

Make your choice, fellow tamilians!

Note from the Editors: We are publishing this feature - prose and verse - without touching it any way to give the dots and dashes and also the caps and uncaps since we want our readers to have the same feelings with which it was expressed, how we experienced it ourselves and we are sure our readers too are entitled to it. May be we should just make one small observation.

By Megan Dhakshini Shatrughan

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So, Im a Tamil.and proud of it.

Proud of my culture, proud of my language, proud of the achievements of many of my fellow tamilians all over the world. Born here, right here in sunny Sri lanka. And Ive finally decided to say something. I know Im going to ruffle a lot more than a few feathers here- possibly even have a few people get themselves off my facebook friends list , but then, I've gotten sick and tired of all the chitter-chatter around me these past two weeks, So I shall say what I have to.

Firstly, I know that Im just tired. Tired of the racism, tired of being generalized, labelled, looked down at, tired of the frikin war and everything that happened because of it. Im sure, as a tamil, you are too.
Second, I'm not too jubilant and dancing on the street now that the war is over. there was too much of a price to pay to get what is today labelled as peace. and I will not dance till it really happens. we all "know" too much about the politics. So I won't need to say much.

But, here's where the feathers get ruffled. Im happy too. Im happy that the war is "over". Happy that He is dead (oh yes, I said it). happy that maybe, just maybe, if the politicos and powers that be play thier cards right, this country- my country- can actually go somewhere. Develop. be a happy place. Maybe.

But just when I start looking at the positive side of things, I realised that suddenly the racism has actually increased. I realised that I had to keep voicing my usually quite thoughts just so that I wont be labelled anymore. and unfortunately, my dear fellow tamilians, its because of some of you.

I've been repeatedly accused of "not knowing the real story" whenever I voice my absolute disgust at the terrorist organisation that has plagued my race, and at the man some of you celebrate as a hero. and you know what? I don't care what the "real story" is anymore. I am NOT and will NOT allow anyone to label me anymore.

To the dear people who are publicly becoming "fans" of Mr.Velupillai Prabakaran, to those of you who are "fighting" for eelam because you don't want to leave your western comforts, to those of you who say its not over till all of us are killed (Im sorry, please speak for yourself), to those of you who still beleive the LTTE fought for your rights and nothing else, to those of you who say it is only because of HIM that we can walk the streets today because he has given us a voice (sorry- he has only made the others so scared to approach a tamil just in case he/she blew themselves up, so he has not given us a voice, he's just made the world frightened of tamils), to all those who after all this are still making me feel GUILTY to be a tamil, this is a plea to you to please STOP. STOP, and START trying to make a difference for a change.

Turn your patriotic songs of praise for the LTTE into some positive songs about rebuilding our fallen nation.

NO, Im not asking you to help the other terrorists, our dear government who are guilty of many many crimes, but Im asking you to help yourselves. If you live abroad, use your dollars and pounds to fund development for your people here, rather than contribute it towards arms to kill someone. If you live here, then try spreading some positivity rather than telling the whole world that the tamils can't live in peace and still want a frikkin separate state.

THIS is our country. THIS is a country that many years ago was ahead of even singapore. WHEN will we get there? When we can do things together. please knock that into your deranged brainwashed heads. PLEASE, let this , OUR country get some real happiness. Its about time.

If you think that by saying all this I'm not a real tamil, please think again. I want our race to get somewhere, but not by tramplng the others down. I know we don't have the rights of our fellow sinhalese here, but we will never get them by killing them. ever. we have to work with them. hey, be selfish for a change and do something positive so that

YOU can benefit from peace and prosperity. at least think of it that way.

Im doing my part by helping the IDP’s in whatever way I can, but I will not let myself be labelled anymore.

To all of you who were afraid of saying things to me, or when I was around because I am a tamil and you thought I shared the view of the “diaspora” supporters, now you know. I don’t blame you for generalising. its the fault of my people. but you know very well that its not thiers alone.

I can’t write kavithais , but when I listen to this song, it still gives me goosebumps, still gives me tears. justchaneg a few words here and there and we can look at it as an anthem for us to get up and do something positive, make a change. Please.

m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/43E `Ri "3/43C
 m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/4YARi `Ri "3/4YÇ Žŉi μÄYÁ †2TMí•E "3/4YÁ Žŉi±Ç šE2ÍY3/4
 Žŉi "3/4Rŉi †2TMí•Ç-ŉi Žŉi±Ç Žŉi±ÁRi "i2ÍY3/4
 m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/43E `Ri "3/43C
 m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/4YARi `Ri "3/4YÇ "i2Ri @3/4±23/4Ri •Á£ŉi 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 †Yŉi @3/4±23/4Ri "i2Ri 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 ŉE`i @3/4±23/4Ri qE•Áŉi 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 •2i @3/4±23/4Ri •EYi 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 m ŠE @3/4±23/4Ri "i2Ri 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 †šE @3/4±23/4Ri ŉE`i 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi
 "ŉi †2TMí•E ...mÁRi 'ŉi±Á m3/4ŉi μ3/4.. m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 •£i•ŉi •2TMí•3/4mÇ
 μiYi-Áŉi μiYi-Áŉi %ŉiŉi @-TMí•3/4mÇ %ŉi•Áŉiŉi †2TMí•Ç-ŉi °mŉi %ŉiŉiY3/4 †2ÍE-3/4?
 'ŉi±3/4ŉi †2TMí•E %ŉiŉi •3/4•Áŉi †2ÍE-3/4 m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/43E `Ri "3/43C
 m@i`3/4 m@i`3/4 "3/4YARi `Ri "3/4YÇ (For the benefit of those who can’t read tamil- a pretty loose translation of a song I think

can’t really be “translated”!! listen to it on youtube. search thamizha)

O! Tamil! our tomorrow is all our tomorrow
 O Tamil! this land is all our land!
 Say that my home is the Lankan motherland.
 Be firm that my name is always Sri lankan...
 The Community may vary, but the Values are one
 The Place may vary, but the Country is one
 The Language may vary, but the Meaning is one
 The Staff may vary, but the Flag is one
 the Direction may vary, but the Land is one
 The Music may be different, but the Melody is one
 We are all Lanka, we are one.
 O Tamil! Don’t shed any tears
 O Tamil! It will dawn, don’t be fade inside
 Isn’t there Sri Lankan blood inside you?
 Then won’t united Sri lanka protect you?
 Our land is common to all
 It is born out out of hard toil.
 Diversity was the fertiliser used to create it
 We are the roots that make it strong.
 O human! It is strong
 There shouldn’t be division on this land.O Lord!