

# SATHIYA VAARTHAI

NOVEMBER 2023 Vol. 22, No. 2

IBT Founder (Late) Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

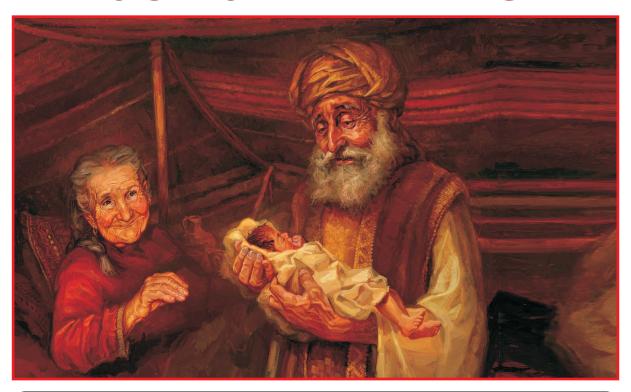
**WORD OF TRUTH -**

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# FOREFATHERS AND THEIR GOD GIVEN WIVES



SATHTHIYA VAARTHAI

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**NOVEMBER 2023** 

### FOREFATHERS AND THEIR GOD GIVEN WIVES

"Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house". (Psalm. 128:3).

The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. After creating everything in this world, our God, who is the master of all creations, saw that it was good. God created man in His own image. He created them as male and female.

Hence, we all, who are God's children, being created in God's image, are beautiful like the wives of our forefathers. We cannot mention anyone as ugly in God's sight.

If we want to talk about our forefathers, they were also human beings like us. In those days, it was complicated for a person to go to an unknown place. However, Abraham, who was a wealthy person, obeyed God's command, and by faith, he left all the comforts of life and relatives and went out, not knowing where he was going (Heb. 11:8).

If government employees receive a transfer order, what will they do immediately? First of all, they will go to that place and see how it is, and they will find out whether it would be suitable for children's education and whether all facilities are available, and then, they will take their family along with them. But Abraham, the first forefather, did not do like that. The Lord told Abraham, "Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house to a land that I will show you". Abraham did not make any argument with God, and he left his country. From the beginning of the Bible till the end, God

expects obedience from us. We will be precious in God's sight if we have good characteristics like obedience and humbleness. In Luke 2:51, we read that Jesus went down to Nazareth with His Parents and was obedient to them. In every act of His life, our Lord was an example to us. God expects and wishes us to be with such good characters since we are created in his image.

### 1. First forefather's wife - Sarai

The name Sarai means Princess. Abraham looked unto his wife and said, "... I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance (Gen.12: 11).

The Egyptians saw Sarai as a very beautiful woman (Gen. 12: 14).

"Danger is near to the place where beauty lives", is commonly told by the poets. If Abraham says Sarai is his wife, Pharaoh, the Egyptian King, would kill Abraham and take Sarai to his Castle. So, Abraham told Sarai to tell him that she was his sister.

There was nothing wrong when Abraham said that Sarai was his Sister. When Abraham talked about Sarai to King Abimelech (King of Gerar), he said that "Sarai is truly his sister, and she is the daughter of his mother (Gen. 20: 12). Abraham's father Terah had two wives, His first wife's children were, Abram, Nahor and Haran. His second wife's daughter was Sarai, and Sarai was the wife of Abraham.

### Sarai's Virtuousness

The only woman whose name was changed by God in the Bible is Sarai – Sarah. She treated her husband with great respect by obeying Abraham and calling him Lord (I Peter 3: 6). She was the first woman character who is recorded in the list of Biblical heroes of faith list (Heb. 11: 11). Even though she was not qualified to bare a son for Abraham, she was very keen that no one should hurt or degrade Abraham regarding the child. Sarah was a woman of integrity, and hence, she gave her Egyptian maidservant (Haggar) to Abraham. Sarah would have been the happiest person in Ishmael's birth.

### Sarah, an Excellent Woman in Hospitality

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers..." (Heb. 13: 2).

Women have to keep up with hospitality. We will decide whether to go to a particular house or not next time based on our first visit. Giving biriyani does not mean hospitality; serving ordinary food with a cheerful face is excellent hospitality.

God appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre. Abraham saw three men standing when he saw them. He hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

Besides, he said, "Do not pass by your servant but eat in my house and then you can go your way", and he quickly went to Sarah (into the tent) and told her to get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread (Gen. 18: 6). See what Abraham did before Sarah finished cooking. Even though Abraham

was a wealthy person, he did not order his servant to slaughter and prepare a tender calf. But he himself ran to the herd, selected a tender calf, gave it to a servant and told him to prepare and bring it. When Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day, he saw three guests (God + two angels of the Lord). When Abraham told Sarah to bake bread, in the heat of the day, she was not dismayed, but she prepared bread and sent it to the three guests.

### Modest Woman - Sarah

The Bible says that Sarah was a "most beautiful woman".

The angels of the Lord asked Abraham, "Where is your wife?" And Abraham replied to them saying, "She is in the tent." Sarah did not come in front of the guests but was inside the tent.

This shows she was a modest family woman even in her old age. The guests gave a promise and went. The promise was "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" (Gen. 18: 10, 14). God does not cheat anybody. God reveals the things about the future in advance. This is a great witness that God alone can predict our future. Sarah was old, and she had passed the age of childbearing, so she laughed and then lied and said she did not laugh, and God corrected her mistake without getting angry with her. When Isaac was born, Sarah came to know that nothing is impossible with God. At the age of ninety, the favour shown by God to Sarah was areat.

### Second Forefather - Isaac

"... Come in, o blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside?..." (Laban's words to Abraham's servant) (Gen. 24: 31).

"...So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us..." (Isaac) (Gen. 26: 22).

The name Isaac means laughter. Sarah was ninety years old, and Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born. God called Abraham at the age of Seventy-Five. Being born to Abraham at the age of a hundred, Isaac surrendered himself to be sacrificed according to his father's choice. In Gen. 22: 7, what did Isaac ask his father? He asked, "...Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" The first forefather answered, "My son, God will provide for himself the Lamb for a burnt offering". Even at that very small age, Isaac knew very well about God and who God is.

Isaac's submission to be sacrificed is a foresign of Jesus Christ yielding himself as a sacrifice. Marrying many women was common in those days, but Isaac was an excellent man who lived with one wife. Even after twenty years of married life, his wife was barren, and so Isaac prayed unto the Lord for his wife.

"Then Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold, and the LORD blessed him" (Gen. 26: 12).

### Second Forefather's Wife - Rebeccah

Rebeccah Means generous/hearty.

"Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin" (Gen. 24: 16).

### a) How does a Man Servant have to be?

It is good if marriages are led by the Holy Spirit and decided by prayer and worship and the approval and blessings of family members.

How was Eliezer, the servant of Abraham's house? He lived in Abraham's house for many years and learned many things about God. He ruled over all the possessions of Abraham. He was very careful in obedience, prayer, faith, thanksgiving and worship. How did Eliezer have such characters? It was all from the forefathers. Let us think whether our lifestyle has an impact on people around us to follow Christ.

Abraham's servant did not give importance to outside beauty. His desire was that a generous woman should become the wife of his master's son. Rebeccah had inner beauty, such as love, patience, peace, helping tendency, mercy and many good characteristics. Hence, it has been sculpted in the Bible that Rebeccah was the most beautiful woman.

### Virtues of Rebeccah

"...Whose daughter are you? Tell me..."
(Gen. 24: 23) (Abraham's servant asked this question unto Rebeccah). So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's Son, whom she bore to Nahor" (Gen. 24: 24).

Even though a father is illiterate, he will have higher thoughts on his children. He will give them a good education and want them to settle with a higher-ranking job and live without difficulties. However, after getting married and

having kids, it is rare to see sons and daughters coming to their parent's house. When the parents meet the children and grandchildren, they are filled with unlimited happiness. Some grandchildren do not even know who their grandfather and grandmother are. We are living in such kind of days.

But, in the first book of the Bible (Gen. 24: 24), how does Nahor's granddaughter, Rebeccah, express her identity? She gave first preference to her father's parents. She introduced her as Nahor and Milcah's Son Bethuel's daughter. She expressed her father's name in the end. Maybe Nahor's family would have been a joint family. So, she would have expressed this due to the love and respect of her grandparents.

### Mercy on Animals

"...I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking" (Gen. 24:19).

Animals and birds cannot talk, but human beings with six senses who were created on the sixth day have to show love to birds and animals without common sense.

During the Corona period, the street dogs suffered without food. At that time, a poor young woman with good intentions, cooked ration rice, spread it on newspapers and fed the street dogs. Rebeccah seems to be several times high in love and mercy. In the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they drew water from wells filled the jars used for housing purposes and quenched the thirst of cattle and sheep. So, what did Abraham's Servant ask Rebeccah? When she went down to the well, filled her

pitcher and came up, he asked her for water to drink. It is easy to give water to a man to drink, but Rebeccah went down to the well, drew water from the well, climbed up, filled the water in the jar and gave it to 10 Camels. This shows the unlimited patience, love and mercy which she had. She also arranged for a room to lodge and fodder for Camels.

### Rebeccah who Knew Respect

"Then Rebeccah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her Camel... and took a veil and covered herself" (Gen: 24: 65).

She has never seen the man who was appointed to be her husband, but when her parents asked her whether she was willing to go with Abraham's servant, she said yes. They blessed her by saying, "May you become the mother of thousands of ten thousand", and sent her.

We see Isaac as a man who mediates. Isaac spared time for meditation. Likewise, we should prepare a permanent place and time to meditate on God. We have to live like mediating souls as Isaac lived.

Jews have a practice of covering their head. When Rebeccah saw Isaac and asked who he was, the servant replied he was his master. Immediately, she dismounted from her camel and covered her head with a Veil. Rebeccah is well known for the humbleness and honour she gave to her husband and elders. Isaac accepted Rebeccah as his wife. After twenty years of marriage, twin male babies were born to her, which became two great nations.

### The Third Forefather, Jacob Named Israel

"For I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies" (Gen. 32:10).

The first forefather, Abraham, had two sons (Ishmael and Isaac). But God chose the second son, Isaac, as the second forefather. The reason is Ishmael was born to Sarai's maidservant Haggar, but Isaac was a promised son born to Sarah. Esau should have been the third forefather, but the third forefather's position was given to Esau's brother Jacob.

### The Reason God Chose Jacob as the Third Forefather

Jacob means Cheater. He is an example of the saying, "The one who cheats will be cheated." If anyone with bad character comes unto God, God will save them and qualify them for his government. Likewise, God changed the life of Jacob. He had the curiosity to improve and obeyed his parents.

After receiving the vision from God, Jacob made a vow and fulfilled it. He wanted to be in peace with Esau, Laban and others. He wrestled with God and persuaded. He was careful in worshipping God and getting His advice at the right time. He received an excellent name called "Israel" because he wrestled with God. He was also at peace with the people who cheated him. He listened to his mother, Rebeccah's words, cheated his blind father and received two blessings. Due to fear of his brother, he left his house and went to his mother's brother, Laban's place (Aran). After sunset, he took a stone and laid it under his

head and slept. He saw an excellent vision. God spoke to him as Abraham's and Isaac's God

### NEWS LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and redeemer, Jesus Christ!

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"(Mathew 16:26)

A man had four wives. He loved his fourth wife very much compared with other wives. He fulfilled all her desires and did whatever she liked. He even loved his third wife, but he was afraid to show her before his friends. He was afraid that she would mingle with others. He also loved his second wife, but he would go to her

whenever he was in trouble, and she helped him in his trouble. However, he never loved his First wife, but she loved him so much and took care of his needs. One day he was in his death bed. He realized that he is going to die. He liked to have one of his wives to be with him after his death. He liked to know who is ready to die with him.

He called his most beloved fourth wife. She strongly refused and went away from him. His third wife said that anyway he is going to die, so she is ready to go with someone else. Then he called his second wife. She said that she can only come to his grave yard but not to the end of his life. He grieved and worried in his heart. By

that time his first wife's voice was heard. She said, "I will be with you were ever you go, definitely I will come with you." Even, she was skinny and lean in the death bed because he did not take care of her. He felt bad. He cried by saying that he should have took care of her when he was healthy but he missed to do that. He died because of this sorrow.

Truly, we also have these four wives. The fourth wife is our body. Even though we take care of it, it doesnot come with us till the end. Even it will be destroyed when we are dead. Third wife is our property. Though we hide it, it goes to someone else. Our second wife is our family and friends. They can only come to our grave yard after that they won't come with us.

The first wife whom we never took care is our soul. Even though we didn't take care of it in our good days it will come to us till death with the weary and pity condition. It is the only thing that will come with us in our last days.

In this world, everyone's foremost wish is to earn more, buy a house or car and save more property for the children. Their spiritual life is only a ritual or compulsion. There are only a few people who take care of this soul and have a burden for the destroying souls. We live in this world for 70 or 80 years because of good health. But in heaven, our life will be everlasting. Therefore, let us guard our souls from this dirty world and not lose the gold for this soil.

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul ...they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." (I Peter 2:11,12)

G. B and G. C meeting was conducted on 17.09.2023. In this, Mr. P. Jabez Selwyn has been elected as the IBT President, and Mr. G. Varmaniraj has been elected as Secretary. Again, they will continue to work as President and Secretary for three years. Instead of Mr. Chennimalai Sekar, Mr. John William has been elected as a treasurer. Above all, last year's accounts have been checked and approved. The participants of the meeting shared their ideas for the development of this ministry.

On the same day, on behalf of IBT, Mr. S. Raja Sekaran shared about the IBT ministry and God's message in the morning service at Good News Church, Thudiyalur, Coimbatore.

On 27th August, Bro. G. Varamaniraj shared the God's word and Bro. Samson shared about the IBT ministry in the morning service at CSI church in Thalavaipuram. IBT thanks the church Pastor, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom gave the opportunity for IBT ministry and took part in the meeting and gave offerings to the IBT ministry.

On 10.9.2023, the Union Chapel Church at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh conducted "IBT SUNDAY", collected special offerings and sent them through the IBT office promotional Staff Bro. Manonita Singh. IBT thanks the Church Pastors, believers and elders for honouring the ministry every year and giving their offerings to the IBT ministry.

From 07.09.2023, Badaga language Pastor, Ps. Mudhan and his wife have checked and keyed all the New Treatment books that were translated into Badaga language along with the IBT Centre translators. Kindly pray that this work has to be done within this month and be sent for printing after the page setting.

We pray that the Lord should protect you from all the evil and bless you with all good things.

In Christ's service, **Bro. K. Jaisingh** 

### ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS OF IBT



Mr. P. Jabez Selwyn B.E., PGCHRM., has been elected again as the President of Indian Bible Translators Ministry on 17.09.2023.



Mr. G. Varamaniraj M.A., B.Ed., has been elected again as the Secretary of Indian Bible Translators Ministry on 17.09.2023.

Mr. M. John William B.Com., has been elected as the **Treasurer** of Indian Bible Translators Ministry on 17.09.2023.

### **GOLDEN THOUGHTS**

- 1. Little things become great things when done in God's power.
- 2. God will take care of what you go through; you take care of how you go thorugh it.
- 3. God has you in His plans; do you have Him in yours?
- 4. You don't have to fight tomorrows battles today.
- 5. The world crowns success; God crowns faithfulness.
- 6. Aman who is a christian in small deeds, is indeed a Big Christian.
- 7. The God who knows our load limit, graciously limits our load.
- 8. Riches are a blessing only to those who share there riches as a blessing to others.

- Gathered from 'OUR DAILY BREAD'

### FIELD NEWS

### Promotional Staff: Bro. J. Ramalingam Mission Station: Kotagiri (Tamil Nadu)

May the sweet name of Jesus Christ be glorified!

Last month for promotional work, we went to villages like Kotagiri, Minnithennu, Donnington, Aravenu, Aravettu, Kokalthorai, Sekolah, Uilitti, Ooty, Ottupattarai, Coonoor, Balakkola, Mount Pleasant, Shanthoor, Orasolai, Anodai, Boys Company, Kunjappanai, Mandheri, Rohini, Kandal, Kesalada, Selada, Kertpattapudhur, Agalari, Thooneri, Kethi and Salmor. We went to these villages, met the sponsors and partners, and received the IBT ministry offering. We prayed for them.

A sister called Jenna is a retired teacher. She collected money from 14 members and helped the IBT ministry. She happened to face some struggles in her life. Since the neighbour of this sister has blocked the 100-year-old pathway, there was an issue, and the case was taken to court. She had requested me to pray for her. I prayed for three months for this, and I told her that she would get a solution in the month of August. In the first week of August, the court gave the order that she would get back her pathway. So she asked me to conduct a praise meeting and offered me a feast.

Every month, I receive 10 Tamil Saththiya Vaarthai magazines and 2 English magazines from the IBT office. I will give these magazines to new members without wasting them. I will immediately give this magazine to the new

members in the house where I collect IBT ministry offerings. Within this year, I have joined 96 subscribers for Saththiya Vaarthai magazine. For this, I give praise to God. Kindly pray for my promotional work and my family.

Translator: Bro. Prakash Siddi

Language: Siddi

Mission station: Sithapur (Karnataka)

May the name of the Lord be glorified!

Last month, during the translation work, I checked and typed the Book of the Apostle chapter from 1:1 to chapter 22:30. From the New Testament on the computer.

For missionary work, I went to a village called Karthali and met the Siddi people. I gave tracts and gospel books and shared the gospel from the book of Luke 19:1-10 and John 3:16 to them. Kindly pray that the Siddi people should accept Christ. Pray for my family and translation work.

## <u>Translator: Bro. Pithambar Mahanand</u> <u>Language: Kalahandia</u> <u>Mission station: Ladugaon (Odisha)</u>

May the name of the Lord be praised!

Last month, during the translation work, I translated the historical incidents from the Old Testament and New Testament into the Kalahandia language for publishing children's Bible in the Kalahandia language and typed it

into the computer. Last month, I translated the Old Testament incidents on topics like " God called Abraham", "Joseph the Dreamer", "Moses", "Israelites who crossed the Red Sea", " Destroyed city of Jericho", " Samuel", "David and Goliath", "Solomon's wisdom", "Temple of Jerusalem built by Solomon", "Elijah fed by raven", "Elijah and the widow of Zarephath", " Elijah brings back the dead son of the widow to life", " Elisa healing the leprosy of Nahaman", " Daniel and his three friends", "Fire will not burn the children of God", " Daniel in the lion's den", and "Jonah the prophet". Till now, 21 incidents from the Bible have been translated. In this, 8 topics have been typed into the computer. The remaining 13 topics have to be typed into the computer. After this, the incidents in the New Treatment have to be translated for the children's Bible.

For missionary work, I went to villages like Hirapur, Dahana, and Kumar Kuda and met many people and prayed for them. A fasting prayer meeting was conducted on the second Saturday. In this meeting, the prayer was conducted for the IBT President, Secretary, Treasurer, participants, representatives, sponsors, all the IBT staff and the nation. Sunday services are conducted continuously in the mission station. Kindly pray for my translation work and my family.

### Missionary: Bro. Chandhrika Das Mission station: Pindra (Uttar Pradesh)

Greetings to you in the sweet name of Jesus Christ!

Last month, for missionary work, I went to villages like Ladawatara, Pindravini, Pahala, Jalalpur, Rehinti, Parthanpur, Salemapur and other 20 villages, and I met many people and shared the gospel with them. I gave the gospel books, tracts, and shared the word of God with them and prayed for the needed one. Bro. Anilkumar, Kanujia, Dhramveer, Mrs Poonam Devi, Suman Devi and Sadhasa Devi eagerly listened to the gospel. In this, Sis. Poonam Devi and her family asked me to conduct a prayer meeting in their house, so I went to their house and shared the message from the first chapter of the book of Genesis and prayed for the sister who was suffering from epilepsy.

IBT Sunday service is conducted in IBT Pindra mission station. Nearly 170 believers took part in it, and everyone was blessed. Kindly pray for my missionary work and my family.

## <u>Translator: Bro. Thambi Durai</u> <u>Language: Paniya</u> Mission station: Gudalur (Tamil Nadu)

May the Glory be to God!

Last month, during the translation work, I read and checked the Acts of the Apostle, chapter 24:10 to chapter 28:3 and the book of Romans from chapter 1:1 to chapter 7:6 in the New Treatment. I also checked the needed corrections, which will be useful in reprinting.

For promotional work, I and Elizabeth went to villages like Poornavayal, Nethaji Nagar, Athupalli, Gandhi Nagar, Nadukattaloor, Puthoor Vayal, Dhevala, Zion Hill Nagar, J.P Garden Road, Rajagopalapuram, Health Camp, and I met IBT partners and sponsors there. We received the offerings, shared things about ministry and prayed for them.

For two years, there was a barrier in giving the books of the New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms that were translated into the Paniya language through IBT to the native speakers of this language. Kindly pray that the Lord should give us the grace to distribute the remaining books and remove all the barriers to sharing the gospel.

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# CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES AND FOR THE CHILDREN AT OUR BAPANPALLI CHILDREN'S HOME



We require Rs 5 lakhs to be given as a Christmas gift for our missionaries as well as to our children at our Bapanpalli Home. Our promotional staff and representatives will approach you for this purpose with printed covers and appeal. If you have not received such covers, you may kindly send your contribution to the IBT office directly by MO/ Cheque/ DD/ or ECS into our bank account or by Scanning the QR Code. Thank you for your cooperation and contributions. May God bless you and your family!

Those who are desirous of supporting our varied ministries are requested to send their offerings to the foolowing banks through ECS or Scanning the QR Code through your phone.

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### PRAY AND PRIASE!!

- Praise the Lord for the New Treatment in the Sambalpuri language which has been sent to the BSI for printing. Kindly pray that this printing work to be done without any delay and mistakes. Also, pray that it should be published in Odisha first and in the IBT logos camp that is going to be conducted next year.
- Praise the Lord for the book (Children's book) that contains Bible incidents, which has been translated into 8 languages. Kindly pray that all these works should be done as per the plan and to be published in the logos camp that is going to be conducted next year.
- Praise the Lord for the calendar for 2024, which has been planned to give to the IBT partners, sponsors, representatives and all

- promotional staff. Kindly pray that it will be sent through post without delay.
- 4. Last month, in India, some places like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Libia and some other countries were destroyed by storm and heavy rain, and many lives, houses, vehicles, and properties were destroyed by the flood. The same damages and huge destruction occurred in Morocco due to the earthquake. Let us pray for the suffering people to get needed things in their own country and pray for the people who lost their families to get consolation and peace.
- Pray for the leaders of Israel and Palastine to hold peace talks to stop the war. More than 2 thousand people have lost their lives. May the Lord intervene for the peace and consolation.

### IBT RELEASED LITERARY BOOKS IN ENGLISH

The following English books written by IBT Founder President Rev. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam are available in our IBT Center, Coimbatore.

1. WORD OF LIFE Rs. 100/-

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE Rs. 70/-

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### Announcement for the Readers

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