



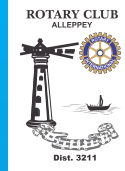
# Royalweeks



ROTARY CLUB OF ALLEPPEY DISTRICT 3211  
CHARTERED AS 7339TH CLUB ON 25.07.1949

We meet on Wednesdays at 7.00pm  
at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey

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## Life is not fair- The world is not a wish granting factory

Having a bad day, a nagging feeling life and fate has not been fair to you, everything you do earnestly fails. May I gently remind you something which you have forgotten? Life is not fair. It is a fact and neither pessimism nor it is a complaint. It is the way things are. Nobody like it and this has been in our mind since childhood. When some other kid has something you do not have then we say - 'this is not fair'.

There seems to be a lot of talk these days about what is fair, and what is not. We believe life should be fair – that “everybody should have a fair stake.” But 99% seem to believe life has treated them unfairly, and the remaining 1% percent feel life hasn't treated them fairly enough. My questions are these: What is fair? Is life fair? Should life be fair? You decide...

We clearly have no choice about how we come into this world, we have little choice early in life, but as we grow older choices abound. I have long believed that while we have no control over the beginning of our life, the overwhelming majority of us have the ability to influence the outcomes we attain. Fair is a state of mind, and most often, an unhealthy state of mind.

In life both personal and professional most of us are beneficiaries of the outcomes we have contributed to. Our station in life cannot, or at least should not, be blamed on our

parents, our teachers, our gurus, our government, or our society – it is largely based on the choices we make, and the attitudes we adopt.

People have over come poverty, drug addiction, incarceration, abuse, divorce, mental illness, victimization, and virtually every challenge known to man. Life is full of examples of the uneducated, the mentally and physically challenged, people born impoverished backgrounds, who could have complained about life being unfair, but who instead chose a different path – they chose to overcome the odds and to leave the world better than they found it. Regardless of the challenges they faced, they had the character to choose contribution over complaint.

I agree that challenges do exist. I do not even dispute that many have an uphill battle due to the severity of the challenges they face. What I dispute is attempting to regulate, adjudicate, or

Continued..

Starting today we need to forget what is gone, appreciate what still remains and look forward to what is coming next.

.....  
If you expect the world to be fair because you are fair, you are fooling yourself. That is like expecting the lion not to attack and eat you because you did not attack him.

.....  
The best thing about the past is that it shows you what not to bring into your future.

.....  
Every test in our life makes us bitter or better. Every problem comes to make or break us. The choice is ours whether we become victim or victor.



RI-President



K.R. Ravindran

President



Adv. V. Deepak

District Governor



C. Luke

Assistant Governor



Prof. S.Gopinathan Nair

legislate fairness somehow solves the world's problems. Mandates do not create fairness, but people's desire and determination can work around or overcome most life challenges. It doesn't matter whether you are born with a silver spoon, plastic spoon, or no spoon at all. It's not the circumstances by which you come into this world, but what you make of them once you arrive that matter. We have read stories of success from very humble backgrounds.

I would like to quote instances from the epic Mahabharata of one character Karna and how life played a cruel game on him. He was at the receiving end all through his life, was so humble and led a respectable life, so respectable, that people still respect him today. Karna was literally abandoned by his mother. Kunti, the princess was given a boon by sage Durvasa that she could invoke a mantra and call any god and have a child. While still unmarried, she called Surya (sun god) and Karna was born. Kunti, was ashamed of this "bastard" and didn't know how to explain the birth. So she put the child in a basket on a river. He was refused the knowledge of warfare, because he was a charioteer's son. Karna was brought up by a charioteer, a class much lower than the mighty Kshatriyas. But in his blood, he was a warrior. He went to Dronacharya to learn warfare, but he rejected his proposal, because he was not a Kshatriya. Undaunted with a thirst for learning, he disguised himself as a brahmin to learn warfare from Parshurama. And learned everything there is to learn about warfare. Such was his dedication. Parshurama cursed him even though he knew that Karna was a Kshatriya. He knew Karna lied about being a brahmin. He cursed that Karna would lose all essential knowledge of weaponry when he would need them the most. After the Pandavas and the Kauravas finish their training, a grand gala was organized where they showed off their awesome skills. Karna made his way to this gala, and did feats that left all the Pandavas and Kauravas embarrassed. He outshone each of them. Then he was chased away from the place by Drona for not being a Kshatriya – Drona also accused Karna of adharma, because he thought that Karna stole all the military knowledge because he was not entitled to it. At Draupadi's Swayamwar, Karna shoots the fish before Arjuna. But was rejected by Draupadi. She proclaimed in front of the whole crowd that she would never marry a low caste. Karna accepted this and walked away. Once when Karna was practicing his archery, he accidentally killed a cow. The cow belonged to a brahmin, who was enraged. He cursed Karna that he will also be killed by an arrow when he is the most helpless. Karna was killed when he was trying to remove his chariot wheel from the mud. Once, a small girl was carrying a bowl of ghee to her mother and she accidentally spills it on the ground. She was very afraid that her mother would scold her for this. Karna decided to help her by invoking powerful incantations to squeeze ghee out of Earth itself. This caused great pain to Mother Earth and she cursed Karna, that when he would be the most vulnerable, she would abandon him. Thus, his chariot wheel could not be taken out of the mud it was stuck in. Before the Kurukshetra war started, both camps were supposed to appoint a commander-in-chief and Duryodhana nominated Karna. Bhishma refused to fight under or along with a warrior who was not a kshatriya. So Karna was humiliated once again and had to wait until Bhishma fell, so that he could take part in the battle. Karna was born with impenetrable golden armour – a gift from his father – Surya. Indra – knew that this armour would prevent Karna's death, and so went in a disguise to ask for the armour. The armour is attached to him and is a bodily part. He nevertheless ripped out the armour and gave it away. All the while he knew it was trick and he recognised the man in disguise was Indra himself. When the Kurukshetra war was almost at close, the Pandavas were reeling from the assault by Karna. Karna had defeated every Pandava brother except for Arjuna. One night after the battle, Kunti approached Karna and appealed to him to not kill any Pandavas. Karna agreed and said that she will have all her five sons. He said this in spite of knowing that Kunti was his mother and she too knew that Karna was her son. On the day Arjuna faced off with Karna, the weather was horrible. Arjuna's chariot wheel was stuck in the mud while fighting Karna and Karna stopped fighting, because it was not fair. Krishna and Arjuna pulled the chariot wheel free and then the fighting resumed. Then Karna's chariot wheel got stuck. And all the curses followed. He forgot the incantations to divine weapons. Arjuna killed him when he was the most vulnerable. When he was in the mud, dying, Krishna came forth in a brahmin's disguise and asked for some alms from Karna. Karna took a stone from the ground and broke two of his gold teeth and gave it to the brahmin. The brahmin cursed Karna for giving him teeth with saliva on it. Karna, almost dead, took a bow and arrow and punctured Earth so that there was a spring of water to wash the teeth clean. He offered the clean gold teeth to Krishna. Krishna was so impressed by Karna, he showed him his Vishwaroopam. Thus, Karna became only the third mortal to see this vision.

All his life, Karna was ridiculed, shamed and humiliated. He was shamed by fate itself. He never stopped learning, and never stopped fighting. He never stopped being a loyal friend to Duryodhana. He never refused to stand up for what he believed in – Dharma. And the most important of all – he never stopped giving. He gave away his most valuable at a request, even though he knew how cruel fate was.

Stories such as these are all around us – they are not miracles, nor are they the rare exception. They do however demonstrate blindness to the mind set of the fairness doctrine. From a leadership perspective, it is a leader's obligation to do the right thing, regardless of whether or not it is perceived as the fair thing. When leaders attempt to navigate the slippery slope of fairness, they will find themselves arbiter of public opinion and hostage to the politically correct. Fair is not a standard to be imposed. Fair blends to a norm, and in doing so, it limits, inhibits, stifles, and restricts, all under the guise of balance and equality. I believe fair only exists as a rationalization or justification.

Rule 1: Life is not fair — get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make 12 lacs a year right out of high school. You will not be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Washing a car or being a salesman in a grocery shop or doing a low paid job is not beneath your dignity. Successful and brave people had a different word for this— they called it opportunity.

Take heart from the story of Karna and face it nonetheless, without fear of failure and without any interruption in learning. At the end of the day, all that matters is whether you were unflinching in the eye of a cruel fate and stayed your path? In real life, fate does seem to be cruel and life unfair. But remember and believe all that happens, happens for the good.

**Weather the storm and live your life in humility, generosity and dignity – just like Karna.**

**Rtn. PHF S Sasidharan**

## Club Business

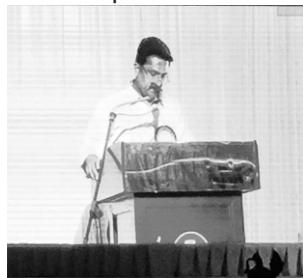
### Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2015

The meeting was called to order by the President Rtn. Adv. V Deepak. Rtn. T Sivakumar invoked the blessing of Almighty. One minute silence was observed in respect of those who lost life and dear ones in Chennai Floods.

In Presidential address Adv. Deepak welcomed Rtn. Rajeev Warriar (Chairman District Youth Service Seminar) and Rtn. Vidyadharan to the meeting. Rtn. Rajeev Warriar requested Rotarians from club to attend in good numbers for seminar on 13/12/2015. President informed that club will be conducting election of office bearers for the year 2016-17 on 30/12/2015, and also informed that X'mas and New Year celebrations will be held on 23rd of this month. He also requested a healthy participation towards Youth Service Seminar on 13/12/2015. He said that WINS project at GGHS will commence shortly and plan to inaugurate on Jan 06 by District Governor while his visit to our club.



AG Rtn. Prof Gopinathan Nair informed about the visit of Past District Governor Rtn. Jim and delegates from Dist. 7670 North Carolina to our district. A get together was organized at Rtn. A C Santhakumars House for Zone 20 officials. Flag and Pin of Asheville Rotary Breakfast Club was exchanged to Zone 20 Members, the flag was handed over to President Rtn. Adv. Deepak. AG also detailed on accommodation facility available for District Conference.



Our President speaking at the Youth Service Seminar held in Alappuzha 13.12.2015

Rtn. T Sivakumar informed that now Chennai requires medical camps more than other form of reliefs, a Rotary District initiative in this line calls for 50 USD contribution per unit and he suggested our club joins in this initiative.

Rtn. George Thomas requested members to return completed Directory Data Collection Form at the earliest which was circulated to members earlier. He also contributed USD 50 towards Chennai flood relief initiated by Rotary.

Secretary Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal read out anniversaries for the week and in vote of thanks thanked all Rotarians for attending meeting. He also thanked Host for the day Rtn. Ashok Venugopal, then the meeting was adjourned by the President.

Rtn. Krishnan Venugopal

Tea Host for Regular Meeting on 16.12.2015, Rtn. Tomy Pulickattil

## MEMBER COLUMN

### "INDIAN SOCIETY IS TOLERANT"

The debate in the country set off after the murder of rationalists and writers by Hindutva adherents and of ordinary Muslims on the suspicion of cow slaughter can hardly said to have abated. The winter session of parliament has been all about this so far. "Secularism" and "Tolerance", in the context of our constitution and everyday life, have been discussed. The ruling party and the government have stuck to the view that the protest by writers, artists, academics, intellectuals and others is manufactured, artificial and politically motivated.

This is quite unfortunate. Such a view furthers the suspicion that the ruling party MPs, ministers and various high-profile Hindutva leaders can carry on as usual. Protesters make the point that the government has not reacted to the spread of hate. It is interesting to note that writer Amit Chowdhuri spoke of "Wahhabi Hinduism" last week, and Sashi Deshpande drew parallels with the McCarthy era in 1950's America.

Those who protest do not disagree that Indian society is tolerant; their deep disappointment is only with the government's stance. It cannot be anyone's case that India was a land of milk and honey before the current existing government. books, for instance, have often been banned before: Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses" is a reminder. But murders of writers, and governmental silence, were not a noteworthy feature. That's the difference. Silence and inaction can be interpreted as encouragement and support.

Prof.S.Gopinathan Nair



December, 23, 2015

Christmas and New Year dinner meeting at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey



Three month calender of events

December, 30, 2015

Our club elections closed meeting at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey



January, 06, 2016

District Governor's visit to the club at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey



January, 10, 2016

FIRE (Family Involved Rotary Entertainment) Camelot Convention Centre Alappuzha

February 06,07, 2016

District Conference Winsdor Castle Convention Centre, Kottayam

June 19, 2016

Awards Night Trivandrum Club, Trivandrum

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Secretary



Krishnan Venugopal

Bulletin Editor



S Sasidharan

## The four Way Test

of the things we think, say or do

- ☀️ Is it the truth?
- ☀️ Is it fair to all concerned?
- ☀️ Will it build Goodwill and better friends?
- ☀️ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## Family Gallery

### Creative Advertising Campaigns



Employee: I'm not feeling safe in India. Please send me onsite to any foreign country.

Manager: I just came to know we have open positions in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, all over Africa ....

Kindly initiate your VISA process for the same.

Employee: Sir, I have lost my passport



### Happy Birthday

Abraham Joseph Thayyil	12.12.2015
George Samuel	14.12.2015
Kavitha Radhakrishnan	16.12.2015
Rithika Murugan	17.12.2015
Shayama Vijayakumar	18.12.2015

### Wedding Anniversary

George Zachariya	George	27.12.2015
Boney Mani	Thomas	27.12.2015

Molly Thomas	19.12.2015
Appu Raju Chandy	20.12.2015
Aswathy Sivasadas	21.12.2015
Soumya Aju	23.12.2015

Contributions, suggestions can be sent to the editor: [alleppeyrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:alleppeyrotaryclub@gmail.com)

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