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.

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.