THE WORLD TO COME

PERIYAR E.V.RAMASAMY

The Periyar Self-Respect Propaganda Institution

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THE WORLD TO COME

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Seventy years ago, Thanthai Periyar E.V. Ramasamy delivered his presidential address in one of the Self-respect marriages held at Thiruvatirupuram - Cheyyar (North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu). His disciple late Anna, a great lieutenant of the Self-respect Dravidar Kazhagam was also attending that marriage function.

Anna as is fondly referred to, Mr. C.N. Annadurai, the founder leader of D.M.K. and as well as the first Chief Minister of D.M.K. party in Tamil Nadu, was astonished with his mentor’s free flow of his original thoughts about the future world.

He jotted down his original speech and wanted to publish in his well-known Tamil Weekly ‘Dravida Nadu’ with permission from his leader Periyar. Periyar was pleased to correct his script and saw it was published later on as small booklet in Tamil and many thousands of copies of the book sold.

This book was reviewed in ‘The Hindu’, a famous English Daily. It compared Periyar to the “H.G. Wells of the Twentieth century”.
Many utopias were written by eminent thinkers like Thomas Moore, Aldous Huxley (Brave New World) and others.

The original ideas of Thanthai Periyar who never had the facility of schooling or collegiate education, are far beyond the thinking about futuristic world and its innovative scientific achievements.

Periyar being a visionary was able to see through his abundant common sense and unconditional reasoning power and efficacy, worldly experience how the world - tomorrow would emerge.

He visualised cellphones, video conferences etc. This is an evidence for his original thought. Periyar was rightly conferred UNESCO Award and the citation aptly portrays him as

“Periyar, the Prophet of the New Age;
The Socrates of South East Asia;
Father of the Social Reform Movement;
And Arch Enemy of Ignorance,
Superstitions, Meaningless Customs
and Base Manners”

- K.Veeramani
INTRODUCTION

What was the world yesterday? What is the world today? What is going to be the world tomorrow? What changes would take place as centuries go on? Only the rationalists would have an idea of all these things. It is very difficult for the religious Pundits to know them. Why do I say so?

These Pundits know by rote memory of the sastras, the absurd puranic literature, and about things which do not stand the test of reasoning and thinking. Some of them having learnt all these by heart, blindly believe that all the things they learnt are quite true. But that is not the way of the rationalists. They take into consideration, their past experiences, the qualities of the things they have seen, the natural changes matters undergo, the origin and development of various species, the scientific developments, the wisdom of the great men of the world, and various other factors for personal investigation and research. The Pundits consider the truths about the past as unchangeable. They are not for any change in the popular opinions of the past, whereas the rationalist is of the firm belief that the world is advancing towards a new change every second. They seek the better and the new. I do not mean the Pundits all over the world are the same. So far as the Pundits here are concerned, we say that most
of them are against rationalism. They are not free to think or develop their rational outlook. The educational system and the examinations are unhelpful and prevent them from thinking freely. They are drowned in marsh. They are completely sunk in the stink of Puranas. Blind beliefs and irrational thoughts have poisoned them as deadly snakes.

Our religious leaders, particularly of the Hindu religion are much worse than our Pundits. If the Pundits advise the people to go 1000 years back, these religious leaders want the people to go many thousands of years backward. They would even drive the people many eras backward. Rationalism is unsuited to both these sections. They love only things which are inhuman, absurd and senseless. That is why I say that in the new world these people envisage that the world would be only barbarous. Only those who are unthinking and blind would follow that those who regard the old as gold, could never appreciate the changes and the benefits thereon.

We rationalists do not totally reject the old. We have to take the good. But it is important to evince interest in seeking good and new things. Only then, we will be able to invent new things. The society will not progress, unless we welcome the changes for the better.

People elsewhere in the world, were not content with the old world. They sought a new world of changes with advancement and progress. They were unbiased. That is why they were able to invent wonderful things. Today people everywhere in the world are enjoying the benefits of their novel inventions.

So, it is only those who realise these truths, will be able to foresee what the changes would be after a few centuries.

- E.V. Ramasamy
A peep into the past and the opinions of great historians point out that there will be no monarchy in the years to come. The precious gold and silver will cease to be the monopoly of the privileged few. In such a world there is no need of a king or his rule. There will be no restrictions imposed in the way in which it is done now for the life of man and the means of livelihood and peace.

Today the manual labour and the time spent for earning the livelihood is long and the time spent to enjoy the fruits of one’s labour is comparatively very short. There are plenty of food grain resources and consumer goods including the luxury variety. But we have plenty
of people who are poor and starving unable to lead an average life. They have no food to eat and no means to enjoy life. There is ample scope for individualism and self-determination. But even in this there are only a very few people who enjoy them. The avenues of production and the raw materials are increasing in plenty. Yet, we find more people enjoy the minimum needs in life. The indispensable essentials needed for society are also denied to a lot of people, who are now leading a hard life in misery. We have adequate land. Yet the landless people are many. In such a world which has all adequate amenities for a happy life, we have also starvation, poverty, worries, and a life confronted with struggles.

Is there any relationship between all these and god?

Is there any relationship between all these and man?

There are people who relate the matters in the world with god. But, we do not see any one blaming god anywhere for all these worldly evils. Can it be said that people have no ability and intelligence to overcome all these evils?

Of all the living creatures man is the most intelligent. It is man who created god, religion, philosophy and spiritualism. It is also said that extra ordinary men have actually succeeded in realising god. Some are said to have become one with god itself. I venture to ask, why even such great men have not found out a solution for all these follies of the world. Is it not clear that because people have not learnt to realise through their practically gained extra knowledge that these affairs of the world have nothing to do with god, religion, spiritual direction, justice, discipline, governance etc., and that they are not able to think and judge independently?

In the west, many have started to think reasonably, because with such thoughts, they have achieved great wonders and
miraculous inventions, which eventually led to the renunciation of spirituality and such self-deceptions and superstitions. They have come to the conclusion that the old world cannot survive and thus they have started concentrating on new world.

Why are we born? Why should any one struggle for food, when we have a world rich in all resources? Why should people die? These questions were once staggering the human mind. But today it is not so. Many things are exposed correctly in the rational way nowadays. This trend will one day, not only reform the society but also revolutionise it. A time will come, when there will be no money in the form of coin. No political governance will ensure. No one need to strive hard. There will be no job that will be deemed mean. There may not be a government vested with full power as we have now. There will be no slavery at all. There will be no need to depend on others for sustenance. Women will not require special protection, safeguards and support.

In the world to come, it will be enough for a man to work for merely one or two hours a day to lead a happy life as that of Mahatmas (Gandhi), Zamindars, religious heads as Matathipathis and the Brahmins. Labour for merely two hours would be quite sufficient to enjoy all the pleasures of life. Even as an individual complains of pain in the leg, ear, nose, stomach, bone and so on, in the new world to come, the difficulties and drawbacks of any single individual would not be tolerated by the society. Such a society based on co-operation and unity would be in the world shaped to come.

Wars as waged now, would not take place in that world. People will not be forced to lose their lives in wars, plunders and murders. There will be no unemployed people, struggling hard for food and jobs. People may seek jobs only with the motive of keeping a
healthy body. Rare articles, wonderful sights and scenes, worthy exhibitions, would be easily available for all people to enjoy. There will be no money lenders, private businessmen, industries and private concerns dominated by capitalists. There will be no agents, brokers and middlemen seeking profit.

The Navy, Army and Air force would be an anachronism in the cooperative world state of the future. Warships and arms meant to destroy the population will not exist. The task of seeking a job for livelihood would be very easy and within the reach of every human being. Pleasures would increase in leaps. The longevity of man would go on increasing by fresh research. Whatever might be the phase of increase of the population, the efforts and time needed to produce the necessities for life would be minimised.

To cite an illustration, there were days when it was possible to knit only 150 yarns in one minute. Today there are machines which create varieties of cloth at a speed of 45,000 yarns a minute. Similarly in the early days it would not have been possible to produce 2 or 3 cigarettes a minute. Today one machine is able to produce 2500 cigarettes a minute. That too, by our mere putting the leaves on one side, we get the cigarettes nicely packed and ready for transport and export. Moreover, the machine itself condemns the damaged cigarettes. So you can very well imagine what wonders the machines would do in the world to come. We find the machines for newer and newer things in all our walks of life. The technical knowledge is advancing fast. As such in the new world to come, it will be enough for a man to work only for two weeks, to secure the necessities needed for one full year.

You need not fear that people would be rendered lazy and idle for the rest of their time. No one need to have such a fear. Even as ways and means are found out to improve and quicken the amenities needed for life, similar steps would automatically be taken to find
ways and means to utilise the man power usefully throughout the year. Plans would be chalked out for utilising the leisure hours and rest time, gainfully. There will be no end or limitation to the wonderful advancement. There will be work for all the people and particularly to the intelligent, thinking progressive members of the society.

That sort of work will not be for earning wages. It will be more for recreation to the mind. Every one will be busy. No one will work with a profit motive.

The youngsters, as they observe their elders, would naturally be prompted to do something wonderful and useful in life. Yet some people may think that there will also be lazy fellows in such a world. I do not think so. Even granting that a few would remain idle and lazy, they would not be a burden on that society. The progress of the society will be affected least on account of them. If any one should persist in remaining idle, it will be bad for himself and not for the society. In fact in the world to come, everyone would feel ashamed of remaining idle or lazy. There will be a race for seizing an opportunity to do something useful. There will be more work and there will be no dearth of hands for any work.

No one will be accused of not doing any work.

You may ask whether there will be men to do mean and nasty work. What we consider as mean and nasty would not be considered so in the world to come. For example scavenging, sweeping, washing plates and utensils will be done with the aid of the machines. Manual effort will decrease. Man might have to learn the technique of operating the machines. Man need not carry heavy loads on his head or drag and pull heavy things. Nothing would be deemed dishonourable. Poets, artists, penmen, sculptors would be competing to create a new world. Rightmen will do the right jobs and earn a name and fame.
There will be no men without character and dignity. As all means to personal profit is extinct, no one would stoop to bad behaviour. There will be no people to connive at an immoral act. Such conditions would prevail making everyone highly ethical, civilised and sensible. If there is high and low, privileged and unprivileged there may be cause for disgust, hatred and when such things are absent there will be no scope for immorality. No one need to steal anything in the new world. Those who reside on the banks of River Ganges, need not steal the water of Ganges! They will take only as much as they actually require. They will not keep the water secretly for use in the future. When one has plenty of what he needs he will never think of stealing. Similarly there will be no need to utter lies and falsehoods, because there can be no gain. Drinks will not harm anyone. There will be no need to think of murder. Gambling and betting may be for a timepass and no one will be financially ruined by them.

There will be no prostitution for cash or for kind. In a self-respecting society no one can dominate the other. No one would yield to the other for any favour. The society will have very advanced views on sex and life. Only by the knitting of the hearts there can be lovely life. Moreover people will have clear and advanced views. They will mind their health. Everyone would have self-respect. Both males and females will deem it unwanted and unconnected to seek love by force. There will be no subordination of women. Males will not dominate. There will be no need to use force. As such there will be no prostitution.

There may be need for taking steps to cure the mentally disordered people. Even that may be resorted to only when such people are a nuisance to others. There will be no necessity to impose any restriction on both the sexes, as everyone would be fully conscious of the defects and merits.
Means of transport would mostly be in the air and at a great speed. Wireless communicative devices pocketable in shirts (mobile phone) would be provided for all. Radio might be in the hats of everyone. Equipments, enabling the despatch of images through mail would be in enormous usage. Convenience in conversation could be possible, face to face through such mailing mechanism (Skype). One will be able to contact instantly any one anywhere. Education could be imparted easily far and wide. Nutritive food needed for a full week might be made available in a small capsule.

The human life longevity of 100 years may be doubled or even more.

There may not be any necessity for a potent male and female perform intercourse, for begetting a child. Even as strong and sturdy bulls are specially brought up to improve the cattle, men with sound and healthy body may be specially induced to part with their semen scientifically and by injection methods, the extracted male semen might be let into the uterus of the female.

That will be the way to create new children with sound body and sound mind. Birth of a child would be different, having nothing to do with the intercourse of the couple. The population would be easily controlled with the willing cooperation of all people.

There will be many changes in the articles we now use. For example the weight of the present-day automobiles would be reduced considerably. Petrol consumption would be reduced. Nay, cars may run out of electricity or rechargeable power. Electricity would be consumed in such a way that every one shares the benefits in life. It will be very useful to humanity. Such advancement will
take place. Science will advance further very rapidly and there will be more and more useful inventions.

There will be no scope for any particular individual to exploit inventions. Today the government takes up responsibility through its departments for safeguarding the property, maintenance of law and order, justice, administration, education etc. All these methods would become obsolete and unwanted. The prevailing perception about them would become meaningless.

One would be eager to know about the idea of god in ‘The World to Come’.

The idea of god does not arise suo moto. It is a process of faith which is conveyed and preached to the youngsters by the elders. In ‘The World to Come’, the people who speak about god and the betrayers would vanish. Even if glimpses of god prevails, it would disappear in due course. Man thinks about god out of sheer necessity. If the intricacies involved in every issue are known, if human needs are satisfied with due provision of the requirements without difficulties, no necessity would arise to anyone to think about god and its design. If a man lives in the so called heaven-like environment, no need would arise in him to think and believe in heaven which is contrary to science and research. No need for him to aspire to abode the so called heaven. When there is no room for the rising of need, it tolls the death knell of god. That is the peak of intellectual supremacy. There is no space for god in the spread of science and development.

If man is able to realise himself, he needs no god. If man deems this world as heaven for him, he will not believe the fantastic heaven above and the hell below. If people have the awakening they will not accept anything that is irrational. Where there are no wants there god is dead! Where science triumphs there god is buried.
In common parlance, there can be a sole assumption for certainty. What is that? What is that illusive factor? Yes; it is construed as ‘God’! For the scientists, construing thus is absurd. In practical life, how God’s deed is construed? We compromise and consent to ourselves in the every exposure of our experience. We exhibit our ignorance which is not known to us. This could be the ideal approach adoptable about the origin of the world and its historical endurance. No reasonable man would worship god even as an attribute, when the reason for certain worldly affairs are not known.

One should gain knowledge and change himself. That is the order of the world. If one does not probe the reasons, he quietly shelters himself under the tree of ignorance summoning god to his help! Such a state of affairs would be absolutely unsuited to the world to come.

In the world to come, there will be no hell or heaven because there will be no scope to do anything evil or bad. No one will need the help of the other. Unless one becomes mad, no one will harm others. So heaven and hell will become obsolete. So the relevance of the heaven and hell will become meaningless to mankind.

Such an ideal world would not come all on a sudden. By gradual stages such a world will definitely be created by those who strive hard for the change in the generations to come. In the pursuit to solve the tough problems facing society and in the yearning to make life an eternal bliss for all, a new path be perfected to reach the new world.

No one would talk “What can we do? Everything is god’s work.” Whatever drawbacks humanity might face, people will not keep quiet. They will resolve to set right things. There will be no talk of fate and destiny. Every act will be based on self-determination.
Whatever the evils were created by man, they would be tackled in a deft manner to make a better society.

Today the blind faith in the old customs, rituals etc., has made them unthinking and irrational. They have put a hurdle in the progress of the world. It is quite natural that the vested interests who have much to gain by these old senseless things, are opposed to the creation of a new world of happiness, peace, progress and plenty. Yet it is those who boldly combat the ignorance of the people and the selfish interests of the vested interests who would be able to carve out a new world. Let us join and strengthen the ranks of the creators of the new world. It is for the youths and rationalists to bestow their thoughts, energy and efforts for the creation of a new world to come.