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OXOM PROBAX

News & Events of the Assamese People Living Around the World

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Bye, bye, Nitin! We love you!!

Dear Netters and my fellow Assamese Community Members Worldwide:
A horrible tragedy has struck our very dear friends and netters, Alpana and Ram Sarangapani on Saturday. Their only son, Nitin, was shot dead by unknown assailants sometime in the very early hours of Sunday (late Saturday night), in Houston.

Sunday, yesterday, was going to be Nitin's birthday. He was out celebrating with his friends Saturday night, and Alpana apparently spoke to him last just past midnight, but had no contact from him thereafter. They got the tragic news sometime yesterday, from the authorities. I just spoke to Ram and Alpana. Words failed me. What can one say at a time like this to a family as shattered and devastated as they are, and more so when they very good, longtime friends as they are? I hope Alpana and Ram's faith will come to deal with their grief. And I am sure all our thoughts best wishes will be with them at this time of their need. Ram's sister and her family along with members of the Houston Oxomiya community are with them now and attempting to assist. That is all I know at the moment. Our heartfelt condolences to Alpana and Ram and their families. What else can one say at a time like this?

Chandan Mahanta
St. Louis, Missouri
Sep 26, 2005 11:06 PM

It is with great sadness that I make this painful announcement concerning one of the Assamese diaspora families that I consider my own. Nitin Sarangapani, a strapping 24-year old U.S. Marine, was killed by unknown assailants last night in Houston when he was out celebrating his birthday. He is the son of two individuals that are most dear to all of us on Assamnet: Ram and Alpana Sarangapani of Houston. May Nitin's soul rest in peace in Heaven and let Mohaprobhu give Ram-da and Alpana-baidew the strength to cope with the loss of their only child.

Jugal and Bonmayuri Kalita
Colorado Springs, CO
Sep 26, 2005 11:02 PM

I bring a sad news to you. Mala and Ramgopal Sarangapani's son Nitin Sarangapani was shot dead early Sunday morning. The details are still not available. They are still waiting for more details and an opportunity to visit at the forensic lab. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

Mano Hazarika, Sugar Land, Texas
Sep 26, 2005 10:34 AM

Some additional news:
Nitin was a member of the US Marine

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Reserve. His 24th birthday was yesterday. Apparently he went out to celebrate his birthday and his parent last heard from him was Sunday 1 AM.

Parents are still waiting to see Nitin's body which has not been released by the Forensic Lab yet. The expectation is that it will be released tomorrow morning. Funeral arrangement is being made, but not finalized yet. It has not been confirmed, but it may be either Friday, Saturday or Monday. As soon as the information is available, we will let you know.

Instead of sending flower, the family wished all well wishers to make cash contribution to a fund to be named after Nitin for charitable purpose and to be established.

Mano Hazarika, Sugar Land, Texas
Sep 26, 2005 11:33 PM

We are just torn apart by the sad news. Our hearts go out to the bereaved family in their great loss. It's a tragic loss for the entire Assamese community that has known Sarangapani family for years. May Nitin's soul rest in peace.

Prakash and Anuradha Deka, North Brunswick, New Jersey
Sep 27, 2005 2:14 AM

Totally devastated at the news. Our heartfelt condolences to Ram and Alpana. We join the family and friends in their bereavement and pray for the heavenly repose of the departed soul.

Anjan and family, Taiwan
Sep 27, 2005 5:43 AM

We are out in India. We have heard many tragic news in life with deaths of our many close ones. But I don't think there can be anything more tragic than this. Ram and Alpana are so close to us in Houston, that makes it even more tragic. We simply do not know how they are going to deal with this news. Their only son, jewel of their life, grown up in front of our own eyes....We simply don't have words. Still we will try to call them and share their pain. ..

Rajen and Ajanta Barua
Camp Duliajan & Houston, Texas
Sep 27, 2005 7:36 AM

Dear Ram-da and Alpana Baidew, I don't think any word can mitigate your pain at this moment. I simply pray to god to give both of you enough strength and resilience to withstand this hour of great sorrow and distress. May Nitin's soul rest in eternal peace.

Mayur & family, Chandigarh, India
Sep 27, 2005 9:01 AM

I am extremely disturbed to hear about this horrible tragedy. I don't know what to say. May God help Ram Da & Alpana Ba, to cope up with the tragedy.
Mridul Bhuyan
Gurgaon, Haryana, India
Sep 27, 2005 1:10 PM



This is sad news indeed. Although I have never met the Sarangapani family, I did enjoy their lively discussions on AssamNet. Our sincere condolences to the family, and may they have the strength to overcome this tragedy.

Neep Hazarika, London, UK
Sep 27, 2005 2:18 PM

It's a sad moment for all NRA in US. My heartiest condolence to Mr. Ram & Alpana Sarangapani.

Nripen Gogoi
Greenville, South Carolina
Sep 27, 2005 5:36 PM

I am shocked to hear this sad news this morning. It is horrible this happened to our beloved Alpana Baideo and Ram da. I have no words to console you! We are praying for Nitin's soul.

Ganesh Bora, Lake Alfred, Florida
Sep 27, 2005 6:17 PM

May his soul rest in peace. We have no words to describe how we feel.

Utpal and Malabika Brahma
Burlington, New Jersey
Sep 29, 2005 7:12 AM

Oh! What a tragedy! I offer my sincere condolences to Ram and Alpana and I know my words can never make good this ultimate bereavement. I was not prepared for such a shock.

It was good of you to post the news in the net without the least delay so that all netters and others can show the parents their profound sympathy.

Bhuban Baruah, UK
Sep 27, 2005 1:47 AM

I do not know where to begin but I cannot stop thinking about the tragedy which has befallen Alpanaji and Ram-da.

I tried Internet search for over an hour for more details on the catastrophe but seems no details are available. I can only guess from the Houston folks arming themselves against some rowdy people fleeing Rita hurricane - that someone among them is responsible for the tragedy. I also learnt that in August this year another Indian young man in Houston was victim of a similar tragedy while he was meditating in a city park. Whatever may have been the case we all can only make efforts to overcome our grief on Nitin's sudden demise by praying etc.

I was hoping to bring a smile to Alpanaji's eyes by landing a respectable job in US but now it doesn't seem to matter any

more. I have relied on her support and that of Ram-da perhaps more than on anyone else for advice and care. It makes me realize how small our personal accomplishments....

Nitin, I recall his email some years back on AssamNet, was bravely defending US war on terror while some of us had second thoughts about US policies on it. And then he had shown a to join the US military and fulfill his aim of hitting out against the terrorists. Now working as a US Marine he had accomplished his dream. They say God calls them soonest whom God loves the most. I can say no more. May Nitin's soul rest in peace and justice be done against his assailants.

Umesh Sharma
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Sep 29, 2005 5:34 AM

The Houston Assamese community is trying its best to console the Sarangapani family by being with them. It is hard on all of us to see a young life snuffed out on his birthday. Police investigation is in progress. We will let you know as more details become known. In the meanwhile please say a prayer for Nitin's soul.

Dilip Deka, Houston TX
Sep 27, 2005 9:36 AM

We are totally shocked to hear this most tragic news. There are no words that can express how we feel after hearing such unbelievable news. We can only imagine how Alpana and Ram feel! Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Alpana, Ram, and other members of the family. Wish we were near Alpana and Ram at this most difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are there and hope God will give them strength to bear this most tragic event. May Nitin's soul rest in peace.

Satyen and Namita Das
Washington D.C.
Sep 27, 2005 7:53 AM

Oh my God- let such shocking things never happen. My heart goes with Ram and Alpana. I join all netters in praying for the soul of the lost one. Let the heartbroken parents recover and continue with their good work for the community.

We shall remain subdued for a long time.

MC Mahant, Guwahati, India
Sep 29, 2005 6:26 AM



About Nitin Sarangapani

Nitin Sarangapani, of Houston passed away suddenly, early Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005. He was born to Alpana Bezbaruah Sarangapani and Ramgopal Sarangapani on September 25, 1981 in India.

Nitin was a year 2000 graduate of Klein Forest High School. After high school, Nitin went to study in New Zealand for 2 years. However, in his strong determination to serve the country, Nitin decided to join the US Marines and continue with his studies in the US.

He was attending Sam Houston State University and Tomball College of NHMCCD.

Nitin was a hardworking young man, full of energy, jest, and a great pleasure to be around with.

Nitin leaves behind his grieving parents and grandfather, Kokil Bezbaruah. Also left to mourn the passing away of this extraordinary young man are a host of uncles,

aunts, cousins, friends, and well-wishers. Funeral service with full Military Honors by the United States Marine Corps will be

held at 1:00 PM Saturday, October 1, 2005 in the Chapel of Brookside Funeral Home, Champions (281-397-0800). The family will also receive friends Friday from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Internment will be at Klein Memorial Park, F.M. 2920 (281-351-7233).

The family has set up a trust fund, the proceeds of which will be used for charitable causes. In lieu of flowers,

contributions may be made in his name to:

**Nitin Bezbaruah Sarangapani
Memorial Fund
12007 Kleinmeadow Drive
Houston, Texas 77066**



We are very shocked and saddened to learn this tragic news; may Nitin's soul rest in eternal peace; we offer our heartfelt condolences to Alpana and Ram: hope they will have enough strength to overcome the tragedy.

Gagon Hazarika & family
Northoak, 21 Greenhill, Sutton, Surrey SM1
3LF UK
27 Sep, 2005 15:05

Very sorry to hear about Nitin's sad demise. At times such words fail to express. Even time will not heal the sorrows of the unlucky parents. Only we wished the perpetrators knew what damage they caused! Our heart reaches out to Alpana baideu and Ram. God don't make your ways so harsh.

May their souls rest in peace.

Manoj Kumar Das
Assam Association, Delhi, India
Sep 27, 2005 9:39 PM

I am really shocked to learn about the tragic incident of Nitin's death. If it happened in Assam or India, I would not have been so shocked, but it happened in US, the so called most civilized nation of the world. People leave India for greater security and better life to US. But where is the value of human life in US that Americans are so proud of. There is no word which can console Alpana baideu and Ram da in this hour of grief. I pray to Almighty to give them strength of mind to face this disaster. They are such a nice couple. I don't know how God can make such a cruel thing happen to them. When I visited US 2 years back, I spoke to both of them on phone. They also invited me to their house, but I could not make it. I wish I could have been there with them in this hour of grief. When I heard of the tragic incident it reminded me of a recent hindi movie "Virudh", where only son of a couple gets killed by assailants on his birthday. These incidents are heart breaking and I pray it should not happen to anyone else. I pray to God that Nitin's soul rest in peace in heaven.

Dipankar Malla Baruah
Duliajan, Assam
Sep 28, 2005 7:47 PM

Our deepest condolence to Sarangapani family. This is not only a great loss to Assamese community here in USA also a great loss to United States of America. Nitin has selected a noble profession to serve this country. This is a very difficult time for both Alpana baideu and Ram da. We pray to God to give you enough strength to cope with this tragedy. When I was young, I lost a very close friend of mine. To console me, one of my teacher said to me "GOD LOVES THOSE DIE YOUNG". I still remember this. I am conveying this same message to you- Alpana baideu and Ram da.

Mantu and Silpi Baishya, Omaha, NE
27 Sep, 2005 1:15 AM

We are very very sad to know such an accident. Our deepest condolence to Ram da

and his family. Mantu da correctly mentioned, the loss is not only for our tiny community, it is a loss for the whole country and definitely GOD Loves Nitin.

Ram da and baideo, we don't have right word to convey our deepest condolence. Only we can say, it is a great great loss...

Vavani/Gitima/Niky Sarmah, Philadelphia
27 Sep, 2005 7 PM

Dear Alpana & Ram:
We are shocked at the horrible news. We express our heartfelt condolence to you. When I talked to Ram I was speechless. I had no word to express how sad we were. We pray to Almighty that Nitin's soul rests in eternal peace and wrong doer is punished to the fullest extent. Please remember that in this sad world of ours, sorrow comes to all. Perfect relief is not possible but time heals every thing.

Kedar & Ruprekha Bhuyan Rick & Nick
Mays Landing, New Jersey
Sep 27, 2005 8:56 PM

This is a sad announcement to all our friends and relatives that we have tragically lost our nephew Nitin Sarangapani. He died of a gunshot wound in spring cypress area of Houston during the early hours of Sunday September 25, 2005 - ironically that was his 24th birthday. Last year he had enlisted as a U.S. Marine - currently he was in reserves and was attending Sam Houston State University.

Nitin is my wife Lalita's brother Ramgopal (Ram) Sarangapani's only child. Nitin's mother is Alpana (Mala).

Rana Dasgupta, Houston, TX
28 Sep, 2005 1 PM

Dear Alpana baideo and Ram da,
I am completely shocked and disturbed to hear about Nitin's sudden and untimely death. Please accept my deepest sympathy. May God give both of you the courage to cope up with this terrible tragedy.

Regards,
Satyam Bhuyan
Iowa State University, Ames
28 Sep 2005 10 AM

Dear Sarangapani family,
I am shocked to hear about the unexpected loss of your son. Although I do not know you two, you are as if very near to me, having read so many of your balanced contributions in the Assamnet. Being the father of a son and a

daughter, I can feel as if I am having the shock and trauma myself. Even though there is very little one can say or do, may our heart felt sympathy help comfort you.

Romen Goswami, London, UK
Sep 29, 2005 6:09 AM

I am at a loss of words....I share the grief with Alpana-baideu and Ram-da.

Priyankoo Sarma, Gainesville, Florida
Sep 28, 2005 4 PM

Our hearts go out to Alpana baideu and Ram Dada. This is such an immeasurable loss to both of you and to us all. A valuable and dear life suffocated out of existence by the random violence that is unfortunately so common in our largest cities! A vibrant young man beaming with life and with such a bright future so suddenly lost for ever!

Dear dada and baideu - I remember having met your child in Houston some years ago. And only this summer when we met you in July, you were so lovingly talking about Nitin's passion for serving his country. And of his love for small things in life like video games like many boys young and not so young. Please have courage in the face of such dire adversity. We pray to the almighty for your well-being and for eternal peace for Nitin's soul.

Jukti Kalita, Suravi Kalita, Ron Kalita
New Jersey
Sep 29, 2005 2:50 AM

While death is inevitable, it is the untimely death that always bothers and shocks us the most. It is worse when someone die in his/her early years with the life that was waiting ahead for him/her. It is even worse when it is the parents who were left behind holding onto memories of past and present wishing they could replace the one who left them behind.

Alpana baideu and Ramda have been given an unkind blow and our family is deeply sorry about their sudden and profound loss. Although I didn't know Nitin personally, I had the pleasure of meeting his wonderful parents last July; if Nitin was anything like his parents, he was a wonderful person - may God bless his soul and rest it in peace.

Sanjib, Sue, Maya and Avi (Bhuyan)
Rutgers, NJ
28 Sep 2005 16:52:27

I was really shocked to learn about Nitin Sarangapani's death. I don't know how to express my condolences to Ram/Alpana Sarangapani as it will be impossible to replace the loss. I can only say that time will heal the wounds. Hope all NRAs in US who are in touch with the family will help them in getting over this tragedy as quickly as possible.

Utpal Borpujari
New Delhi, India
28 Sep, 2005 8 AM

Alpana is my sister's classmate in school. I have not talked to her in a long long time so don't even know what to say. Met them last at the St. Louis convention in 1998. I got the news yesterday only.

Pranab Sarma
San Jose, California
27 Sep 2005 10 AM

Dear Ram & Alpana,
At this moment we have no words to console you except a silent prayer for Nitin. His soul rests in peace.

Lulu baideo & Mahesh da (Baishya)
Dublin, California
Sep 29, 2005 8:22 AM

Baidow and Ramda,
We have never met but just from assamnet it feels that we know you for long time .. i always admired your upbeat thoughts and Ramda's sense of humor.... I am at a loss to understand why this happened to your familymay god bless Nitin's departed soul .. again our prayers are with you .. and please take care

Ram and Sunita, Edison, NJ
Sep 28, 2005 9 PM/

Dear Alpana and Ram,
Our heartfelt condolences to you. We were shocked to hear the news. I know there is nothing we can say that will lessen your grief. We only hope that with time, you will be able

to accept what has happened and to persevere. Our prayers will be with Nitin and with you.

Probal & Prabina Tahbildar
Kendall Park, New Jersey
Sep 28, 2005 5:48 PM

This has been one of the most shattering news. The sarangapani's have been the life and soul of the Assam net and I just cannot believe how such a tragedy can befall them. We all know how they doted on their son and hopes they had from him. Sangita joins me in praying to god for the salvation of the departed soul and may God give them the moral courage and fortitude to face the situation.

Shantikam Hazarika
Guwahati, Assam, India
Sep 27, 2005, 9:17 AM

There are some facets of GOD's creation which we shall always be mysterious, one of them is Life itself. She was so proud of her son and GOD has taken away the most precious possession she could have. I remember she was talking about her son in one her mails long back, about a mobile phone. That brings a picture to my mind , and I feel the bolt of grief when I come to reality thinking about what she has lost. I am sure Nitin died as a brave lad. My heartiest condolences to the family and the mother in particular. May his soul live in peace.

Prasenjit Chetia, London, UK
Sep 29, 2005 5:43 PM

Dear Dada aru Baideo,
We express our deep sorrow at the tragic demise of Nitin. Our heartfelt condolence to the both of you.

Babul & Gayatri, New Delhi, India
Sep 27, 2005 6:02 PM

Multiculturalism

Contd. from page 7...

for this he uses his brains. It is, however, a mixed blessing for him. His fertile brain has produced an immense store of all kinds of feelings and ideas, such as individual pride and ambition, group and territorial loyalty and a host of other things so much so that it is no longer possible for him to go back to Nature. One sequel to this phenomenon is group rivalry leading to war which may originate in a claim of superiority over each other, severe want, pride in one's own kind of culture and civilization etc.

While man is warring with his kind, he at the same time knows that he need not fight any longer to survive; he may call for peace. It is possible to throw away the gun and pool resources to live a more fruitful life in common. Man can agree to let others have their own kind of food, clothing and relationship with his Maker.

We are black, brown and white not because of our own choosing. Most of us were born Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and not so because of conviction. If you find some faith better than others, then bow down to it. We've no reason to quarrel over forms of government, be it monarchy, parliamentary or presidential type of government or communism. We must remember that even a dictatorial or martial government can be better than the so-called democracy.

Multiculturalism appears to have succeeded in the USA and in some other countries. India however seems to have trouble with it. In recent writings there is agreement that toleration is the only way out of this pandemic situation.

Multiculturalism is neither a new or an ancient cult. It is innate, inherent in liberalism which works through the sine qua non principle of tolerance in human society.

Other ideas that the policy-makers are toying with are emphasis on Britishness, ways of assimilating immigrants into British society, fixing British identity on the basis of ethnicity and country of origin, and a host of other things.

America's Tsunami in New Orleans

Rini Kakati, UK

It reminds me of last Boxing day when the Tsunami wrecked death and devastation from Indonesia to Africa. When their turn came the best the people of New Orleans and the coastal towns of Louisiana and nearby Mississippi could do was run.



For days the people of New Orleans could see her coming, the storm they'd feared for decades, as at first Hurricane Katrina lashed across Florida then lingered, building strength like a glowering angry animal.

They knew this was it. In their nightmares they'd shivered at the thought that one day she would come. As we can see in photograph of tree-shattered homes. It was as meteorologists say, an almost perfect storm. Whenever the force of nature strikes, mankind is vulnerable.

Bumper to bumper in a vast almost Biblical exodus, car inched along the freeways leading north to higher land.

Looking at the devastation wrought in just a few hours on one of the most graceful, lively and beautiful cities in America, the city of Jazz, of blues, of Tennessee Williams, you feel humbled by nature's might, which can pluck oil rigs from the sea and hurl them against bridges and toss off shore casinos onto land.

A great Human tragedy has unfolded in the heartland of the most powerful nation in the world.

All America's wealth and scientific achievements could not save New Orleans and Biloxi from Hurricane Katrina's awesome power.

We have seen already President Bush is galvanising his country's considerable resources to tackle this huge natural disasters.

America may not have been able to stop Katrina's advance. No country is better places to deal with her deadly legacy.

We don't expect this to happen in a 21st century city in the rich West. We can't imagine that a city of more than half a million people, an industrial centre, but above all a tourist magnet for its music, its history, its food and its style, the place they call the Big Easy, can now be a place of disaster. It's unthinkable.

When I visited New Orleans in March 79 along with San Francisco, she has become one of my favourite American cities. To see her now submerged under deluge, the barriers that protected her from the giant Mississippi ripped open and bleeding filthy, muddy water into her elegant streets and homes, is to see a beautiful memory laid to waste.

I still wonder why Americans should ever have built such a city in hurricane alley, mostly on land below sea level.

We can see every city is the sum of history laid upon geography. Located in the first piece of land up the Mississippi high enough and firm enough to make a port. And it was colonised by the French.

New Orleans became a boom town, built on the back of slavery in the nearby sugar and

cotton plantations and trade along Old Man River himself. On the river banks, levees were built and endlessly reinforced to protect the city.

New Orleans is synonymous with America music. From the black gospel choirs to the Cajun accordion players, from the barrelhouse pianists in the clubs on Bourbon Street to the blues guitarists. This was where Jazz began in the area known as Storyville, where Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton and Kid Ory once played in Basin Street.

Until this weeks disaster New Orleans was associated with joy. It was a weekend attraction for millions of Americans and a destination for thousands of Britons.

It was, with its narrow, pastel streets, a different kind of America, an America which seemed to belong to Europe, which had only accidentally ended up near the Gulf of Mexico.

And last weekend in this historic French Quarter, a place of narrow streets, hanging baskets of flowers, wrought-iron balconies and above all music, they must have prayed for a miracle. Could this gem of American architecture and music survive?

But when nature chooses to act in this way, we are at her mercy. What we can all do is - - pray. In this region where there are churches by the thousand --- only God can help.

(The author has been working as Legal Aid Counsellor for the ethnic minority in London, Borough of Tower Hamlet, Social - Services, UK. She did her M.A. in English from Gauhati University)

Editor's Note:

I am honored to do this job and this September issue is going to be my first issue as an editor. I thank Babul Gogoi from Delhi who is doing all the hard work putting the newsletter together for us. I also thank all the writers for sending in their articles in such a short notice.

Please send your valuable inputs and point us any mistakes that I might have unknowingly. I had intended to send out a general invitation for articles from the members in the ASA mailing list, but in my hurry and the hectic schedule, I missed that opportunity. I promise to do so, next time around.

Please do send in your valuable contributions to make the newsletter more vibrant.

Thank you,

*Alpana Sarangapani, Houston, Texas.
September 26, 2005*

Multiculturalism

Bhuban Baruah, UK

“Here I stand, the man that I am, Don’t have a culture,
Don’t have a clan, Don’t have a country,
Don’t give a damn, cos I DO have a mind,
and I will make a stand.”

Source: <http://celticcross.co.uk/lyrics/multi.htm>

SO LONG MULTICULTURALISM has been an integral part of modern life the world over and regarded as a milestone in the history of civilization. It has so far been not only looked upon as salutary to our social, economic and political life but it has proved to be indispensable and inseparable in a democratic society. It is the new universal faith. It would be politically incorrect to say otherwise.

In recent years, however, clouds are gathering and occasionally discordant views have been expressed, especially after the events of September 11, 2001 in USA and of 7 and 21 July 2005 in UK. There was great surprise when Trevor Phillips, the Chairman of Britain’s Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), commented in course of a televised interview that multiculturalism was anachronistic and should be disavowed.

Coming as it does from the mouth of the Chairman of the CRE who heads an organization to champion the aims and objectives of multiculturalism, it is not too difficult to see a shift in Britain’s official policy. It may be recalled that both the Conservative and Labor governments have followed a policy of augmenting multiculturalism in UK since the 1960s. What he stated in essence was that Britain ought not to downplay its Britishness because of immigration. Citing an example, he bemoaned that Shakespeare was not being taught at school the way it should be. The immigrants did not come to Britain just for jobs; they were attracted by the way of life in Britain; its tolerance and democracy.

Perhaps we could reflect on what we under-



stand by culture, multifaith and multicultural. Multiculture of course denotes plurality of cultures. Multifaith means several religious beliefs existing side

by side. The suffix -ism gives it the necessary stamp of a discipline of abiding value and importance.

Culture embodies all that is inherent in our civilization. A human being is an animal but while other animals lagged behind, humans evolved faster. As an animal, humans may be inferior to certain other animals in respect of a number of attributes. Man does not see in darkness, cannot smell like dogs, cannot live under water, cannot fly like birds and are not as big and strong like elephants, tigers, rhinoceroses etc. Birds have made their nests the same way since the dawn of creation but man has been able to build houses which provide all the protection and comforts he wants throughout the four seasons. Man produces all the food he needs with the help of nature. He makes clothes for his use at different times of the year. He has organized family and social life in the most desirable way. Besides he relaxes with songs, music and art and creates objects of beauty and benefit to his fellow men. Lastly he has discovered science and philosophy.

In the good old days, when man lived in different parts of the world his language, means of communication, family and social relationship, belief in God and host of other things shaped differently from groups to groups mainly because of, besides other

things, the environment. A coastal region was not the same as a mountainous one. The deserts and the arctic regions are almost uninhabitable. The way of life thus varied from place to place. There then came a time when man began to migrate to other lands for one reason or the other: trade, war, famine, adventure, it could be one or several of many things. While this migration and intermingling of nations brought prosperity to the nations of the world, it created problems as well. It led to battles among different groups of people, or say countries, culminating in World Wars of death and destruction in a magnitude not experienced by mankind before. As was expected, man very soon realized the folly of war and decided that it should cease once for all. Because of the rise of population, development of resources and progressive civilization, in particular, because of better communication, multiculturalism is today not confined to just one country; it is now a universal phenomenon.

One major area of human difference is ethnicity. Others significant differences relate to food, clothing, care of one’s health and man’s relation with his maker. Each of these factors creates problems in a multicultural society.

There is one school of thought that advocates living according to nature. That is I believe in a way to live the life of animals. We already live like animals vitally: we are born like them, eat and drink like them, seek partners and have children, suffer from diseases and accidents, then at last die. The other day it was found that certain animals have girl friends like us. We already know bees, insects and some other creatures have very organized life and society. The life that the worker bee lives is thought to be the ideal one. In August 2005 workers working in a forest at Holystone in Northumberland discovered an ant hill as big as an aboriginal hut in Africa, which included a sunbathing patio. This hut must have taken several years to construct. The species is a rare one known as *formica lugubris*. However, insects and animals perform even such Herculean or sophisticated tasks instinctively. Man today has been able to achieve wonders apparently in keen competition with nature itself but

contd. to page 5...

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