everything, okay?”

“Okay. Bye!”

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After the call, I was stuck there thinking about what was needed to do next and I came to my senses by the voice of Samali

“What did doctor Rajiv say? Is he on his way? “

“Oh, that’s serious then ... Ok, I need to check on the patients, bye!  
“Bye man, good luck!”  
“Thanks, bro.”

After he went to the operation theater, I went to the board room to contact doctor Rajiv as he is the senior surgeon of our hospital and it was advisable to contact him immediately because his situation was so unpredictable.

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“Hey Samali, did doctor Rajiv answer his phone?”

I asked from my coworker and one of

my good friends, as she was on a call while I was going there.

“No, I couldn’t get hold of him, doctor. What are we gonna do?”

“Try again and we need doctor Rajiv, the patient is so unstable now.”

“I tried, but he didn’t pick up the phone.”

“Ok, let me try on his wife’s number.”

I talked to her and started to ringing other numbers I had.

One after another, I called the number and the fifth time, he answered the call.

“Kavin, why? Is there anything wrong?”

Panicked voice of a lady spoke on the



“No, he is in Kandy “  
“What now? “  
“Prepare the patient for the surgery. I’m going to perform the surgery.”

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The next three hours went by without thinking and I was busy with the surgery. First, I got panicked, but after a few seconds everything fell into the right place and the surgery went flawlessly. After I put the final stitch, I got a breath of relief. The surgery was successful and the patient was stable.

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I was exhausted after the surgery and when I got out of the theater, my shift was ended. So, I went to my home that was near the hospital and got a warm bath and fell into a deep sleep. Next thing I remember is that I was awakened by Sahas.

“Hey sleepy head good evening!”  
My friend Sahas was in my room with some bags.  
“Good evening! Is your shift over?”  
“Yes, I brought food. Go, wash your face and come to have lunch.”  
“Okay “  
I talked to him and got off the bed while looking at the clock on my nightstand and it was 2.00 p.m.

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“How was your first surgery alone?”  
Sahas ask me while eating  
“It was successful man. I was so nervous”  
“Hey, there is nothing to worry about. You are a good surgeon”  
“Thanks man, how was yours?”  
“It went ok, my patient was not serious like yours and surgery was successful and he got his consciousness before I got off the hospital.”  
“Good, I’m wondering how my patient was.”  
“He is stable. I check on him before I came”  
“Thanks man.”  
“You fool, That’s what friends for and also it’s my job as a doctor.”

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After Sahas went back to the hospital, I took another bath and got ready for my next night shift at the hospital. I made some dinner for both of us

and packed the dinner before getting dressed. After that, I went to the hospital and my shift started from 8.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. I went to the doctor’s room and met Sahas at there and I gave him the dinner that I brought.

“ What is this?”  
Sahas asked me  
“I cooked, and this is for you.”  
I talked with him and I saw his eyes lightened up, he always liked my food.  
“Thanks man.”  
“ you are welcome.”  
I smiled at him and went to the ICU, to check on my patient.

The saddest section of the hospital was the ICU as it’s always filled with sadness and sorrow. And also, it’s a place that always brings hopes and holds on. So, it’s a comforting zone in another way. I went to the ward to check on the patient and in front of the door there, stood one older man and a woman with two boys.  
As soon as they saw me, they came to me.

“Doctor, how is my brother?”  
One older boy looked at me and asks. Firstly, I got confused because, I didn’t know which one he was referring to. I understood that the boy understood my confusion.

“There were two boys who had met with an accident and were admitted here. A nurse told us that you were the one who treated my younger brother.”

“Oh...sorry I got confused. Yes, I’m

the one who treated the patient and his condition is stable now. I’m on my way to check him again. As soon as I check him, I will give you an update .”

I told to him and I thought that he was satisfied with my answer.  
“Thank you doctor”  
“ Can we see him?” That was a question from the older lady who was sobbing there.  
“ Sorry madam, we can’t let you do that still. Please be patient.”  
I told her and enter the room where patient was in.

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I went to the patient that who was lying on the bed and I couldn’t recognize if he was breathing or not, but monitors that he was connected into told every function of his body. So, I took a deep breath and started to check on him.

In a few minute another nurse entered the room.  
“Doctor...”  
“Oh hey...”  
“Doctor, I brought the reports of this patient as you requested.”  
“Oh, thanks.”

I thanked her and started to check on them. While I was going through them, I felt that my heart beat increases. Reports of the patient were not good. There were some signs of complications. And, I started to check on his monitors again.

“Doctor is everything okay?”  
“No. Something is wrong. His breath-





ing is slow and his heart beat is also going down. Call immediately to doctor Sahas and the other doctor who treated him while I was absent.”

I commanded her and press the panic button. The next few half an hour was very difficult.

Patient lost lots of blood and his kidneys were started to fail and his heart was also showing complications. Me,Sahas also and another resistance doctors started to treat him right away but his condition was very bad.

But, finally, his heart was going to give up and suddenly his heartbeat went blank. As soon as it happened, I started to give him an electric shock a few times, but still there was no response.

Finally, Sahas came to me. “Kavin, he is gone.”

Words of Sahas shook me to the core. I didn’t want that to be happened. I didn’t want to let that young boy go. I wanted to see him getting well. But...

While I was under emotional stress Sahas starts to talk.

“Time of death: 10.15 “

When words of Sahas rang in the ward, I was like a mindless puppet. I wanna cry. I wanna scream. I didn’t want to accept that. I didn’t want to lose that patient, but, he was gone. My first patient was gone and I was fail.

I got out of that painful room without thinking about what to do and suddenly all the family members of that boy were in front of me.



“Doctor, how is my brother?”  
“Doctor what happened to my boy?”  
Everyone was asking of me and I failed to save that precious life.  
“I’m sorry, we lost him.”  
That’s all I could tell and while the whole family of that poor boy started to scream and cry I went away from them.  
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I felt like everything in my life was

worthless. I wanted to scream and I wanted to cry.  
Everything was unfair and this should not be happened. That poor boy shouldn’t have died. He should have lived. No, I should have saved him and I failed.  
The only thing I ever wanted was to become a doctor and save lives. That was the only purpose of my life, my hard work, thousands of sleepless nights. So, I should have saved him. I felt like I kill him and so, how could

I call myself a doctor? I should never become a doctor. That’s the last thing that came to my mind and I felt someone touched my shoulder.  
“Hey”  
When I looked up, I saw Sahas near me. He came to look for me and I was at the distance end of the hospital. I found that place very calming and peaceful once I came to work here.  
“I thought you might be here” Sahas told while smiling and sitting by my side.



was starting to bleed inside again and his kidneys were not functioning well. And, he got a heart attack even.”

“But, I should have done better. I should have done the surgery better.”

“You did the surgery in your best and it was successful. But, his condition was too critical.”

“But...”

“There are no buts..., it’s not your fault man. We cannot save them all always. We have to accept the loses. And give the destiny to play its role.”

“What should I do?”

“Nothing, take a deep breath and get hold of your emotions. This is your first lost and this should be the last. Work for that you fool.”

His words brought my emotions together and I took a deep breath.

“Okay. I’m going home and will get a nap. I’m exhausted and you should come with me” he said.

“But, my shift?”

“It’s okay. Pathum will cover it up for you and you need a time out “

“Okay, I will come. Please give me a second.”

“Okay sure, I’m waiting in my cabin “

“Okay”

“And, Sahas.. “

“Yes?”

“Thanks for being there for me always.”

“Don’t say thank you fool. You were there when I needed you and I’m here for you. Now wipe your tears you baby and come quickly. I will be there in the cabin.”

And, I just smiled and looked at the way Sahas going along the pavement. It’s still painful and I felt like I was broken. But, I realized that I could not stay like that forever. I was a grown up man and I was a doctor. I needed to be more strong. That should be the first and last loss of my life and I would never lose my patients again. I determined to be an excellent doctor who would heal and save lives of patients.

“How are you hanging on kiddo”

“I’m ok”

I said and I felt the faintness of my voice.

“No, you are not”

Sahas told me in return.

“You have just lost your first patient. So, you are not ok. I know you. I was there in every step of your life. I’m your best friend and I know you. I know you are devastated.”

“Yes I am. But, what can I do? I failed as a doctor. I lost him. I lost that boy”

I tell him and my words broke into crying and my eyes filled with tears. The next thing I knew was, I was rest-

ing my head on the shoulder of Sahas and I was crying.

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I cried for a long time, I knew that I was a grown up man, but the pain was too much. The only thing I felt was a failure and as soon as I collected my emotions, I starts to talk’

“I lost him Sahas. I am a failure.”

“No, you are not.”

“But, I lost him”

“You are a doctor Kavin. Not a miracle worker. You did your best, but his time was over. You saw his reports. He

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