



# IRELAND VINAYAKA TEMPLE

## Dublin, Ireland



## A Tribute to Founding Member and President of IVT

“Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold for the moment and I want to make it as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations.”

When we look at our association and relationship with Dr Srinivasan, fondly known as Mama to all of us, I firmly believed mentioning of George Bernard Shaw quote is appropriate for his personality, image and the innerness of his spiritual character, whom many of us know for more than two decades in Ireland and for some even more than three to four decades.

Although his demise is an irreparable loss for the family and to our community, however, we are here to celebrate his life and how this humble man from a small village in India has won hearts and minds of thousands of people in Ireland

For us, Mama’s life is an exemplary story who lead the 4 stages of his life successfully and it may be an appropriate occasion to recall some part or at least a glimpse of his success.

Mama originally hails from BaskaraRajapuram, a village in Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu, India, completed his schooling in Thanjavur, Erode and Trichy before graduating from Loyola College Chennai. He went on to complete his masters and Doctorate programme from the prestigious Indian Institute of science, Bangalore. If I recall during one of our conversations Mama did mention he met Mami while he is still at his higher academics.

Landed in Dublin in 1969 for research work with Trinity College here and later joined as a lecturer in 1974. Mama then moved to Irish civil service in the patent office. Mama represented Ireland at EU level and he was very highly regarded on his technical expertise. After 26 years of service he retired from Government services in the year 2000.

Like it goes with all great people, his fluency over many languages other than English and Tamil is unknown to all of us. He mastered French and German languages and even had conversations in other south Indian languages Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. A lover of Carnatic Music and known for his knowledge in Veda Mantras, traditional culture and some of us recall his passion about Vishnu Sahasranama.

Mama being from Tanjore and Mami from Coimbatore, the pair were passionate about their own towns, and always had many constructive dialogues while socialising with all of us. The witty character of Mama teasing Mami, use to come out during such occasions and Mama quoted once, when your wife asks a question, you have two options, one to say “yes” immediately or you can pause think and say “yes”, you will surely get into trouble by choosing the second option,

Mami giving out to him with a smile in front of us make us feel, the couple are an example of true Marriage with a depth of understanding between them and love.



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Mama had great humour and he was witty and always found ways to diffuse any tension. There was a time, when one of us were travelling in a car with him, we read a statement from a car moving in front of us, which stated "Jesus saves", with an impulsive response Mama says "not with my salary".

Mama was an excellent host and had always supported mami with his culinary skills and he specifically used to take pride in providing a dessert and tea after dinner. Those who have experienced their hospitality would have had a long lasting memory and some even use to have their lift back homes from him.

Mama had a vision in 2003 to build a Hindu Temple for growing Hindu community and provide community service. Mama planted a seed with few people who unanimously agreed with his idea, which resulted the establishment of Ireland Vinayaka Temple (IVT). IVT is the first established Hindu temple in Ireland, with a permanent resident priest providing the services to the community in Ireland. Mama served as the president of IVT since its inception and worked tirelessly towards this cause. He actively participated in communications up until fortnight ago wishing all with New Year wishes. Mama was a very wise and enlightened man. He had a wealth of knowledge and always found a way forward for any situation.

I certainly praise him here with a quote from Ayan Rand, A creative Man is motivated by the desire to achieve not by the desire to beat others"

Mama always provided guidance to people who sought his help irrespective of whether they were working professionals or students in Ireland. Mama has always been kind to people and had such a personal attachment to anyone who had been in contact with him.

"With rising flood the rising lotus flower its stem unwinds; the dignity of men is measured by their minds."

The above couplet is from mama's favourite "Thirukkural", which I will say in mama's mother tongue Tamil,

"Vel-lath thanaya Malar-Neettam Maandhar tham Ullath thanayadhu Uyar-vu"

As it says, the stalk of the lotus is proportionate to the depth of water; so is mama's greatness proportionate to his mind.

Mama was a pillar of strength to his family and the Hindu community at large and it is a great loss for his family members and to all of us. Many of us have taken energies from his journey of life and he is truly a statesman of integration. Mama leaves behind a great legacy and his valuable teachings, guidance and blessings which will be with us forever. He has been a true inspiration and a role model to all who were fortunate to have had contacts with him and his family. We all truly miss mama, however, we will continue to cherish the good times we all had with his company. Mama's life was a true celebration fulfilled with many vibrant moments and happy times.

We pray lord Vinayaka to give courage and strength to Mami and their family to withstand this huge loss and may his soul rest in peace.

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