



PUDUMAI

A Tour to the Past



புதுமை

கடந்த காலத்திற்கு
ஒரு பயணம்

P.G. Sharvesh



Pudumai

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

At 15-years he has already penned 2 books! His love for plants, trees, nature and environment shows how mature a boy he is, caring for the human race. A word as I know him is good enough to set his mind working to write a story. His fascination to read the autobiographies of legends is awe inspiring. His stories have been transformed into blogs by his mother which is an additional input for Sharvesh to keep writing and thinking out of the box.

Milind Wagle
Sports and Armed Forces Commentator
Michigan, USA

My heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional storytelling skills and the bold choice the author made in portraying the creator of the time machine in his story as a female rather than the traditional male archetype. It is truly refreshing to see young authors like Sharvesh challenge conventional norms and break free from gender stereotypes. This sends a powerful message to readers, especially young girls, that women can excel in the field of science and make significant contributions to the world. By choosing to highlight a female scientist, he is promoting gender equality and diversity, which are essential values in today's society.

Hemalatha Ravichandran
Director, Apt Skills Software Services Pvt Ltd

I sincerely appreciate Sharvesh for his meticulous efforts in penning a marvellous piece of work and I feel immensely proud of this precocious lad. On behalf of our school, I thank Sharvesh's parents, his friends and all his acquaintances who have encouraged him to enlighten the young Indian society on past events of historical significance in an intriguing style and helped him earn yet another feather in his cap!

J. Premkumar
Sr. PGT – English
Suguna PIP School, Coimbatore

Pudumai, is a Pudumaiyana (novel attempt) book! We keep telling people that our country's history is to be rewritten, and here he is doing it! The attention to detail in the names and statistics demonstrates how much time he spent gathering, editing, and understanding the material. By doing so, he has established himself as an accomplished writer. A future historian is emerging!

S.R. Venkat
Scientific Learning Skills Trainer
CEO, MAX e-Smart Skills

Pudumai

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P. G. Sharvesh



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To the innumerable lives sacrificed for India to be
independent

To the bravest of the brave soldiers, defending Indian
Independence

To the silent ranks/families of all the soldiers waging an
unknown battle each day

Jai Hind!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Writing a book is hard but publishing it is even harder than I imagined. My writing journey may not have taken off, had it not been for these good people in my life. I humbly offer gratitude to all of them.

To my parents, without them, I am absolutely nothing. Thank you for providing me with the best of everything, and motivating me to pursue what I like. Dear Mamma & Pappa, it's more than a blessing to have you both in my life.

To my Gurus and the Almighty, for ensuring everything I get in my life. Without the guidance of the Gurus and the blessings of the supreme power above, nothing would have been ever possible in my life, including my existence.

To the patriots and the freedom fighters, who sacrificed everything that they could, and even more, to see Mother India a free country. With pain and pride in equal measure, I sincerely hope to become a citizen worthy of this independence.

To the countless warriors of the country who are epitomes of sacrifices, protecting the freedom of India till date, I bow my head to all of you. Thank you for everything that you do for the country. Without you, fearless sleep would be a luxury.

To 16Leaves, my publishers, who have always come forward and helped transform my manuscript to a beautiful book. You guys are the best team one could ever ask for. Special thanks to Arti Walia Maam and Deepali Sawant Maam at 16Leaves.

To all my mentors and elders, who have taken the time to share their thoughts and messages for my book. I feel motivated and grounded to do more. Special thanks to Millind sir, for responding in a very short span of time.

To my little brother Yoogesh, my friendly rival, my partner in crime, my everything in precise, I love you for staying by my side and inspiring me to write more! I am so proud that you have joined my league of becoming an author.

Last but not the least, to my cherished reader friends - thank you for reading my books, blogs and stories, and sharing your valuable comments. They help me to improve day by day.

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A BEAUTIFUL EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The request to pen a foreword for Sharvesh's masterpiece came in as a surprise when his mom, Bhuvana *Akka* (elder sister- lovingly) approached me. I have known her for almost three decades now and I have no doubts that Sharvesh and Yoogesh will be anything less than amazing.

I have been following Sharvesh from his mom's posts on social media and am awed by his talents but what really caught my attention was his interest in community service. Now after reading his book, I realized that that was only the tip of the iceberg. I started reading with an open mind and expecting the work of a 15-year when I started scrolling, and with every jerk of the time machine I was forgetting his age. Today's kids are phenomenal in creativity, science, and fiction but Sharvesh could empathize beautifully with the heroes who fought for our freedom. He never missed a chance to give a boost of patriotism to the readers. I have always been worried about the amount of history that has cascaded across generations and the current generation can barely name of 10 freedom fighters if asked. Sharvesh has shown us that we need not rely on old material available to keep our history alive; we can very well look at alternative channels to take it to the current generation. I couldn't leave my chair until I reached Jai Hind!

In between, I smiled sheepish when the time machine malfunctioned as I could get to read about one more historic struggle. Being very

careful not to give away a lot about the story. I would like to thank each of you who have bought this book and read it. This will help Sharvesh stay motivated and continue exploring more in the field of writing and enlighten us on history which is slowly fading from our memories.

What a wonderful tribute to Mother India, and I thank your parents for supporting you in all ways. Special gratitude to his mother Bhuvana *Akka* and Gaanapriya for bringing his work out in Tamil, I would love to leave a book in every government school's library I work with. Keep writing and wishing you successful years ahead.

Vidhya Bhojan Founder, rightdots.org

WHY DID WE PUBLISH IN ENGLISH AND TAMIL?

Sharvesh's first two poetry books *Treasured Droplets* and *The 5Cs of Mother India* were both in English. Unfortunately his grandparents, even though filled with pride at his accomplishments, couldn't enjoy his work owing to the language barrier. This realization sparked the idea of translating the book into Tamil to enable his grandparents and other Tamil readers to appreciate his creation. A casual conversation with my friend Gaanappriya, truly a pillar of support during Sharvesh's journey as an author, resulted with the idea of publishing this book in both languages. The primary motivation behind this was to make the essence of our nation's struggle for independence accessible to millions of students studying in Tamil Nadu government schools. By providing them the opportunity to read and savor the stories in their native language, Tamil, we hope to ignite a sense of pride and inspiration among the young minds and encourage them to explore their own creative potential.

With love and prayers Bhuvaneswari Subramani
(Sharvesh's *Amma*)

PREFACE

This book is my favorite as I have put my heart and soul into it. As an ardent lover of Indian History and a fervent patriot, I have tried my best to present some of the struggles that our prior generations have been through for living in an independent country. All the incidents in this book are from the past, and in some parts I have taken author's liberty to recreate some scenes with my imagination. I plead for forgiveness, if any sentiments are hurt or if I have misconstrued any facts. The intention of this science/historical fiction is to invoke the values of patriotism and respect for our country and the countless children who sacrificed a lot for freedom, independence and pride. "*Yaadh rahe, ek saathi aur bhi tha* (remember that there was another friend too)".



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCING THE REVOLUTIONARY TIME MACHINE

It all started with Professor Aarathi's Time Machine...

Birthdays are always happy moments with parties, cakes, friends and fun! On one of my birthdays on July 6th 2021, my parents arranged a party full of frolic to celebrate. Everyone brought gifts, except my mom's friend Professor Aarathi. I was both disappointed and surprised.

It's not that I always look for gifts, just that Aarathi aunty (how she will be addressed going forward) would always bring gifts that would kindle my curiosity. I always looked forward to her gifts, every time she visited me.

Honestly, I would not only appreciate the gifts but was intensely thankful for the wishes of my near and dear ones. On my twelfth birthday mamma had written a poem which Aarathi aunty had laminated and gifted to me. I always held it close would treasure it for the rest of my life.

Coming back to this birthday party, there was a lot of celebration. My parents had bought many books for me. I was thrilled looking at the pile of gifts and the wishes showered on me by my relatives. After the snacks, festivities, and dinner, Aarathi aunty took aside