

THE GRAND MATRIARCH OF MY IMAGINATION

At the very outset, let me introduce myself to all my AAFamily members as ELIZABETH GEORGE(Nee) NINAN. Being the youngest perhaps in my family, I happen to have more than one pet name &my late parents as well as my siblings call me KOCHU/ THATHA/ UNNI. The first was mostly used by my parents & my late elder sister MEMA (MARY MATHEW) , while the middle was opted for by my eldest sis & my three older brothers but the last was coined by my immediately elder late brother ANI (Dr. A.N. VERGHESE) exclusively for me. Even though the middle differs from the other two which mean almost the same ,I found that I grew up to defy that name. After marriage I prefer to be called by the name my late ma-in-law found for me ,viz , ELMA.

Let me next get down to the topic of my choice. The grand matriarch of my imagination is none other my father's mother whose name my oldest sis (ANNAMMA) bears.This matriarch died of SMALL POX when my father was just entering his teenage years. So you see I have no choice but to go to the wider scope of my imagination. It is generally contented that sons take after their mothers & the daughters after their fathers. Going by this contention , all virtues that I naturally have are an extension of the qualities my father took from this great matriarch.

I would like to imagine my paternal grandmother to be an extremely SERENE lady with qualities bordering on the biblical proverbial woman of chapter 31. There is not a single photograph of her that I could go to time & again when I need. Perhaps now that I myself am a senior woman , I can take a little comfort in mirroring her likeness to an extent of atleast 50% . The exemplary qualities of my grandma are nothing new to us but the wellknown fruits of the HOLY SPIRIT as listed in the HOLY BIBLE. How else do you think she would have remained a non-complaining soul when there was no protection offered in the form of VACCINATION/ INOCULATION for her against the much dreaded SMALL POX ? Even after its eradication there are hospitals giving protection to new born babies against SMALL POX. Even though my grandmamma died young , in my imagination I would like to hold her in the ripe old age of a great grand matriarch , resting in peace after committing her dear & pure soul to the GRAND MAKER of our universe.

Stepping down to solid reality, the one dear son of my grandmom who suffered the most on account of her untimely demise was my late MATHEW oppappen who was next in line to my father. Mathew uncle was at a stage when he was neither too young to comprehend the loss nor old enough to help like my father. The loss of his beloved AMMA shattered him.

Let me conclude on a hopeful note. Since the rest of us are still on earth , we have the option to emulate her to be with the LORD. I am looking forward to spending eternity with her in the heavenly realm by the GRACE & MERCY of our TRIUNE GOD almighty.