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### Saman Kelegama: a personal tribute

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Kelegama

The certainty of death has sadly removed from our earthly scene, a well loved friend Saman, as I very affectionately called him.

My first point of contact with him was when he and Wignarajah used to hold popular seminars on the subject of Economics. Although I read Political Science, at Peradeniya, for my first degree, I did Economics as a subject in my first two years. So, I was a regular at these seminars. The impression that Saman made then was that, as a scholar in the subject, he was able to touch the minds of the likes of myself.

My second point of contact with Saman was when his Institute of Policy Studies shifted from Kollupitiya to the Independence Square. As protocol demanded from that of the Head of a Semi-Government Institute, Saman invited the Clergy from the Four Faith Communities in our Island Home to participate in the Opening Ceremony. I was delighted to be representative of the Christian Faith Community.

My third and final point of contact was when my daughter, Malathy, got married at the Chapel of her old School in Colombo Ladies' College. After the Service, I was happy to have a long and very enlightened conversation with Saman, the subject of our discussion being the State of our Nation.

Looking back, I am glad of the talk with Saman, for after that, I was not able to talk to him.

Saman and my daughter had a very long and fruitful personal and official relationship. He was her first Head. She worked with him for many years, in fact decades.

At the funeral, his wife in the midst of grief, said that Saman pampered my daughter. Such was his relationship with her. His family, for Saman was very rightly a good family person, could always be certain of our concern.

I am certain that Saman had his own inner life and spirituality.

In conclusion, I would like to quote a favorite poem of mine, on the subject of death.

'Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there - I do not sleep.

I am in the morning hush.

I am in the graceful rush of beautiful birds in circling flight.

I am in the star shine of the night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry

I did not die.

This poem in a very good sense summarizes Saman's life for it states "I did not die".

Saman's life and work will continue for he touched the minds of many. Therefore, I am glad that he was a very good friend of mine.

SYDNEY KNIGHT

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