

The primary objective of this novella – “*Mayhem of the Miserables*” – which also happened to be my first one in this genre – is to entertain you through unraveling the dynamics of the rarely- visited, dusky, back-alleys of the Indian crime, the cunning, the comedy and the cruelty of the miniscule criminals against the meek, the muddled, the mortified & the miserable majority who have been mute masses, which has been the story of India, that has been! But this could well be happening in your own backyard – irrespective of your nationality!

This is the story of some robbing the many, the story of India that has been, awaiting the advent of another “Mahatmaji” (Great Soul), the title given to ‘Gandhiji’, the ‘Father of Indian Nation’ and inspiration to many a great statesmen, across the globe.

The Secular Savior!

There was this Dr. Peria Gunaseelan (roughly translated, it would mean a ‘Great Person of Good Virtues’, at least that would have been the intent of his parents when they named him so), an Ex-NRI, who had returned some decades back – to rescue India from its myriad miseries – via his innumerable ventures? His detractors, who were a dozen a dime – here and there and everywhere, conversely, whisper that he was, in fact, deported from his adapted Middle Eastern Land of decades, after his completion of a prison term, for some demeanor – which hadn’t attracted ‘cutting off of his limbs’ as a punishment – to the chagrin of those adversaries; the veracity of that report, however, I wouldn’t know, yet. And also, I never could ascertain what Degree he had or whether he was a ‘doctor’ with a medical training or a Ph.D. and if so, in which specialization and from which University – India or abroad.

He was a pure vegetarian and practices utmost frugality in his food consumption. About that part, nobody had any objection but his insisting the same level of thriftiness on the part of all others, hadn’t gone down well with everyone. Actually he was such a miser, that he, brazenly, saved on his food that he insisted on eating always at the cheapest joints when he was away from home – where cockroaches, fleas, spiders, ants, mosquitoes and other such domesticated insects would show up in Rice, Sambar (South Indian style, vegetable stew), Rasam (spicy tamarind soup), Vegetable Fry, even in the Curd and Chapattis (Indian wheat bread) inlaid with the body parts of them. His everyday cannibalism, then again, out-shadowed his vegetables-only food-preference, for he used to have his employees for breakfast, bankers for lunch, supplier-creditors, previously deceived students, old lenders of small hand-loans & such others, for snacks, in between and debtors (customers) for dinner.

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