

Meera, A lady of principle

It is with deep sense of grief and sorrow that I pen these lines about “Meera Villavarayar”, who passed away recently and attained the holy feet of god Siva. She hailed from an illustrious family in Jaffna and later shifted to Colombo. She had a decent life, keeping up with her family traditions, till she breathed last.

I came to know her when I was transferred to the National Institute of Education, Maharagama, as the director, department of Tamil language and subsequently the Assistant Director General, Language Co-ordination Division.

At the same time National Institute of Education, Meera was working as a project officer, in the department of Aesthetic Education. She was the sole officer, vested with the responsibility of curriculum development; learning and teaching materials preparation of teachers guide; conducting short term courses for master teachers etc. in the subject area such as Carnatic music, Art, Bharath Dance and Drama and theatre in Tamil medium. Meera was the only Tamil staff officer handling all these activities. She carried out her duties with a sense of responsibility and service mindedness.

Meera has gone through thick and thin during her life time. A remarkable feature of her character is her firm standing for principles always and not compromising her stand for any favor or pressure at feet. She takes decisions on her own whether in the family or in the workplace and execute them successfully. She would call a spade, a spade and always plain speaking and straight forward. In fact, she was a lady of principle.

Meera brought up her only daughter vanathy, singly with love and affection, providing all her needs, in an excellent manner. Vanathy got married and settled in life in Canada. Vanathy is very affectionate to and fond of her mother. Meera was ailing for sometime towards the tail end of her life. Vanathy was by the side of her mother and looked after her very well.

Meera was a highly qualified and talented Carnatic vocalist and educationist in Sri Lanka. As the chief project officer, attached to the department of Aesthetics education, at the National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka; her contribution to promotion, propaganda and quality advancement of Aesthetics education, particularly in the subjects of carnatic music, bharatha natyam, drama and theatre and Art in the Tamil Medium schools of Sri Lanka, was tremendous and can hardly be over emphasized. This is no exaggeration, but an actual fact. As the Assistant Director General, Language co-ordination division of the N.I.E., I had the opportunity to observe and know of her work and contributions to the development of Aesthetics education in the school system.

Meera Villavarayar, started her career, as a graduate in Carnatic music and subsequently obtained Master's degree and also earned a doctorate in Carnatic Music. She had authored a number of books pertaining to learning and teaching of Carnatic Music, suitable for students and teachers.

Meera is sadly missed and fondly remembered by her beloved daughter, Vanathy; her son-in-law; and grandson; and also her relations, friends and the entire carnatic music world in general.

May her soul rest in peace at the holy feet of lord Siva.

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