



I have been thinking of what to write about and decided to go with the flow of my thoughts...As I walked up the Himalayas I could sense the silence ,the snow capped peaks and layers of the mountains folding into each other with tenderness and love....

Flowing with my thoughts

- Geeta Ramanujam

My thoughts have drifted to the latest batch when 7 teachers travelled all the way from Chettipalayam near Coimbatore and who were teachers in a school for the underprivileged children. Why was this significant?

Well, Barbara and Barbara two friends from Canada decided to invest all their savings after teaching in Canada for over 40 years in a school at Chettipalayam near Coimbatore so that children from the lower strata of society could also have the same kind of education as the elite children. They not only travelled to Bangalore 7 years ago to understand all about Storytelling but invited me to train their teachers and subsequently to evaluate and assess them. We also worked with the IB curriculum and integrated stories into the school curriculum. After retirement they returned and passed on the duty to Mr. Jim to carry on the tradition of storytelling. I was touched by the dedication and their commitment.

Back to the mountains....and silence. As I walked up the road in the Himalayas after the Academy sessions I noticed that as the sun had set. I looked up and noticed three chubby clouds close to each other. One was completely golden the other black and one fully white. How could this be I wondered!! And I saw a beautiful rare bird fly across the three clouds its reflection changing as it passed the three clouds. A tiny drop of water fell and I knew it would soon rain.

The scene disappeared and I was running to take shelter. Hot *samosas* and tea tasted different here up in the hills and I noticed two ladies walk up chatting casually as they walked with over 40 kgs of grass bundle on their heads. They seemed to walk up the slopes so easily like spider women. I was puffing like a steam engine as I climbed that slope.

That night I sat in meditation and wondered if I was being judgmental Thoughts began to wander and I kept trying to bring them back to that state of 'No thought". Over the years I have also attempted to switch off from work and my Academy schedules the same way... I could not believe I had done 20 Academy courses last year.

Returning home to Bangalore from the Himalayas was not easy. The sights and sounds of traffic jams began to get familiar... I tried to find and discover something new to wonder ... I began to read Nehru on World History to know his perspectives and views on civilisations and life. A quote from the book

Go tell to Sparta, thou that passest by,

That here obedient to her words we lie.

Wonderful is the courage that conquers Death!

As I went for a walk that evening the word DEATH kept reminding me that Everything is impermanent.

I got a whiff of the fresh mud smell as it had just rained . I opened myself to let the pure clean transparent air fill me up.



Story in Pictures

The events that happened- June to September 2018



At peace with stories

Beginner's course in the sylvan setting of Sathkol, nestled in the Himalayas



100 and counting...

The 100th batch of beginner's course happened in Bangalore



Nothing like stories

Storytelling sessions at Sapna Book House, Klay pre school, Chirag School, Sathkol and many more



Sharing the learnings

Addressing schools at Bal Sahitya Parishad, Goa

Other Highlights

Workshops and training programs

- ❑ Beginner's courses in Mumbai, Bangalore, Sathkol
- ❑ Workshop on Applying Storytelling for **FES(Foundation for Ecological Security)** field personnel, in Chintamani, Kolar by Kathalaya trainer, Ms. Meera Venkatesan
- ❑ Art of storytelling for L&T Corporates by Ms. Geeta Ramanujam, and Talk on Need and ways to narrate a success story well, at **Novozymes South Asia private limited** by, Mr. Krishna
- ❑ Panelist at, "**21 Leading Pre-School Chains of the 21st Century**", Hyderabad organized by Brain Feed magazine
- ❑ Special Talk on "**Reading material for children: Content, Context and contemporary compulsions**" for 1000 Teachers at the Bal Sahitya Parishad (Children's literature conference).organised by Ravindra Bhavan, Margao in association with Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Goa
- ❑ Workshop on **Art of Storytelling based on Yama and Niyama** at 1000 Yoga ,Bangalore
- ❑ Workshop on "**Reading aloud to your children**" at multiple locations in Klay preschool by Kathalaya Trainers

Performances

- ❑ Storytelling at Good Earth, Kengeri and Chirag school, Sathkol
- ❑ Weekly Storytelling sessions at Sapna Book Store, Koramangala, Nagawara, and Residency Road
- ❑ Ongoing storytelling programs at The Cambridge International and BGS NPS, Bannerghatta Road
- ❑ Stories from Japan, Joy of Bonding, Bilingual stories and more at KathaSangama
- ❑ Special Japanese Storytelling performance by Asuka & Tamon from Japan at Good Earth -Kengeri
- ❑ Storytelling sessions at multiple locations in Klay preschool
- ❑ Special Storytelling performance for Podar Jumbo kids across Bangalore on Independence day

Programs- October to December 2018

19th - 31st October -Geeta Ramanujam Special performer at the 30th Scottish International Storytelling Festival, 2018-Scotland

3rd and 4th Nov, - a unique new workshop on Neutral Masks by Spatica Ramanujam

23rd and 24th November- 2 days Special Shadow puppetry workshop at Kathalaya, by International Shadow play artists(Micheal &Wendy)

28th and 29th November- Story carnival at Brigade Schools, Malleshwaram, and JP Nagar

1st December –Storyfest-STORY OF INDIA at Deens School, Gunjoor campus, Bangalore

8th -10th December- Beginner’s course at Pune

14th -16th December -Beginner’s course at Bangalore

18th December - Diploma course at Kathalaya Bangalore

4th Saturday of every month- Kathasangama at Kathalaya, Bangalore

For more details about the programs and workshop,
Contact: kathalaya@gmail.com +91-8277389840

"Those who tell the stories rule the world."

--Hopi American Indian proverb