

**From the Editor's Desk**  
**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 from a prison where both were imprisoned during the II World War. From that time Valentine came to be as the patron of 'lovers'. And that day was addressed as 'Lovers' day'. Although the day is observed all over as a day set apart freely for young lovers, the same day must be observed as 'True lovers' day'.

There is already a trend on this day, both boys and girls loiter around the city holding hands together as they are born to make love in romance. Parks, beaches, hills stations, tourist spots, cinema theatres, hotels and holiday resorts would get filled with hetero-sexual friends. But a point for observation is whether these friends or lovers are truly committed for life or for just time pass.... Some are friends who love spend time together on this day; some others are lovers who tell the world they lovers for life and still some others who aspire 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. You could see boys and girls holding hands each other, sharing their love and romance in public places like parks, beaches and so on. 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 succeeds marriage bond might take place. This is a European cultural export.

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, Lovers' Day may have its importance among youth.

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

Once I was commuting in a city bus in Rome. I was in my Roman priest suit. Due to heavy rush in the bus, I was standing. 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 down. But to my great surprise, these lovers looking at me while smooching,said surghastically with a 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 to exercise freedom uncontrollably. Hence there should be restrictions for our youth.

The American and European culture has somewhat damaged our Indian cultural system and indigenous languages. Our Indian cultural heritage and richness almost for a century has put up great fight against the free Western culture. Our folkways and mores have been pushed low. The modern life style has become synonymous to Western life style. As a result, our Indianness has lost its way among our youth.



I would be meeting him one day in person. Yes, very next to the Bay of Bengal was seen another ocean of people, with strong faith in Jesus and love for the Holy Father John Paul II. It was after 8 years of his papacy, John Paul II paid first pastoral visit to India. I knew not that this pope would be one day a saint. Yes, indeed Pope John Paul II is certainly a saint though there is long way ahead for canonization. He was declared 'Venerable' by our present Pope Benedict XVI. Of course he is to be beatified by May 1, 2011.

Well, all through the roads and streets of Chennai were hung his cut outs, pictures and banners. I felt as if India was witnessing the coming of Jesus Christ himself. Earlier the pope landed in New Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1986 as his first pastoral visit to India. He kissed the Indian soil as a mark of his respect and love for India. Whichever the nation he visited in his life time, he never failed to kiss that land. A shrewd love for people indeed!

And the year 2011 marks the 25 years completion of his India visit. Later he came back to New Delhi in 1999 Nov in view of presenting the final document (his apostolic exhortation) of the Asian Bishops synod 'Ecclesia in Asia' of the Asian Bishops Synod held in Vatican Ap-May1998. During both the pastoral visits 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-Bhajangdal 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 1996 in his summer residence Castel Gondolfo. It was a pleasant evening. During summer between July and August every pope would stay at Castel Gondolfo, a hill station situated at 40 kms from Rome. The pope after delivering a brief message to the pilgrims gathered down his upstairs room met those who were invited to meet the pope. I was one among those few waiting very eagerly to have a personal glimpse of this most loved pope. After his message and blessing, 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. 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. The Pope was just looking at me with a smile and asked me in Italian "Da Kerala?" (Are you from Kerala?). I knew Italian a bit as I had done a course in Italian here in Bangalore before I left for Rome (on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1996). 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 due to large number of religious going to Rome for studies were from Kerala. Then the pope offered me a rosary as a gift. However, when I hugged him, I felt

a swift current of spiritual power running through me that moment. I don't think you would have had this very special experience indeed!

I cannot forget Fr.Pasquale Borgomeo an Italian Jesuit priest who approved my selection to work in the Radio Vatican as a journalist and broadcaster in the Tamil section. He was from Milan. He was so 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 my releasing of a 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!

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 or to enter into Vatican for few minutes. But a Tamil priest from Bangalore was selected to be a Radio Vatican staff in the Tamil section a rarest of the rare things indeed! I consider this a matter of pride in whole of priestly career. My soul magnified the Lord for He had done a marvel in my life.

Once again I met Pope John Paul II on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 from various nations, working in various Congregations and Pontifical Councils. I had applied for a ticket to attend one of the pope's daily Mass in his private Chapel. Just in few hours after my request, I obtained a ticket to enter into the Vatican palace. It was easy to get access to Vatican if you are a Vatican staff. I also fetched 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. Bishop Stanislaus Dwiecieszka (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 and felt very great to be next to this saintly pope John Paul II that few moments.

But what I detested when I met him after the mass is, that he asked me the same question "are you from Kerala?"(This he had asked me already in1996 during my first meeting with him). 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 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

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

John Paul II has been acclaimed as one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century It is widely held that he was instrumental in ending [Communism](#) in his native Poland and eventually all of Europe as well as significantly improving the Catholic Church's relations with [Judaism Islam](#) the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#), and the [Anglican Communion](#). Though criticised for his opposition to [contraception](#) and the [ordination of women](#), as well as his

support for the [Second Vatican Council](#) and its reform of the [Liturgy](#), he has also been praised for his firm, orthodox Catholic stances in these areas.

He was one of the most-travelled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate. He spoke the following languages: [Italian](#), [French](#), [German](#), [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Russian](#), [Croatian](#), [Serbian](#), [Esperanto](#), [Ancient Greek](#) and [Latin](#) as well as his [native Polish](#). As part of his special emphasis on the [universal call to holiness](#), he [beatified 1,340 people](#) and [canonised 483 saints](#) more than the combined tally of his predecessors during the last five centuries. On 19 December 2009, John Paul II was proclaimed "[Venerable](#)" by his papal successor [Pope Benedict XVI](#) and is set to be beatified on 1 May 2011.

Courtesy: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

### **India's Bishops Remember John Paul II's '86 Visit**

Launch Book on Pontiff's Social Teaching  
NEW DELHI, India, FEB. 4, 2011  
([Zenit.org](#)).- To mark the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's historic first visit to India, the bishops of the nation organized a symposium to reflect on the teachings of the Pontiff, and to launch a book on his social thought.

The event, sponsored by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), took place Thursday, and gathered some 300 participants, including Papal delegate Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, the retired archbishop of Westminster.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, CBCI president and the archbishop of Bombay, also participated, as did Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, the archbishop of Ranchi, and Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchi, the apostolic nuncio in India.

During his address, Cardinal Murphy O'Connor summed up some of the outstanding qualities of John Paul II, describing him as a courageous champion of the Gospel of Christ, a friend of the

youth and a man who was totally free and fearless in braving opposition, suffering, and even persecution.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias described John Paul II as an ardent disciple of Christ, a man who had a passion to promote human dignity, peace and the varied facets of life. He noted how John Paul II visited 10 cities across the country and spoke of issues such as inculturation, interreligious dialogue, and the need to bridge the divide between the rich and the poor. Though 25 years have elapsed since that visit, John 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."

00000000000000000000000000000000

### **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."

The forthcoming beatification was announced by the Vatican on Friday, when the Pontiff authorized the promulgation of a decree regarding the miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Servant of God John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla).

Benedict XVI explained that the date that has been chosen for the beatification "is very significant."

"It will be the Second Sunday of Easter," the Pope stated, which John Paul II entitled "Divine Mercy Sunday" and "on the eve of which his earthly life ended."

The Pontiff concluded, "Those who knew him, those who esteemed and loved him, cannot but rejoice with the Church for this event."

Joyful event



The former prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, told ZENIT that "Karol Wojtyla's beatification will be a greatly joyful event because he was a much loved man, by believers but also by non-believers."

He explained that the recognition of the miracle "is a seal" that "God gives respect to the work of a man or a woman who has demonstrated with heroic virtue fidelity to the Gospel."

For some, the cardinal said, "heroism goes to the point of martyrdom because of the faith; for the majority it is responding to the end to one's humanity, in whatever condition of life."

In other words, he explained, it is "to live the ordinary in an extraordinary way."

"If a miracle occurs thanks to the intercession of someone who is invoked," the cardinal said, "this means that he and God are in communion and this is sanctity."

The prelate had many memories of Pope John Paul II, who he described as "a man with traits of generous humanity to whom the people felt very close."

More than anything, however, it was "his strong faith" that impressed people, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Martins recalled, "It happened that for reasons of work one was invited to dine with the Pope who, before sitting down at table, would go to his private chapel together with his guests."

There, the prelate said, "he was capable of immersing himself in prayer in such a profound way, totally taken up in his relationship with God even if only for the space of a few minutes, which was in itself an evident testimony of his sanctity."

00000000000000000000



6. Lumen Christy	Rs. 2000
7. S.Irundayam	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. 5000
21. Sunitha William	Rs.10000
22. Dr.Xavier Joseph	Rs.10000
23. Elias Quadros	Rs.10000
24. Martin Rosario	Rs. 2000

(Received so far Rs.1,99,940 (One Lakh Ninety Nine 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 Kerala, Mangalore, 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 50 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

MOB:09740203056, EMAIL: nathanvatican@yahoo.com

00000000000000000000000000000000



**The best 3 answers and views will carry Rs.300 as prize.**

**Please send this sheet with your answers, views and suggestions to: The Editor, The KEY, St.Peter's Church, Rustambagh, Old Airport Road, Bangalore – 560017.**

1. Our Catholic Priesthood today is more brahminical and bureaucratic? Yes or No. Your view:
2. Is there the mind of Christ in the Church? Yes or No. Your view:
3. Is the Church today the salt of the earth and light of the nations (Mt.5)? Yes or No. Your view:
4. Did Christ intend high structures and celibacy for priests? Yes or No. Your view:
5. Should the priests be married? Yes or No. Your view:
6. To avoid sex scandals, loneliness, drinking and vicious hobbies among priests, is it better that they are married priests. Yes or No. Your view:
7. Actually the teachings of Christ are not easy task for his followers. Yes or No. Your view:
8. Church has not grown much in the last 50 years? Yes or No. Your view:
9. Do people Live Christ like? Yes or No. Your view:
10. Are the pastors and priests 'Alter Christus'? Yes or No. Your view:
11. Do they not practice what they preach? Yes or No. Your view:
12. There is a double standard of living among clergy, do you agree to this? Yes or No. Your view:
13. Why the Church in whole is divided? Your view:
14. Preaching is given more importance than following His teachings? Yes or No. Your view:
15. Church thinks too high of its glory here on the earth? Yes or No. Your view:
16. Is Church superior to other religious sects and groups? Yes or No. Your view:
17. Is there no salvation outside the Church? Yes or No. Your view:
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:

00000000000000000000000000000000

**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 அம்மாயாரென்று 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 சண்டையிடுவதைக்கண்ட ரீட்டா குழந்தையை கீழே விட்டுவிட்டு கணவரைக் காப்பாற்ற முயன்றாள். ரீட்டா கண்ணிமைக்கும் நேரத்தில் அந்த அசம்பாவிதம் நடந்துவிட்டது..... (கதை தொடரும்)

**தந்தை நாதன்**