

## **Voice of Shakthi Thursday 09 August 2001**

These days it is not uncommon to hear some of our so-called Sinhala patriots in Melbourne calling their country of origin a "Punya Bhumi" or a blessed or lucky country. According to them, there is no other country in the world that is as fortunate as Sri Lanka. Listening to their adoration of Sri Lanka one might wonder what these people are doing outside such a wonderful place . But we are not interested in answering such questions with obvious answers. Our attempt today is to take a close look at how fortunate Sri Lanka really is, in order to expose - once again - the duplicity of these people.

It was in that fortunate and blessed island that tens of thousands of youth, many of them Sinhala Buddhist youth, were killed like cattle during the years of unrest in the 70s and the 80s. The killing is still continuing in the north and the East. The people of all races who have been left homeless are counted in their hundreds of thousands. That is not all. The crime rate is also steadily on the rise with underworld killings taking place in broad daylight, often with the connivance of the authorities who are there to prevent them. Poverty-stricken parents sell their children while rape and drug peddling is showing no signs of abating.

On the other hand there is a booming business in the island's cultural treasures, once again with the backing of powerful political figures in the government and the opposition. Not only that. Sometimes the corruption extends right up to the ranks of the blessed religious leaders of the blessed land.

This is how the lucky country has lost its charm and innocence over the last few decades. But to our pseudo patriots who have taken good care to escape all that, it is still the "punya bhumi". Such falsehoods are no doubt aimed at whitewashing their own sordid personalities, already filthy from the spreading of racial hatred and the exploitation of Sinhala language and culture for personal gain. But that will only make them look even more hypocritical and pathetic than they already are.