

# A Munnarian Affair

By Ysm George Vergese

On the way to Munnar, on the train, all of us, the Y's Group of holiday makers, had maybe (and I think I may be permitted to say this on behalf of all of us who went to Munnar), our lives' best ever *ela sapadu* - an unforgettable dinner. It had everything that a Christian Malayalee would look for - rice, catch more, *manga thenga areche* curry, *choot areche samandhi*, beef *oliyathe* and beans *thoran*, all wrapped with warm love in those traditional plantain leaves. WOW. What a dinner, what a treat - absolutely mouthwatering, even long after it was over. Guess whose dinner that was.

Einstein's theory of relativity, I thought, was to do with relative velocity of an observer in the 3 dim space and in the 1 dim time framework. Or something like that - whatever.

I was left dumbstruck, an observer, therefore, at zero velocity relatively. By no stretch of imagination could I figure out how Ysm Philip Tharakan, ably assisted by Mnnte Susheela Tharakan, could, relatively speaking, be so advanced in the meticulous planning and in the painstaking arrangements that went in to the Munnar Picnic, enveloping every moment, covering each place we visited, starting with a sumptuous breakfast at their flat in Always.

Adeptly co-organized by the trio - our Pres Ysm Babu John, Sec Ysm Mohan George, Treasurer Ys Bijosh Koshy, Office Bearers of Ys Men's Club of Annanagar, the team pulled off a tapestry of delightful and unforgettable moments, etched into an exotic fabric, that stretched over four nights and three days.

No exaggeration this. Each of the five senses, of the human system in the thirty homo sapiens (sapiens) who went on this picnic, had been enthralled. The delectable eats and drinks, both in motion and when at rest, the aroma that filled the air in the restaurants including the one at the resort, the beguiling scenery draped in luscious green that was near divine - no wonder then our Lord Jesus Christ opted going to such mountain tops alone to pray, the Menettes in their *anthakshri* moments belting out multi-linguistic songs vocalised with their melodious voices that was a treat to the ears, the prevalent hospitality that was truly touching - left nothing to be desired.

Before the Lungi Dance and other performances by the Menettes, Ysmtte Deepa's games filtered out Ys Men who needed immediate attention by the ophthalmologist. Imagine, several Ys Men, including senior citizens, accepting Ysmtte Susheela's toes to be those of their own Menettes. Other games made our Pres keep losing money even later at Rummy while he was making his own sets and sequences but of missionaries and cannibals. He and the five Menettes at the cards table did solve the problems. The two lings Sharon and Sherin had a whale of a time enjoying themselves and simultaneously cornering for themselves the loving attention of the entire group of picnickers.

Those who went for the picnic now console themselves saying all good things must come to an end. Those Ys Families and Ys Lings who did not make it, truly missed an enrapturing experience that was truly exhilarating. But not to worry. Close on the heels of Ysl Chacko's and Susanna's wedding on 10th Jan 2015, a trip to the tranquil Ashtamudi environs has been planned. This would be the third time in God's Own Country this Ys Year. What a privileged Club we are!