



Mr. Rajehgopal Velu

(9th August 1952 – 2nd January 2020)

I come to pay tribute to a fellow apostle of truth, a brother in the mission to administer justice, a fellow member of the court, a lawyer, and faithful servant of the law. Those who loved him and knew him well, saw him grow from a boy to a Welfare Officer then to a man who was enamored with the romances of law. We have nothing but awe and admiration for such a passionate, energetic, and hardworking man. He was a man of the law, a very good father, a romantic husband, and a true friend.

Mr. Rajehgopal was born on 9th August 1952 in Kuala Lumpur to the late Mr. Velu and Madam Amirtham. He was the second child of 7 siblings but the eldest son in his family. Mr. Gopal (as he is fondly known) was raised in Klang town and received early education at the Methodist Boys School and thereafter continued his secondary education at ACS Klang. After completing his Form 6 exams he started working in various public sector to support his family and it was not until 1984, at the age of 32 years old, he decided to take the noble profession as an Advocate.

At the age of 32, his life journey took him to London, United Kingdom; leaving his family behind in Malaysia to pursue of a degree in law. He came back to Malaysia with a LLB degree besides being accepted to the prestigious Lincoln's Inn. In 1988, he completed his chambering months at Messrs. Fernandez & Partners in Klang and was called to the Malaysian Bar the following year. He started practicing law at Messrs. Fernandez & Partners until he ventured to open his own firm – Messrs. Rajehgopal Velu & Associates.

Mr. Gopal was a lawyer who never violated the canons of legal ethics or the code of professional responsibility. He was faithful to his calling, he never violated the trust of his clients, and he remained loyal to the court and to society.

As a lawyer, he was a roaring gladiator in the courtroom. He was merciless in his cross-examination, and almost flawless in his pleadings and manifestations. He was courteous to court personnel, respectful to judges, and fair to his opponents. He never refused to defend the accused even if the clients can't pay. Towards the later part of his career, he developed a passion for Criminal Law and was a master at it to many young lawyers.

He is gone far too soon, and the loss of this incredibly gifted man is made even more poignant by the promise of what else he might have accomplished had he also had the gift of time but I am certain that Mr. Gopal would not have wanted us to dwell on what might have been.

A great book, the best music and the finest men have a quality of their own which escapes definition. It is the thing about them which you cannot define which makes them great. A great book improves your mind; a great piece of music enriches and uplifts your spirit, and a fine man widens and deepens the lives of his friends. And so, it was with Mr. Gopal.

As we bid farewell to a devoted husband, a loving father, an exceptional servant of the courts – to our friend – let us resolve to do just that.

All of us will know more of justice and kindness because we knew him. He left us much more than memory. He left us a quality which was his very own and which will rest like a hand on our shoulder as long as we live.

It is with a great sense of honor that I as one of his friends and as a member of the Malaysian Bar join with you in paying this tribute to his memory.

Written By,

Dr. Elaijah Sasitharan & Family