

From the Editor's Desk
Why Lovers' Day Feb.14?

Feb.14 Marks the 'World Lovers' Day'. It is also called 'Valentine's Day'. It was on this day Fr.Valentino, an Italian priest, was killed in an attempt to save a young couple. According to a tradition, during the 3rd century AD, the emperor of Rome Julius II passed a decree that all young men must not to get married but to join the army to fight for the country. Fr.Valentino, a zealous priest met two young lovers who were aspiring to get married. He was bold enough to bypass the emperor's inhuman decree and blessed the marriage of that couple. The emperor was furious and arrested Fr.Valentino and after some time, he beheaded him on Feb.14. From then on Fr.Valentine became a martyr for love and marriage. He came to be known as the patron of 'lovers'. Although the day is observed all over as a day set apart for young lovers, the day must be observed as 'St.Valentine's Day' or 'Married Spouses Day'. This Christian saint must become significant for youth. His sacrifice must be upheld.

There is already a trend that both boys and girls on Feb.14, freak about cities holding hands together. Parks, beaches, hills stations, tourist spots, cinema theatres, hotels and holiday resorts get filled with lovers. But a point for observation is whether these friends or lovers are truly committed for life or just for time pass?... Some are friends who love to spend time together on this day; some others want to tell the world they are lovers for life and still some others aspiring to get married express their love in public as a licence for their future married life. Many look for recognition from their parents and society for their love affair. Many gift stores are filled with youngsters choosing 'best gifts' for their love partners. Sadly many don't get married but spend time on '*dating*' an ultra-modern word for mutual agreement for love making. If this love affair becomes successful and genuine then the marriage bond might take place. This is a European cultural export.

The Valentine's Day celebration may bring youth to foster boy-girl relationship, highlight the value of friendship and mutual trust. It might open a new avenue for self identity, shun shyness, and promote commerce. Like Mothers' Day, Children's Day, Women's Day, Friendship Day, the St.Valentine's Day may have its importance among youth.

Often this sort of free European cultural celebration has been in criticism by fundamental outfits. There could be some facts in what these oppose such a youth culture.

Once in 1998 I was commuting in a city bus in Rome. I was in my Roman priest suit. Due to heavy rush in the bus, I had to stand. Just opposite to me were standing a boy and a girl making love in public not minding the crowd in the bus. When my stop approached, I made as if to move out. But to my great surprise, these lovers looking at me while smooching said surghastically in Italian with taste of a tease, 'un attimo Padre!' (one moment Father!). What do you say about this kind of free behaviour in public?

Today you cannot expect youth to be responsibly free because the nature of youth is to give vent to emotions and urges. Their behaviour in public is always as they think to exercise their freedom uncontrollably. Therefore there should be some restrictions or social control for our youth.

The American and European culture has damaged the development of our Indian cultural system and indigenous languages. Our Indian cultural heritage and its richness almost for a century has put up great fight against the dominion of free Western culture. Our folkways and mores have been pushed far behind. It has subdued our ancient traditions. The modern life style has become synonymous to Western life style. As a result, our Indianness has lost its significance (essence) for our youth.

Why English always?

The use of English among our youth has become another matter of prestige and status. There is no sector in our life without the use of English. There is no doubt that English is all essential for the business world. But the British domination still exists in the guise of English. Whether you know your mother tongue to speak or not, if you speak English among friends and relatives, you are seen as a civilized or modern person or as a developed individual. As a result, English is worshipped and honoured among the Indian youth at the cost of our own languages. A sad reality indeed!

Dress Code

What do you say about the dress code of our present youth? Is it Excellent? Ok? Tolerable? Disgusting? You watch our youth in public places like restaurants, city malls, cinema theatres, colleges and study centres? The more the girls expose their physical beauty, more they attract the eyes of young boys specially the teen age boys and the youth world. For example, if a girl dresses immodestly, or in a manner very obscene, the eyes of boys spell on the girl and their mind wander in fantasy and romantic illusions. This leads to dating, eve-teasing, rape, free sex, pre and post marital sex, sexual promiscuity, immoral relationship and so on. Eventually, our Indian cultural concepts of respect for elders, decency and modesty in dressing, sexual morality, respect for the opposite sex, purity of thought, marriage fidelity, chastity, and celibate clarity will not be protected.

In one word, respect for our Indian culture, love for our indigenous languages, respect for Indian motherhood and women could be well protected if too much attention to western living style and mannerisms be curtailed.

If Chinese, Europeans, Africans strictly respect and adopt their own traditions in life, why should we Indians still hold to on to what is alien to us? While we have imbibed the western culture and English in our day to day life, an equal status and respect should be given to our indigenous cultural traits.

Modernism doesn't mean to westernize our life. What we need is modernity and not modernism. Modernity is inward and modernism is outward. Because often it is viewed that modern life would mean only adopting western style of life very particularly the use of English everywhere. Sanskritization was adopted by low caste people during 17 – 18th century (caste system was more acute during these centuries) in order to equate themselves

And the year 2011 marks the 25 years completion of his first visit to India. Later he came back to New Delhi in 1999 Nov in view of presenting the final document '**Ecclesia in Asia**' (his apostolic exhortation) of the Asian Bishops synod held in Vatican Ap-May1998. During both the pastoral journeys of the pope John Paul II, there had been oppositions and criticisms from many anti-Christian groups mainly from Hindu Sang Parivar-BJP-RSS-Shiva Sena-Bhajrangdal alliance. But nothing could stop the world's most renowned leader entering into India. After all his visit was not merely as a spiritual leader of the Catholic Religion, world's largest religion, but also as the leader of the world's smallest city state **Vatican**. Thus the pope was honoured by the Indian govt both as spiritual leader as well as a State leader.

I never imagined in my life that I would meet this great pope on Aug 3rd 1996 in Castel Gondolfo his summer residence, situated on a hill, about 40 kms from Rome. During summer between July and August every pope would stay at Castel Gondolfo, for a rest.

It was a pleasant evening. The pope after delivering a brief message to the pilgrims who had gathered down the balcony, met those who were invited. I too was one among those few waiting very eagerly to have a personal glimpse of this most loved pope. It was 7.15 pm. Saturday. I went up to a lengthy room where there were 10 official invitees both religious and laity. I had dressed in Roman clerical suit with all neat priestly paraphernalia. ***When you are in Rome, be a Roman!***

I was trembling with great respect for this most holy leader of the world. After his message and blessing, the pope who was 5.6' and stout in stature came walking towards us. Although he was hospitalized so many times and had many surgeries, his health remained static. he was suffering from Parkinson disease. However he never looked tired or discouraged Because Christ was with him. My heart beat was quite fast when he was nearing me. It was a heavenly bliss to be with him so close. Rev. Fr.Pasquale Borgomeo, SJ, the then Radio Vatican Director accompanied me to the Holy Father and introduced me to him. That was the second best moment of my life the first being my ordination time!



In fact, I had carried a sandal wood garland from Bangalore. I put the garland around the pope's neck, hugged him and shook hands with him. However, when I hugged him, I felt a swift current of spiritual power running through me that moment. The Polish Pope was just looking at me with a smile and asked me in Italian

“Da Kerala?” (Are you from Kerala?). I knew little Italian to speak. I had done a course in Italian here in Bangalore before I left for Rome (on Saturday 29th July 1996). The Holy Father’s question startled me. I saw grace and holiness in him. Looking straight at his face, I replied in English, “No Papa, I am from Tamilnadu for Bangalore archdiocese!” Then I became speechless standing before this great personality. Probably the Holy Father’s impression could have been that any priest from India would be from Kerala, a wrong impression that was created, for a large number of religious going to Rome for studies then were from Kerala. Then the pope offered me a rosary in a leather case as a gift. I don’t think you would have had this very special experience indeed! Yeah!

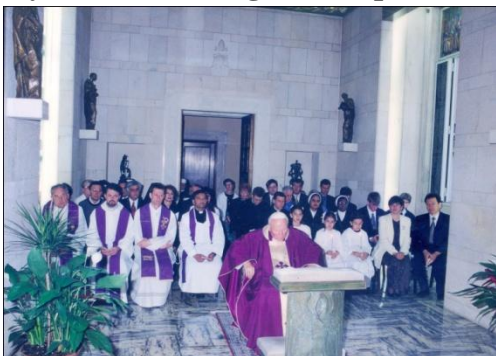
I cannot forget Fr.Federico Lombardi, the then Programme Director in the Radio Vatican. Today he is the Official spokesperson for the Holy See. So good a man, he was a serious but able man in his broadcasting administration. I owe him a lot. In all my five years, he appreciated my enthusiasm and my smart way of presenting my programme in the air.

Fr.Pasquale Borgomeo an Italian Jesuit priest approved my selection to work in the Radio Vatican as a journalist and broadcaster in the Tamil section. He was from Milan. He was kind and gentle in all my dealings with him. He had great respect for Indian religious. He supported me both financially as well as officially in releasing of my music album in Tamil about the Great Jubilee 2000. He played a big role in my ministry in the Radio Vatican. Unfortunately Fr.Borgomeo died some years ago. May his soul rest in peace!

My selection to Vatican Radio

No one thought I would be invited by the Vatican to work for the Holy See for 5 years. Many priests from Bangalore or Karnataka would go to Rome. But for the first time in history a Tamil priest from Bangalore archdiocese selected for Radio Vatican Tamil section a rarest of the rare things indeed! I consider this a matter of pride in whole of my priestly career. My soul magnified the Lord for He had done a marvel in my life. Here I will never forget Most Rev.Dr.Alphonsus Mathias, the best archbishop of Bangalore I ever came across. In midst of objections, he encouraged and allowed me to go to Rome. He was a true guide to priests and people. I thank him a lot for all that he had been to me. May God bless him.

My second meeting with Pope John Paul II



Once again I met Pope John Paul II on 6th April 1998 in his papal residence, in Vatican, just 0.5 km from my residence Casa Romana del Clero, a 5 story apartment at Via della Conciliazione. The apartment is meant for those

bishops, priests of different nationality working in various Congregations and Pontifical Councils. In fact I had applied for a ticket to attend one of the pope's daily Mass in his private Chapel. To fetch a ticket for pope's private Mass is not easy. But in my case, just in few hours after my request, I obtained a ticket to enter into the Vatican palace, built so elegantly with long corridors and beatified with paintings and sculptural touch. It was easy to get access to Vatican if you are a Vatican staff. Thus I fetched another two tickets for two Indian sisters Sr. Sheela Selvaraj and Sr. Jacintha both from John the Baptist congregation. They were extremely joyful to attend the mass.

I was very fortunate to read gospel reading during that Mass. A Polish Bishop Stanislaus Dwiecieszynski (now Cardinal) who was in charge of the pope's private religious ceremonies, offered me that opportunity to do gospel reading in Italian. I gladly accepted the chance, felt very great to be next to this saintly pope John Paul II that few moments.



But what I detested when I met the Pope John Paul II after the mass was that he asked me the same question “are you from Kerala?” (This he had asked me already in 1996 Aug 3, during my first meeting with him). I hope by now the trend is changed. Although it was Pope John Paul II who received religious from all nations into the Holy See more than any other pope, probably his impression at that time must have been created based on the colour of skin of priests or may be by number of religious coming from a particular country. Well the holy Pope offered me during this time too as he would do every time, a rosary that I preserved for long. I revered him and respected him a lot for all his dynamism. My personal encounters with Pope John Paul II during that long five years of my service in the Vatican have remained ever fresh in my mind. **I love him. (To be continued)**

Pope John Paul II



John Paul II in 1993

Papacy began 16 October 1978

Papacy ended 2 April 2005 (26 years, 168 days)

Predecessor [John Paul I](#)

Successor [Benedict XVI](#)

Personal details

Birth name Karol Józef Wojtyła (pronounced as yosef woytiva)

Born 18 May 1920
[Wadowice](#), Poland

Died 2 April 2005 (aged 84)
[Apostolic Palace](#), [Vatican City](#)

Nationality Polish

Signature 

The Venerable Pope John Paul II ([Latin](#): *Ioannes Paulus PP. II*, [Italian](#): *Giovanni Paolo II*, [Polish](#): Jan Paweł II), born Karol Józef Wojtyła (18 May 1920 – 2 April 2005), reigned as [Supreme Pontiff](#) of the [Roman Catholic Church](#) and Sovereign of [Vatican City](#) from 16 October 1978 until his death on 2 April 2005. His was the [second-longest documented pontificate](#); only [Pope Pius IX](#) served longer ([St. Peter the Apostle](#) is reputed to have served for more than thirty years as the first pontiff, but documentation is too sparse to definitively support this). He has been the only [Slavic](#) or [Polish](#) Pope to date, and was the first non-[Italian](#) Pope since [Dutch Pope Adrian VI](#) in 1522

Few remarkable stand of the pope

Paul II's message to India continues to be timeless, the cardinal said.

Speaking on John Paul II and the apostolic exhortation "Ecclesia in Asia," Father Christopher Lakra, director of the Indian Social Institute in New Delhi, outlined some of the challenges facing the Church in India today and called for a fresh look at the document.

Joan Antony, a professor of psychology at the Jesus and Mary College in New Delhi, spoke on family and the woman in the teachings of John Paul II. She highlighted the many pressures and problems confronting the family today, and how John Paul II made connections between the family of the church with the world of today. No other spiritual leader of our times has touched on the theme of the family so comprehensively and

compellingly as John Paul II, she pointed out.

Cyriac Thomas, a member of the Minority Commission for Education, called John Paul II a rare personality who won the hearts of all and found a place in history. He made travel as part of his routine and taught how to confront challenges, he noted.

During the symposium, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor launched the book "The Social Teaching of John Paul II: Commemorating His Pastoral Visit to India in 1986," authored by Father Charles Irudayam. The priest is the executive secretary of the CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development.

The dates of his trip exactly coincide with those of John Paul II's. The Pontiff was in India from Feb. 1 to Feb. 10, 1986.

ECUMENISM

3 Anglican married Bishops embrace Catholic clerical life (Holy See Issues Decree Creating New Ordinariate)

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 16, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Holy See issued the decree of erection for the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham for Anglicans wishing to enter the Catholic Church.

The Vatican press office issued a statement Saturday announcing the creation of this ordinariate in England and Wales.

It stated: "In accordance with the provisions of the apostolic constitution 'Anglicanorum coetibus' of Pope Benedict XVI (November 4, 2009) and after careful consultation with the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has today erected a personal ordinariate within the territory of England and Wales for those groups of Anglican clergy and faithful who have expressed their desire to enter into full visible communion with the Catholic Church.

"The Decree of Erection specifies that the ordinariate will be known as the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham and will be placed under the patronage of Blessed John Henry Newman."

Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, publicized a message Saturday in which he affirmed that the establishment of this ordinariate "marks a unique and historic moment in the life of the Catholic community in this country."

He added, "It is my fervent hope that, by enabling what the Holy Father calls 'a mutual exchange of gifts from our respective spiritual patrimonies,' the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham will bring great blessings not only on those directly involved in it, but upon the whole Church."

The Vatican communiqué affirmed that this structure "seeks to balance on the one hand the concern to preserve the worthy Anglican liturgical, spiritual and pastoral traditions and, on the other hand, the concern that these groups and their clergy will be fully integrated into the Catholic Church."

Clergy

The first clergy of this ordinariate, who were formerly Anglican bishops, were ordained to the Catholic priesthood on Saturday: Father Andrew Burnham, Father Keith Newton, and Father John Broadhurst.

Benedict XVI nominated Father Newton as the first ordinary to head this new community.

Cardinal Levada explained that these three clergy "will oversee the catechetical preparation of the first groups of Anglicans in England and Wales who will be received into the Catholic Church together with their pastors at Easter."

They will also "accompany the clergy preparing for ordination to the Catholic priesthood around Pentecost."

The Vatican communiqué noted that "the provision of this new structure is consistent with the commitment to ecumenical dialogue, which continues to be a priority for the Catholic Church."

It explained: "The initiative leading to the publication of the apostolic constitution and the erection of this personal ordinariate came from a number of different groups of Anglicans who have declared that they share the common Catholic faith as it is expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and accept the Petrine ministry as something Christ willed for the Church.

"For them, the time has now come to express this implicit unity in the visible form of full communion."

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Pope is "Happy" about John Paul II

VATICAN CITY, JAN. 16, 2011 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Regarding the upcoming beatification of John Paul II, Benedict XVI is affirming, "We are happy!"

The Pope expressed this today in an address before praying the midday Angelus together with those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"As you know," he said, "on May 1 I will have the joy of beatifying Venerable Pope John Paul II, my beloved predecessor."



PROPOSED ST. PETER'S CHURCH AT KODIHALLI

nikki thomas architects
 ALLY, SHRIKESHU, NIKKI
 BILAHATI, PAVAN, TAJAN

3. Harry Peter	Rs. 4000
4. Regi D'Sousa	Rs.12000
5. John Cherian	Rs.10000
6. Lumen Christy	Rs. 2000
7. S.Irudayam	Rs. 940
8. Amalanathan (ISRO)	Rs.10000
9. Jose.P.Joseph	Rs. 5000
10. Victor Fernandes	Rs.10000
11. Alwyn D'Souza	Rs.55000
12. Joseph Selvan	Rs. 3000
13. Agnel (Andheri)	Rs. 5000
14. Beena	Rs. 1000
15. Augustine Lakra	Rs. 5000
16. Valentina	Rs. 2000
17. John P.V	Rs. 5000
18. Leroy Colaco	Rs.10000
19. Clarence Louis	Rs. 5000
20. Xavier Fernando	Rs.10000
21. Sunitha William	Rs.10000
22. Dr.Xavier Joseph	Rs.10000
23. Elias Quadros	Rs.10000
24. Martin Rosario	Rs. 2000
25. Philip Neena Singh	Rs. 5000
26. Antony Monteiro	Rs. 5000
27. Kevin D'Souza	Rs. 5000

(So far received **Rs.2,19,940** (Two Lakh Nineteen Thousand nine forty only)

Thank you once again dear friends. We will pray for your intentions in our daily Mass.

The parish of St.Peter's Rustumbagh, consists of nearly 300 families belonging to Tamil, Malayalam, Konkani , English, Kannada and Hindi communities. All are not well to do.

The present structure was not planned as Church building as a community hall.

It accommodates only 300 people. But as day by day new families enter into the parish from Goa, Kerala, Mangalore, Mumbai, Tamilnadu and others areas, there arose a need for bigger place for worship.

Thus the new Church will consist of huge Church hall along with a balcony and thereby it could accommodate 1200 people.

The project cost is estimated as Rs.1 Crore and 25 lakh. A big portion of this amount has to be borne by the parish although the archdiocese is sharing a major portion of it,

Hence we look forward to your financial assistance. Even if it is little, your generous heart is all that matters for us.

Thus any contribution from anywhere is all welcome towards this good and useful project.

If cheque, please write it in favour of **“St.Peter’s Church building Fund, Rustumbagh”**

A/C No. 0485 20100 53656 Syndicate Bank, Manipal Hospital Branch.

Please forward it to FR.J.AROKIANATHAN, THE PARISH PRIEST, ST.PETER’S CHURCH, BEHIND MANIPAL HOSPITAL, RUSTUMBAGH, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, BANGALORE – 560017.

TEL: 080-25264343.n MOB: 09740203056, EMAIL: nathanvatican@yahoo.com

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A STRAIGHT FORWARD GOVERNOR

Normally in India, a State Governor would be an individual who might blindly support the local ruling party and its government. He would stand for the policies of any kind of the ruling party But Hon. Mr.H.R.Bhardwaj, the Karnataka Governor is a different man. He proves he is a right governor in a right place. He is often pulled in the media for many of his stand point. But ‘Life without criticism is worthless’ says Socrates. In a democratic system, a governor must be a man of integrity. He should be impartial. . He should be non controversial. He has no place for favouritism. He should be fair and just in his decision toward the ruling government. Mr.Bhardwaj, who is neutral has proved his straight forwardness and been just in many of his dealings with government and its ministers. One such field where his moral integrity was proved is the Someshekar Commission’s Report on the attacks on Christians in Karnataka. He has dared to refuse to confer a honorary doctorate on historian Prof.M.Chidananda Murthy during a convention held recently in Bangalore. The Governor while explaining to the media why he desisted giving honorary doctorate to Mr.Murthy said, “The Justice Someshekar Commission report has hurt many among the minority community. Chidananda Murthy’s support to the report (Someshekara report) and communal views in the media has made me decide to hold back the doctorate temporarily”. Mr.Murthy said, “I wish to express that nowhere have I supported the church attacks. But I do believe that there have been religious conversions by the church priests which I still condemn” Mr.Murthy asserts conversions are in the State. Even the rifts between the Chief Minister Mr.Yediyappa came up due to wrong policies of the CM very especially on religious matters. Mr.Murthy says it is wrong to convert Hindus to Christianity. Whereas Mr.Bhardwaj the Governor says as much as I know there is no such conversion.

(Ref.DH.Feb.7, 2011)

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Why attacks on innocent fisher men?

Fishermen from Tamilnadu coastal areas are often attacked by the Singalese navel men. Even on 15 Feb, 2011, 106 Tamil fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Naval forces. Why? The Sri Lankan naval forces during their patrol over their waters trespass the international law and either attack brutally or kill the Tamil fishermen who are on their occupation on Indian waters. The Indian govt has not done

18. 'I like Christ and not Christians!' says Mahatma Gandhi. Is he right in what he said? Yes or No.

Your view:

19. In today's world, the Christianity is talking too much of morality but in actuality, morality is bleak in its day to day dealing' Do you agree to this? Yes or No. Your view:

20. 'We are more sacramental Christians and not convinced Christians' Yes or No. Your view:

21. Generally Christians are afraid of speaking about Christ to others. Yes or No. Your view:

22. Catholics are afraid of and shy to carry Bible and to read it regularly. Yes or No. Your view:

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தமிழ்ப் பக்கம்

அவன் அவள்.... (தொடர்கதை)

முன்கதை சுருக்கம்

செல்வியின் பள்ளியில் யாரோ ஒரு தம்பதியினர் அவளைத் தத்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ள நினைத்திருப்பதாகவும் இதுகுறித்து அவள் பெற்றோர்கள் பள்ளித்தலைமை ஆசிரியரை சந்திக்கவேண்டுமெனவும், செல்வியின் வகுப்பாசிரியை ஒரு சேதி அட்டை செல்வியிடம் கொடுத்தனுப்பியிருந்தார். இதை கண்ட செல்வியின் தாய் கனிமொழி மிகுந்த வேதனையும் வருத்தமும் அடைந்தாள். இது குறித்து அவளுக்கும் அவள் கணவன் லிமோவுக்கும் இடையே ஒரு பெரிய வாய்ச்சண்டையே மூண்டது. எல்லாம் ஓய்ந்தபின்பு அனைவரும் உறங்கச்சென்றார்கள். குடும்பத்தில் அமைதியைக் கண்ட சாத்தான் சும்மா இருப்பானா? தனது சேட்டையைக் காண்பித்தான். லிமோவை தூங்க விடாமல் நச்சரித்தாள். ஏன் இவள் இப்படி நடந்துகொள்கிறாள்? கனிமொழிக்கு ஏன் இத்தனை கோபம்? ஏன் இத்தனை ஆவேசம்? இத்தனை வெறுப்பு? இத்தனை காட்டம்?..... அப்பொழுது அவளுக்கு ஆறு வயது இருக்கும். தாய் மாமன் பராமரிப்பில் வளர்ந்த காலம். பெற்றோர் இருவரையும் அவள் பார்த்திருக்கவில்லை. அப்பா அம்மா யாரென்று கூட அறிந்திராத பருவம். ஒரு நாள்..... (கதை தொடர்கிறது).

கனிமொழி வீட்டுக்கு வெளியே விளையாடிக்கொண்டிருந்தாள். அந்நேரத்தில் தாய் மாமன் மைக்கல் வந்தான். அவனுக்கு சற்று இளம் வயதிருக்கும். திருமணம் ஆகியிருந்தது. பகலில் வயலில் வேலை செய்வான். மாலையானதும் குடிப்பான். குடிப்பதற்கு அளவேயிராதபடி குடிப்பான். அந்த ஊரிலிருந்த பங்குச் சாமியாரும் எவ்வளவோ அறிவுரை கூறியிருந்தார். ஆனால் ஒரு பயனுமில்லாமல் போனது. குடிப்பதற்குப் பணம் கேட்டு கனிமொழியின் பெற்றோரைத் தொந்தரவு செய்வான். அப்படித்தான் வழக்கம்போல மைக்கல் கனிமொழியின் வீட்டுக்கு வந்திருந்தான். வந்தவன் தன் அக்கா என்று கூட பார்க்காமல் பணம் கேட்டு கூச்சலிட்டான். கனிமொழியின் தாய் ரீட்டாவும் தனக்கிருப்பது ஒரே தம்பியாயிற்றே என்ற பாசத்திற்குக் கட்டுப்பட்டிருந்தாள். எனவே தன்னிடமிருந்த 50 ரூபாயை கொடுத்தாள். இதுபோதாதென்று ஊரை கூட்டுவதுபோல் சத்தமிட்டான் மைக்கல். அந்த நேரத்தில் வெளியே சென்று திரும்பியிருந்த கனிமொழியின் தந்தை அற்புதராஜ் தன் வீட்டில் நடந்த மைக்கலின் அட்டகாசத்தை பொறுக்கமுடியாமல் அவனை அடிக்கப் போனார். இருவருக்கும் வாக்குவாதமும் கைகலப்பும் மூண்டது. கனிமொழி ஒரு சிறுமியாய் இருந்த நேரம். நடந்தயெல்லாம் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தாள். ஆனால் புரியவில்லை. ஏதோ ஒருவிதமான பயத்திற்கும் அச்சத்திற்கும் ஆளாகியிருந்தாள்.

மைக்கலும் அற்புதராஜியும் சண்டையிட்ட காட்சி கனிமொழி ஆழ்மனதில் நன்றாகப் பதிவாகியிருந்தது. ரீட்டா ஓடிப்போய் அவளை அணைத்துக்கொண்டாள். இருப்பினும் குழந்தை கனிமொழியின் பயம் மறையவில்லை. ஏதோ பயங்கரம் நடக்கிறது என்று மட்டும் தேம்பித் தேம்பி அழுதாள். தன் தம்பியும்

கணவரும் சண்டையிடுவதைக் கண்ட ரீட்டா குழந்தையை கீழே விட்டுவிட்டு கணவரைக் காப்பாற்ற முயன்றாள். ரீட்டா கண்ணிமைக்கும் நேரத்தில் அந்த அசம்பாவிதம் நடந்துவிட்டது..... (கதை தொடரும்)

தந்தை நாதன்