

On My Tryst with Kumari Arivial Peravai

A. Rju Mohan

Let me start with a modified version of a poem written by W.B. Yeats ("An Irish



Airman Foresees His Death):

*"I balance all, I bring all to mind,
The years to come seem wealth of wisdom,
A wealth of wisdom, the year behind;
In balance with this life, this wisdom."*

A life of wisdom - that is the greatest achievement a student like myself can hope for; and an enabling opportunity that opens up the path toward it - that is a covetous offer a student like myself can pray for. And I have been fortunate to be offered that opportunity, along with other 59 students of various schools of rural Kanyakumari. We are all ever grateful to Kumari Arivial Peravai for that offer of opportunity that has made a great deal of difference in our life. It is those precious moments of my tryst with Kumari Arivial Peravai that I recount here.

In echo with the above poem, let me state that fine days we have had in the year behind, and finer days we will have for the years to come.

Fine days we have had in the year behind, because we have been with the Kumari Arivial Peravai. We have had many an inspiring experience of imbibing science

under the expert guidance of KAP organizer, ever-inspiring Sri Velaian Sir and his team of scientists, consultants, coordinators and guide teachers.

Fine days we have had because we have seen our horizon of wisdom expand like the ever-expanding space as we have travelled in the KAP-rocket. We now feel empowered with a firm confidence rooted in enriched and expanding wisdom. Gone are the days of darkness of ignorance. Gone are the days of timidity out of that ignorance. Thanks to KAP, and thanks so many for the light shown in the darkness, for the right path towards wisdom, for the power of science.

Fine days we have had till now with KAP, and finer days we will have for the years to come, because we are now the KAP-crowned Young Scientists. We feel proud for that crown. But we very well know that we have covered only one step forward. We feel humble before the fact that we have achieved one, only one drop of light from that vast ocean of wisdom. But we are sure that makes us strive for more light, more and more light, to cover further steps forward. And thanks to KAP, and thanks so many for giving us the enabling opportunity to imbibe that first light.