

Voice of Shakthi Thursday 02 November 2000

Well, it's been proved again!

The best method to raise the Lion spirit among the Sinhalese it seems, is to give them all a generous dollop of Arrack, or should it be kasippu?

The horrendous massacre at Bindunuwewa is yet another example of two thousand five hundred years of culture at last finding its true destiny in protecting our dearly beloved Motherland. Armed with righteous indignation, and generous volumes of the aforementioned brew, we have shown we are prepared yet again to face our enemies come hell or high water.

There is the little matter of armed forces compliance and that it takes about 3,000 Sinhalese to massacre 31 Tamil youths in a detention centre, but what the hell, the deed has been done and we can sing hosannas to our saviours who have wiped out yet another terrorist menace for ever from the hill country.

We presume we can now all retire to our beds in the knowledge that if not for the efforts of these "weerayas", the Motherland would be subjugated to these infidels who have no appreciation of our age-old culture and our genteel ways.

As for the abhorrence and disgust felt throughout the world for this cowardly attack, we can always offer the excuse that it was done by extremist elements and no way reflects on the ordinary Sinhalese, for we are not racists, you see?

No, that excuse is not good enough for what happened at Bindunuwewa. For, as Edmund Burke once said, the world is an evil place not because of people who do evil but because of people who allow it to happen. And the entire Sinhala race has to take the blame for this terrible repetition of the events of July 1983.

To try and shift the blame to the detainees, as the Government has done, is reprehensible. In a civilised country, to protest over the forcible incarceration of people for years, some as young as twelve years, for extended lengths of times under the infamous Prevention of Terrorism Act, should be a democratic right. To kill such protesters in cold blood, while the guardians of the law looked on, is an act which deserves the highest condemnation.

Our President it seems, is appointing Commissions of Inquiry, left, right and centre to find out exactly what is happening all over the island. The sad fact is, she has lost control of the situation entirely, in her quest to hang on to power at all costs. Despite her early good intentions, the fact remains that she does not have the capacity nor the willingness to check the extremist elements in the country who are bent on destroying Sri Lanka.

And the massacre of Bindunuwewa should be an abject lesson to our expatriate weerayas too. Your dollars and pounds sterling are not going to save your Motherland. In case you didn't know, it is going into the hands of

goons and extremists whose last thought is the establishment of a society for peace, unity, and protection of the human rights of Sri Lankans.