



New Zealand Lanka

Newsletter of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation Incorporated

Volume 25 Spring 2004

From the President....

New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation has entered its seventh year in existence with a sense of pride and satisfaction of a job wonderfully done in the preceding years. The new committee took office on the 24th of July 2004 and look forward to yet another exiting and eventful year ahead. I have no doubt the new committee has the dedication and commitment to face up to the challenges that entail with such an important social assignment.

Even before the new committee took office, the line up of events was looming in the horizon, as natural with that of any mature organization. Our next major event; the Annesley and Indrani Musical show is scheduled to be held on the 24th of October at the Dorothy Winstone Centre at Auckland Girls' Grammar School. We look forward to providing our music lovers a bundle of quality music with a different tinge to that of classical Sri Lankan music. I am sure many of you will be with us to enjoy this evening. Annesley Malawana and Indrani Perera are names that need no introduction to Sri Lankan music lovers. They visit us after a very successful tour in Canada and the UK during September 2004. They are scheduled to perform in Sydney and Melbourne before leaving for New Zealand on 23 October 2004. The 'Cream' lead by Hemantha Fernando with their mettle tested and proven in the recent past will back the two artists.

During the past six years, we have served our community in diverse ways catering to the needs of the time. However, reflecting back on the past and peeping into the future, I feel the need of re-assessing our stock and taking bearings for future direction. This, I trust comes naturally with any organization that aspire to adapt to the changes that occur globally and also locally in macro and micro socio-economic levels. With this in mind we would endeavour to find new avenues of serving our community at large locally, and also helping our motherland in whichever way possible. I am confident that our membership will be supportive of such worthy undertakings. While assuring you of our best services at all times, we look forward to your continued support in all our future endeavours.

We have always valued the diversity as something that enrich our lives. It is our strong belief that working together harmoniously with different ethnic and cultural groups would bring about the much-needed improvement in the quality of life for all. We will put together all our energy and resources to achieve this end.

Dharmasena Maddugoda

New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation Presents...

Annesley & Indrani

Golden Voices from:
The Super Golden Chimes & The Three Sisters

SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER, 2004
(Labour weekend, Monday holiday)
7pm @ The Dorothy Winstone Centre,
Auckland Girls' Grammar

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Next Event:

Annesley and Indrani Musical Show

Our next major event is Annesley and Indrani Musical Show to be held at the Dorothy Winstone Centre at Auckland Girls' Grammar School on 24 October at 7.00pm.

This is yet another opportunity for our music lovers to enjoy an evening with two renowned musicians from Sri Lanka.

This is the seventh musical event organized by the foundation with Sri Lankan artists of the highest calibre.

Calendar of Events:

24 Oct 04: Annesley and Indrani Show

31 Dec 04: Lanka Nite 2004

12 Feb 05: Annual Summer outing.

19 March 05: Taranaki Festival

Food for thought....Global Warming...

Global warming is an important issue no one living on Earth can afford to ignore. Following are excerpts from the latest issue of the National Geographic, September 2004. This opens our eyes to the impending danger and to the measures that we as individuals can take to alleviate the impact.

“Global warming can seem too remote to worry about, or too uncertain – something projected by the same computer techniques that often can’t get next week’s weather right. On a raw winter day you might think that a few degrees of warming wouldn’t be such a bad thing anyway. And no doubt about it: warnings about climate change can sound like an environmentalist scare tactic, meant to force us out of our cars and cramp our lifestyles.

Comforting thoughts, perhaps. But the facts revealed by a recent study have some unsettling news. From Alaska to the peaks of the Andes the world is heating up right now, and fast. Globally, the temperature is up one degree F over the past century, but some of the coldest, most remote places have warmed much more. The results aren’t pretty. Ice is melting, rivers are running dry, and coasts are eroding, threatening communities. Flora and Fauna are feeling the heat too. These aren’t projections; they are facts on the ground.

The changes are happening largely out of sight. But they shouldn’t be out of mind, because they are omens of what’s in store for the rest of the planet.

Wait a minute, some doubters say. Climate is notoriously fickle. A thousand years ago Europe was balmy and wine grapes grew in England; 400 years ago the climate had turned chilly and the Thames froze repeatedly. Don’t bet on it, says climate experts. Sure, the natural rhythms of the climate might explain a few of the warming signs.

For centuries we’ve been cleaning forests and burning coal, oil and gas pouring carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere faster than plants and oceans can soak them up. The atmosphere’s level of carbon dioxide is higher than it has been for hundreds of thousands of years.” We’re now geological agents, capable of affecting the processes that determine climate.”

Human activity almost certainly drove most of the past century’s warming, a landmark report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) declared in 2001. Global temperatures are shooting up faster than any other time in the past thousand years. And climate models show that natural forces, such as volcanic eruptions and the slow flickers of the sun, can’t explain all that warming.

Already we’ve pumped out enough greenhouse gases to warm the planet for many decades to come. “We have created the environment in which our children and grandchildren are going to live,” says Tim Barnett of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. We owe it to them to prepare for higher temperatures and changed weather - and to avoid compounding the damage.

It won’t be easy for a world addicted to fossil fuels to limit emissions. Three years ago the United States spurned the Kyoto Protocol, citing cost. But even Kyoto would barely slow the rise in heat trapping gases. Controlling the increase “would take 40 successful Kyotos” says Jerry Mahlman of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research. “But we’ve got to do it.”

The signs of warming are striking enough, but they are just a taste of the havoc the next century could bring. Can we act in time to avert the worst of it? The Earth will tell.

Tim Appenzeller: Senior Editor, Science National Geographic.

The Facts:

More than a hundred million people worldwide live within three feet of mean sea level. The annual monsoon rains that sweep into southern and eastern Asia on the heels of the dry season may increase in intensity as a result of climate warming. Rising ocean temperatures could increase the incidence of cholera, and more rain could lead to crop reduction and increase malnutrition. (Maldives tops out at less than eight feet).

Sea level rising:

As ice melts and warmer seawater expands, the oceans will rise. How much depends largely on how much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases we continue to emit. (In Bangladesh at just over three feet of rise, 70 million people could be displaced. 75 percent of Louisiana wetlands would be destroyed at just over 1.5feet. Many low-lying South Sea Islands are at further risk of flooding at about 4 inches.

A big difference:

Climate fluctuates naturally between warm and cool periods. But the twentieth century has seen the greatest warming in at least a thousand years, and natural forces can’t account for it all. The rise of carbon dioxide and other heat trapping gases in the atmosphere has contributed; both greenhouse gases and temperature are expected to continue rising. Taking steps now to rein in greenhouse gas emissions could limit these impacts.

Our contribution:

Dear reader, tune your car today. This will reduce the emission of carbon dioxide in to the atmosphere. It may not seem a big step. However, imagine a million people do it today. This can be one small step for us as individuals. Collectively done, it will certainly be one giant leap for the entire mankind.

We are proud to be in New Zealand who has signed the Kyoto Protocol, while economic giants like the USA opted out citing cost. – Editor.

A Migrant Expo...

A Migrant Expo sponsored by the ‘Migrant News’ newspaper and the ASB Bank will be held at the Alexandra Park function centre in Greenlane, Auckland from 23-24 October (Labour weekend) from 10 am - 5 p.m. The Expo will include information and workshops on employment and settlement issues. Entry is free.

For more information, visit www.migrantexpo.co.nz
<http://www.migrantexpo.co.nz/>

The weeping heartland of Sri Lanka...

Like many of our compatriots living overseas we treasure the pleasures of making a trip to Anuradhapura whenever we visit our motherland. A quick trip either through Kurunegala or through Puttalam and a day’s stay visiting all the places of worship and cultural interest is a must for most of us.

Anuradhapura symbolises to us the ancient grandeur of our proud culture and civilization. It is the “King Country” (Raja-

Rata) where the foundation of our civilization was laid and our history was made. Raja-rata is where the marvels of ingenuity of our forefathers during a history spanning more than 2000 years lay hidden.

The marvels of civil engineering of imposing “stupas” that have lasted centuries are more conspicuous by their breathtaking size. The mind boggling sophistication has been exhibited in recent archaeological findings under UNESCO assisted Cultural triangle Project. Well preserved ruins of a 1500-year-old international Buddhist University in Abhayagiri site includes water-flushed toilets!

The sophistication of ancient irrigation technology and engineering skills has baffled foreign professionals. The “Jaya-ganga” (the River of Victory) transferring water from Kalawewa to the Anuradhapura city reservoir system with only a few inches of gradient for miles and miles still carries water effectively. Another well-publicised irrigation engineering feat is the 1500 year old sluice (sorowwa) of the ancient Maduru Oya reservoir found during the foundation excavation for the sluice of the modern Maduru Oya reservoir exactly at the same place located using modern high tech irrigation engineering skills. (Old bricks from the sluice were radiocarbon dated in America to determine the age).

Appreciating these marvels while living in countries like US, Australia or New Zealand is difficult because the modern history of these countries hardly extend beyond the last two hundred years, and no parallels can be found. New Zealand's first inhabitants (the Maori) arrived in the “Land of the Long White Cloud” (Aotearoa) around one thousand years ago. When Anuradhapura was a flourishing civilization, New Zealand was uninhabited and was in the midst of its geological formation. What is believed to be the world's biggest volcanic eruption (more than 100 times larger than Krakatoa eruption) that made the large volcanic lake of Taupo occurred during that time.

When we make our flying visit to Anuradhapura through the southern region of the Dry Zone we miss the opportunity to come face-to-face with the reality today. The reality is that this venerated King-country, which supported the citadel of Sri Lanka's civilization, is now the weeping heartland of our motherland!

It is the old and new villages north of Anuradhapura that has an agonizing story of abject poverty and suffering to tell the world.

Rajarata is naturally disadvantaged because of seven rainless months (the reason for the region to be called the “Dry Zone”) that makes it dependant on the erratic northeast monsoon rains. That is why almost all of our great Kings made it their public duty to conserve rainwater through intricately interrelated systems and subsystems of reservoirs and irrigation canals. Ancient villages (purana-gam) were located on the highlands adjacent to the village tank and the paddy lands in the Tank's command area received gravitational irrigation to supplement water during the main season (Maha cultivation) and a restricted water supply during the second season (Yala).

Participatory management of water resources was the hallmark of this hydraulic civilization. Even private rights to property were voluntarily surrendered by customs such as “bethma-cultivation” under which the villagers agreed to restrict the yala cultivation in par with the reservoir water levels, and let the families who did not get water for their land down stream to

cultivate voluntarily allocated up-stream land belonging to others. When large irrigation reservoirs and settlement schemes were developed after independence, the same model was followed. Both in the old villages and in the new irrigation settlements, the maintenance of the reservoir and the canal systems was of paramount importance. If it failed the whole livelihood of the village was at peril.

More than two decades of civil war that siphoned off most of the government's financial resources for defence has virtually starved this region of any substantial government investment resulting in the dereliction of essential agricultural and social infrastructure. Due to the lack of resources, irrigation system maintenance has been neglected to the point of total collapse. Decaying school buildings, lack of teachers, inadequate health facilities, poorly managed rural hospitals etc are evident everywhere. The vagaries of the weather such as long drawn out droughts have added to this debacle pushing the people into untold misery.

Consider the fate of the people in Weli-Oya area, living in the cradle of Sri Lankan culture and civilization dating back to more than 2500 years. Archaeological remains abound in the Weli-Oya environs. Already, nearly 30 sites have been identified. But today it is a vanishing village, beset by hunger, disease and the fast deteriorating economic and social infrastructure critical to support a community. Families are leaving the Weli Oya area in droves to settle down in the better parts of the Anuradhapura district, or even in areas further south of the Anuradhapura district because of the fast deteriorating socio-economic conditions and the lack of support from outside.

Weli-Oya basin where 17,000 families used to live is part of the system “L” of Mahaveli Authority, and it is perhaps the most disadvantaged community in this weeping heartland. Their villages are located east of Medawachchiya, 14 miles away of the Padaviya Reservoir. The villagers have been facing severe hardships during the last two decades. There is no school for a student to study science subjects within a distance of 100 km. There is no base hospital this side of the same distance. There are no “resident” doctors or nurses or other medical personnel except a few midwives. No medicine in hospitals, and there is a serious problem of kidney troubles in the area. The lack of safe drinking water is yet another serious problem. In September this year, 130 families were medically examined and it was found that there were 72 suspected cases of kidney troubles. Finally, the medical tests have to be suspended for the fear of people fleeing away from the region being fearful of the prevalence of kidney disease.

A unique administrative situation has made their lives harsher. Due to four district boundaries converging in the Weli Oya basin the villages are divided among Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Mulaitivu and Anuradhapura Districts. The area is nominally placed under the administration of Anuradhapura, which is 72 miles away. More than the distance, the outlandish location closer to LTTE held areas has made it an area of difficult access.

One of the most common objectives of organizations of Sri Lankans living abroad is to help preserve and further develop the Sri Lankan culture. Most of these organizations are keen to support their brethren in Sri Lanka who are in distress. Helping our people living in the weeping heartland of our culture therefore becomes a task closer to our hearts. If we are sparing a moment to think of helping our motherland, the weeping heartland of Weli-Oya stands up as a prime

candidate. Weli-Oya cannot survive for long without the help from those who are relatively better off.

Ananda Weerasinghe

NZSLF Member Appointed as Director of Ethnic Affairs....

Mervin Singham, who has been a member and a supporter of NZSLF has been appointed as the new director of Ethnic Affairs at the office of Ethnic Affairs. Mervyn was born in Malaysia but his late father was of Sri Lankan origin.

He was the chief mediator of the Human Rights commission before he was appointed for his new position. A law graduate from New Zealand, Mervyn has had an illustrious career at the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator. The Sri Lankan community is delighted to congratulate Mervyn on his new appointment and would like to wish him well in his future.

Health Watch...Osteoporosis...

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break. Osteoporosis can progress painlessly until a bone break. These broken bones are also known as fractures occur typically in the hip, spine and wrist. Any bone could be affected, but special concern is fractures of the hip and spine as they almost always require hospitalization, surgery and prolong or permanent disability. One in two women and one in four men over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their remaining life time. Osteoporosis is often called the 'silent disease' because bone loss occurs without symptoms. People may not know that they have osteoporosis until a sudden strain, bump or fall causes a fracture or a vertebra to collapse. Collapsed vertebrae may initially be felt in the form of a severe back pain or seen as loss of height or stooped posture.

Who are at risk?

Female gender- women have lighter, thinner bones than men. At the age of 35, men have 30% more bone than women. Bone loss also occurs much more slowly in men than women.

Age- Before the age of mid 30s, woman gains more bone than it loses and around age 35 these processes balances out. When a woman reaches menopause which results in decrease production of female hormone estrogen, leads to bone loss. Woman who has severe bone loss or experience early menopause are at greater risk than others.

Race- Asian and Caucasian women are at greater risk for osteoporosis

Family history- Women whose family members have had osteoporosis are at risk.

Certain diseases- Women who have anorexia (eating disorder), diabetes, chronic diarrhea or kidney diseases are at an increased risk.

Life style- Cigarette smoking, too much alcohol, inadequate calcium intake, little or no weight bearing exercises increases your chance of developing osteoporosis.

Although there is no cure for osteoporosis, there are steps you can take to prevent or to slow or stop its progress. Even though some of the risk factors cannot be changed, life style changes can help prevent this disease. Osteoporosis may be prevented by maintaining a proper diet (adequate in both calcium and vit D; refer- table2) and appropriate level of physical activity and exercise, no smoking and limited alcohol intake. Both men and women should ensure that their calcium and vitamin D intake is adequate (table 1). If recommended by a doctor, calcium supplement can help older people maintain sufficient calcium intake. Vitamin D is necessary for the body to absorb calcium and deposit in bones. The skin, when direct exposure to sun for about 15 minutes each day is sufficient to maintain Vit D level.

Table 1 daily dietary requirement

		Calcium	Vitami n D
Adolescents / young adults (11-24 years)	(both male and female)	1,200- 1,500 mg	2.5µg
Men 25- 65years	Women 25-50 years	1,000 mg	2.5µg
Men over 65 years	Women over 50 years	1,500 mg	2.5µg

Table 2

Food	Calcium per 100g	Vit D per Kg
Dried sprats	2480 mg	-
Dark green vegetables	250-500 mg	-
Skimmed milk	1235 mg	-
cheese	790 mg	-
Cashew nut/ sesame seeds	1200 mg	-
Fish liver oil	-	250-10,000 µg
Egg yolk	-	662 µg
Fish	-	2.5-12.5 µg
butter	-	10 µg

Osteoporosis shouldn't be considered as a disease of old people, because preventive steps need to be taken earlier in life. By about age 20, the average woman has acquired 98% of her skeletal mass. Building strong bones, during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense against developing osteoporosis later. Exercise is also important for good bone health. If you exercise regularly in child hood and adolescence, you are more likely to reach your peak bone density than those

who are inactive. The best exercise for your bones is weight-bearing exercises such as walking, dancing, jogging, stair climbing, racquet sports and hiking. Bone mineral density test (BMD), a painless diagnostic test is the only way to diagnose osteoporosis and determine your future risk of fracture. It is never too late to start your prevention programme, which is;

- Get your daily recommended amounts of calcium and vitamin D,
- Engage in regular weight bearing exercise,
- Avoid smoking and excessive alcohol,
- Talk to your doctor about bone health.

Teckla Perera

An interview with an inspiring Sri Lankan – Amitha Weerakoon...

It is great to meet a Sri Lankan who has made it to the top of his career by sheer hard work and determination in a country where the majority of migrants struggle to achieve career success.

Amitha Weerakoon who hails originally from Gampola, Sri Lanka is one such person. Amitha studied initially at St Anthony's College, Katugastota in his native Kandy but moved to Colombo and started his schooling at Thurstan College where his cricketing career commenced. He played first eleven cricket in the early 80's and moved onto play First Division cricket for Normads Cricket Club before migrating to New Zealand. Some of his contemporary cricketers who played club cricket during this era were Arjuna Ranatunga, Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda De Silva. His cricket brought him his first job in Sri Lanka and he was offered a trainee tea tasters job under the famous Sri Lankan cricketer Michael Tissera at Brooke Bonds in Colombo. Then he moved to JEDB (Janatha Estates Development Board) as a Tea Taster.

Amitha migrated to New Zealand in 1988. As his profession as a tea taster was not one that was in demand in NZ, he decided to start studying and commenced a diploma in Management course at the Unitec. He also worked the graveyard shift (11 pm to 7 am.) at a petrol station to support himself. One of his clients offered him a position to work at Whitcoulls in 1992.

His interest in cricket did not diminish although his life was busy studying and working and he started playing premium cricket for Grafton in the 1980s. Amitha recalls that the first wicket he took in Auckland was that of Adam Parore.

At the time there were not many Sri Lankans in Auckland but there were a few who were keen on playing cricket. Some of these decided to set up a cricket club and the Sri Lankan Cricket Club was born in 1990 as a result of the efforts of these people such as Sunitha Goonathilaka and Davine Naidoo. Amitha was its founding president and held the presidency for the next ten years. Starting with about 20 members the club grew in numbers. Two years ago, the club had 7 different teams.

Amitha is a qualified New Zealand cricket coach and has been spending much time coaching Sri Lankan youth to provide them with the opportunity of getting proper coaching on a shoestring budget. Amitha feels that he learnt cricket in Sri Lanka but could not do much for his country as he migrated fairly young and by doing something he is really good at, he feels that he is doing something for his country although he is far away from it. He still represents the club and captains a team despite his busy schedule.

Amitha also participated in the activities of the Sri Lankan community in Auckland. The United Sri Lanka Association (USLA) Auckland branch was re-launched in Auckland and Amitha was a committee member of this organization as well as its sports co-ordinator. The first Sri Lankan cricket team entered the Auckland competitions with USLA's backing.

Amitha became the president of USLA Auckland branch in 1991 and held the presidency for two terms until 1993. The celebration of the Sinhala New Year, Christmas function, cultural shows, Sinhala classes etc were some of the activities started during his time at the helm. Cricket encounters between Hamilton and Auckland also were started during this period.

Having started small and without having a string of degrees after his name, Amitha has managed to create himself a very rewarding and successful management career in New Zealand. He started working as a retail assistant at Whitcoulls and became a supervisor after 3 months. In 1995, after working in about 8 different stores in Auckland, he was promoted to be the manager of the Glenfield branch. Glenfield was one of the underperforming branches but became a top-performing branch under his management within a short time. Amitha attributes his success to looking after his customers and also making sure that his staff are happy.

Amitha says that Whitcoulls has 85 branches throughout New Zealand. Now Amitha manages the Whitcoulls Corner branch in Queen Street, which is the biggest branch in the country with over 65 full time staff and 7 casual staff. He has worked his way up the management ladder and also made a name for himself as a troubleshooter.



When asked about his strengths as a manager, he says that he is a people's person and that he tries to bring the best in people and make his staff happy as he firmly believes that happy staff perform better. He also makes sure that he implements a good training policy and makes sure that he has regular meetings with his staff to keep communication lines open and also is approachable. He also says that being a focused and organized person goes a long way. He added that in retail, rule number one is to look after your customers. He also feels that upskilling his staff is important as the job is made much easier if staff are doing well. He also feels that his formal qualifications in business management has been helpful.

No doubt that Amitha's impeccable command of English and his excellent communication skills along with the pleasant and polite way he deals with anyone also have contributed his success.

Amitha is married to Jody and has two sons, Niko, four and a half and Taine who is two and a half.

Amitha is lucky to have his mother Mrs Gertie Weerakoon and sister Sandy who both live in Auckland. He also has a brother and another sister in Sri Lanka. Amitha's father Mr Richard Weerakoon who led the Navam Perahera celebrations in Colombo as Basnayake Nilame for many years passed away in 1987.

Amitha has been a member of the NZSLF for many years and has contributed to its success in several ways. His support with the organization of cricketfest encounters as well as his support with cultural events etc. could always be countered upon. The Foundation wishes to congratulate Amitha on his new appointment and would like to extend best wishes to him and his family and wish him success.

Asoka Basnayake

In Lighter Vein...

What Women Really Want!...

Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighbouring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him, but was moved by Arthur's youthful happiness. So he offered him freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer; if, after a year, he still had no answer, he would be killed.

The question was: 'What do women really want?'

Such a question would perplex even the most knowledgeable man, and to young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query. Well, since it was better than death, he accepted the monarch's Pro-position to have an answer by year's end. He returned to his kingdom and began to poll everybody: the princess, the priests, the wise men, and even the court jester. In all, he spoke with everyone, but no one could give him a satisfactory answer.

What most people did tell him was to consult the old witch, as only she would know the answer. The price would be high, since the witch was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged.

The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no alternative but to talk to the witch. She agreed to answer his question, but he'd have to accept her price first: 'The old witch wanted to marry Gawain, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend!'

Young Arthur was horrified: she was hunchbacked and awfully hideous, had only one tooth, smelled like sewage water, often

made obscene noises...He had never run across such a repugnant creature. He refused to force his friend to marry her and have to endure such a burden.

Gawain, upon learning of the proposal, spoke with Arthur. He told Arthur that nothing was too big of a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table.

Hence, their wedding was proclaimed, and the witch answered Arthur's question: 'What a woman really wants is to be able to be in charge of her own life.' Everyone instantly knew that the witch had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared. And so it went. The neighbouring monarch spared Arthur's life and granted him total freedom.

What a wedding Gawain and the witch had! Arthur was torn between relief and anguish. Gawain was proper as always, gentle and courteous. The old witch put her worst manners on display. She ate with her hands, belched and fretted, and made everyone uncomfortable.

The wedding night approached: Gawain, steeling himself for a horrific night, entered the bedroom. What a sight awaited! The most beautiful woman he'd ever seen lay before him! Gawain was astounded and asked what had happened.

The beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her (when she'd been a witch), half the time she would be her horrible, deformed self, and the other half, she would be her beautiful maiden self. Which would he want her to be during the day and which during the night? What a cruel question? Gawain began to think of his predicament:

During the day a beautiful woman to show off to his friend, but at night, in the privacy of his home, an old spooky witch? Or would he prefer having by day a hideous witch, but by night a beautiful woman to enjoy many intimate moments?

What would you do?

What Gawain chose follows below, but don't read until you've made your own choice.

Noble Gawain replied that he would let her choose for herself. Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time, because he had respected her and had let her be in charge of her own life.

What is the moral of this story?

THE MORAL IS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOUR WOMAN IS PRETTY OR UGLY; UNDERNEATH IT ALL, SHE'S STILL A WITCH.

(Contributed by Thesara Jayawardane)

Views expressed in articles are those of the contributing authors and may not necessarily reflect the views of the NZSLF

Contributions

This newsletter is published quarterly. We thank everybody who sent contributions to this newsletter and apologize for not being able to publish all contributions due to the limitation of the available space. Please send your contributions to the Summer Issue by the end of February 2005 to the correspondence address below, Attn:

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