Honorable Satyamohan Siddhi B. Ranjitkar



On the hot summer day, the open carriage drawn by two white horses were there waiting for the great man of the century to ride on for going around to receive the felicitation from the folks of the Lalitpur metropolis. It was the celebration of the day of his 100th birth anniversary, the two municipalities of the Lalitpur district had held to honor his remarkable work he had done in the culture, language, and the history of Nepal rather than a person. Such things would have never happened in another regime rather would not allowed to happen when the kings ran the administration.

The man turning one hundred years of age: Satyamohan carefully and slowly climbed up the stairs of the red carpet carriage, and held his clasped hands at his chest and turned around to greet the folks gathered there. Then, the mayor also came to join Satyamohan. He also greeted all the folks assembled there. He then requested Satyamohan to sit on the carriage. Both of them sat, and the carriage was ready to move on.

The music band dressed in army camouflage played the tune for leading the carriage. The carriage slowly moved forward. Some local traditional music bands led the carriage others followed it. School students and teachers with the banners identifying their schools followed the carriage. Thousands probably hundreds of thousands of folks enjoyed the celebration of the centenary of the outstanding personality: Satyamohan.

Satyamohan: the great man of this century has turned 100 on May 13, 2019 (Vaishak 30, 2076). He has been an outstanding personality in the Nepalese culture, history, and folksongs. Currently he has been the celebrity. He commanded every sort of great respect and honor. He has done incredible job to lay the foundation of the development of drama, songs, languages, and culture of Nepal, and he brought "Arniko" the Nepalese hero of art, culture, architecture and engineering, who led a technical team to Tibet and then to China in the 13th century, back home to Nepal in a book form.

Satya means the truth, and Mohan means one of the names of Kamdev: erotic stimulation, the "Nepali Brihat Sabda Kosh" says. Satyamohan means in reality stimulating everything and everybody in the human life; so did he. So, Satyamohan has been living successfully the life worthy of his name.

Satyamohan said that he had lived a life under the Rana rule when the people lived not like humans then came King Tribhuvan, who promised to make the country democratic, but his son Mahendra did not keep the promise of his father, and he took over the rein. Folks needed to live 30 years of the Panchayat regime, then the regime changed into a multiparty democracy again, and once again king Gyanendra took over, and finally the country became the republic. Is it not a fantastic and terrific change in the right direction over the period of the lifetime of one of the distinguished personalities in the history of Nepal?

In the opening speech he had given at the time of celebrating his 100th birth anniversary, Satyamohan said when someone reached the centenary in the life means s/he had the fear of Yamraj. It is true; however, every human being is always in between Janmaraj: the god of life and Yamraj: the god of death while in this wonderful world of life and death. Janmaraj gives us the life whereas Yamraj takes it from everybody. Thus, the cycle of life and death goes in this beautiful world.

Janmaraj does not keep anybody without a physical life for long but immediately sends everybody back to the world of life and death to be born as one of the 8.4 million lives of different species prevailing on earth depending on the merits s/he had earned doing good deeds in this human world as described in our scripture. So, everybody had to live one life after another of all 8.4 million species our ancestors had found and described before coming back to the human life. However, folks earning the huge merits might not need to go through all sorts of these numerous life-cycles but might come back to the human life through a bypass made for those who had done a remarkable work for the benefits of the humanity.

Probably, Honorable Satyamohan might not need to worry about Yamraj because he had earned so much of merits during his wonderful life of one hundred year, and he might come back to this awfully beautiful human world immediately. However, it is always necessary to keep in mind that Yamraj might be at the door at any time in the life and might ask him/her to follow him to the Yamlok.

Now, let us go through all those interesting things Honorable Satyamohan had said in many public formal and informal speeches published in the print or digital media or posted on social media.

He had a wonderful childhood life born in a prestigious Nevah social community. He had been not so smart in his early childhood. He had been unable to speak in his first fiver years of life not to mention learning and reading anything. Then, he had to endure many punishments his teachers had passed on him for not being able to complete the assignments he had received. However, he graduated from the school and then went on even having two years of education after school when the commoners had rarely an access to the learning.

As a youth he received the Hindu sacred six-string thread called "janai", and the sacred Gatri mantra. He wore it on the neck passing through the left armpit, and

changed it every year on the month of "Janai purnima." He strictly followed the living code of the Hindu Nevah life, and maintained the discipline throughout the life.

He got a job of a 'kharidar' position in the Rana administration. It is not a big position today but at that time, this position in the State job was surely a great job for any commoner could think of having when commoners were rarely employed in the State jobs, as all the jobs belonged to the Rana family members.

He was assigned to collect some statistical data in the western Nepal of that time. So, as a State official and as assigned he went to work in the current mid western Nepal. While performing his State duty, he happened to cross the local folks' path singing songs while collecting water at the wells or going to collect fodders and fuels in the forest, and in fact everybody singing while doing something or working in the field or on the way to forest or back home. That was the wonderful life he had seen the folks had been enjoying. He was tempted to have the records of all the folksongs the locals had been singing.

Thus, the idea of recording of those folksongs crossed his mind. No recoding in any way was available at that time but to go with a pen and paper to write whatever the folks sang. Thus, he recorded as many songs as he could in writing. These songs had been the valuable assets of the Nepalese folks culture. He explored where he could get those songs published probably in one of the prestigious literary periodical publications. He got them published in the literary journal called "Sarada" of that time.

However, these things did not come without price. He had been sick from the widespread disease prevailing in the lowland with the hot climate. He had almost taken the shelter in Yamraj. However, Yamraj saved him because it was not yet time for Satyamohan to be in Yamlok. His health came back quickly. So, he was again able to work smartly.

Then, the Rana regime ended, and the people's government made him a director of the newly set-up department of culture. Anybody could imagine how high jump he had made. However, it did not last long. He lost the job after the unfortunate takeover on December 15, 1960. The democratic exercises ended, the country reverted to the monarchial regime.

Satyamohan as a hard working person deserved got the job of teaching Nepali language to the Chinese in Beijing. He spent four years of his good prime life in China teaching Nepali to the Chinese officials for making them able to work on the Nepalese programs in the Chinese radio.

He did not waste even a minute of his spare time while in China, and used every minute to study the life and work of another Nepalese art and culture, architecture and engineering warrior known in the Chinese name "Arniko," who took with him about one hundred fellow craftsmen and crossed the Himalaya and worked in Tibet and then in China to create arts and religious culture, and build numerous Buddhist monasteries.

Satyamohan discovered that Arniko (not his Nepalese name) assembled nearly one hundred artists for making paintings and images, architectures, engineers and builders for constructing extraordinary monasteries in Tibet, and they set off for

Tibet upon invitation. They created such extraordinary pieces of art works and so on in different parts of Tibet, and then in Beijing, China.

Arniko's fame of making masterpieces in art, culture and buildings quickly spread north and reached the court of the Chinese emperor, who sent escorts to pick him up and then take him to Beijing. He reached Beijing. He impressed the emperor with his masterly work on arts of painting, of making images, construction of buildings and temples and Chaityas (erroneously called pagodas). His finest work called White shadow-less Chaitya in old Beijing still exist. This masterpiece was especially preserved even during the Cultural Revolution in 1960s.

Then, Satyamohan's thought was how to bring so ingenious personality back to Nepal in a book form at least. So, he put together every bit and piece of information on the life of Arniko. He searched, researched, and found incredible facts and figures about Arniko not only in China but also even in Japan. He used even his small savings to get those facts in the language he could understand and write and read.

Bringing Arniko back home to Nepal, Satyamohan made all Nepalis proud of such an awesomely extraordinarily fantastically intelligent warrior, who left the mother land for Tibet and China to spread the fame of Nepal there in the 13th century proving and demonstrating how Nepal had been so well developed in arts, architecture and engineering, and buildings, too when most of the countries in the west and the east were not so well developed.

Satyamohan had many ups and downs in his life. He said that at one time he went to the officials of the Nepal Academy begging for a small award; they assured him of it but it never came. However, today, everybody is eager to award him one thing or another. He had stopped counting how many awards he had received. Some folks made a bronze sculpture of Satyamohan, and went to present it to this honorable great man of this century. Many folks took pride in having a picture with him. So, Satyamohan had to live with such a busy life even at this age.

Satyamohan has been a role model for all the Nepalis especially for the politicians, bureaucrats, and businesspersons including the contractors for doing good jobs to earn the fame, honor and respect of the common folks, and live humanely to be shining stars in the Nepalese sky forever. Satyamohan has been a shining North Pole star even at his lifetime thanks to his untiring work dedicated to the benefits of the nation and the common folks. Thus, Satyamohan has been a celebrity, a remarkable man, and a shining star in the Nepalese blue sky.

Long live Satyamohan

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