

# DR. CHEDDI JAGAN

By Harry Ramdass

At the sugar estate of Port Mourant  
Central Corentyne, Dharmic Praant.  
Born March twenty second, nineteen eighteen,  
Destined to bring about political awakening.

Nineteen forty seven, December,  
He entered the Parliament Chamber.  
Shocked and stunned an old sugar Baron  
At seeing the handsome Cheddi Jagan.

After his first speech in Parliament  
Vocal was King Sugar's comment.  
Your place, the film studio, you a star.  
Not in this chamber to wage war!

Said he, "We, the people have won,  
The struggle has now begun."  
This warning to Imperialism  
Provoked bitter criticism.

Irradicate poverty, ignorance and fear,  
This land, every Guyanese must share.  
To remove political bondage  
He advocated Adult Suffrage.

Nineteen hundred fifty three  
Election then was fair and free.  
With confidence and vision clear  
He was crowned Guyana's first Premier

Established he Religious equality  
At Official functions in this country  
Hindu, Moslem, Christian prayers  
To bless this nation and its builders.

At the Nineteen Fifty-seven Elections  
Under the restricted Rennison Constitution  
So popular was Doctor Cheddi Jagan  
That he won again in Nineteen sixty-one.

Forward to Freedom and Socialism  
Farewell and Good-bye Imperialism.  
To London with you Premier Jagan,  
Cried the P.N.C. Forbes Burnham.

But so resounding was the victory  
That it staggered Britain's Tory.  
So with U.F./P.N.C. collaboration  
Britain began Guyana's demolition.

'Zone the country' preached the Buxton Sage,  
So little did he know of Apartheid!  
Indian, African and mixed community  
Till then had lived in harmony.

From China, India and Madeira  
The Caribbean and West Africa  
Building together in unity  
One People, One Nation. One Destiny.

'No to division,' roared the Berbice born  
'The thought alone deserves our scorn.  
No Race, Religion, Creed or Colour  
Shall blemish Guyana's fair character.

To halt the progress of this nation  
They planned and plotted destruction.  
'Axe the Tax,' screamed the Opposition  
Then began burning Georgetown.

One cent on Beer was the increase  
They said Jagan was batting out of crease!  
So Britain used Proportional Representation  
To topple the Government of Cheddi Jagan.

The premature Nineteen Sixty-four Election  
Indicated what was Britain's intention.  
An Order-In-Council removed Cheddi Jagan  
And installed the P.N.C./U.F. Coalition.

So rapid was the downward trend  
That their own Advisors couldn't comprehend.  
And before the demise of the Kabaka  
The U.F. Leader bid them 'ta ta'.

Falling sugar and rice production  
Cattle, fish and ground provision,  
Low morale, inflation, dishonesty,  
Mass migration and corrupt advocacy.

Fraudulent and rigged Election  
Placed the P.P.P. in Opposition.  
Now loudly cries the Guyanese nation  
Doctor Jagan is our only salvation.

None but he can restore Guyana's economy  
Education, progress, prosperity;  
Genius of revolutionary orientation,  
Leader, Guide and Father of this Nation.

Forty years a towering M.P.  
Advocate of Peace, Progress, Prosperity.  
Students' rights and workers' share  
He most vehemently declare.

Though robbed and jailed and cheated  
Fighting still and undefeated.  
The man of honesty, integrity  
Struggling for a just society.

Dharmic qualities he portrays  
'Karma Yogi' the Bhagawat Gita says.  
'Action Thy Duty, Reward not Thy Concern  
The Motto all people must learn.

Our people came from Rama's land  
Indentured workers by Imperial hand.  
What pains and sufferings they now face  
To preserve Culture, Religion and their race.

With humility, grace and courtesy  
Charm and Gandhian philosophy  
Inspire, motivate, Oh noble son!  
Till the final victory is won.

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This poem, first read by Harry Ramdass at a  
Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha function held at  
L.B.I. Hindu Temple, East Coast, Demerara on  
Sunday 13th December, 1987 to commemorate  
Dr.Jagan's 40th year in Parliament, is relevant  
now as it was then.

