



RAM LAKHAN PRASAD

**A Collection Of My  
Thoughts**

THE

OTHER  
SIDE

THOUGHTS I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH MY READERS



**Most of my life I tried to pursue what was caught in my heart not what caught my eyes.**

# A COLLECTION OF MY THOUGHTS: THE OTHER SIDE

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Essays, Short Stories,  
Poems and Invocations

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## LIST OF MY PUBLICATIONS

1. Managing People in the Business World
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3. Motivation Towards 2000
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Others are published by Adarsh Printers(Bombay)

Purushottam Publications (Calcutta) and Clark & Mckay of  
Brisbane

**My past has been a very rich history; all the present moments and events are sacred inscriptions and my future is yet to be predicted, created and written for my readers to read, understood and appreciated.**

# DEDICATION

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“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil.” (Proverbs)

*To My Dearest Wife Ganga,  
I just want to say with words that will now be read by various people in literally dozens of countries around the world.*

God wanted me to be happy and that is the only reason why He made you my wife. You are so thoughtful. Thank you for respecting me. Thank you for standing by me when I needed you most. I really appreciate your loyalty. You bring me joy. I am a rich man because you are my wife.

This dedication is for others to read however, these are private words addressed to my dearest wife Ganga in public.



# HOPE

**Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst,  
Hope opens doors where despair closes them,  
hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling what cannot,  
Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and basic goodness of human nature,  
Hope lights a candle instead of cursing the darkness.**

**Hope regards problems, small or large, as opportunities,  
Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism,  
Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties and setbacks,  
Hope pushes ahead when it would be easy to quit.  
Hope puts up with modest gains, realizing that the longest journey starts with one step,  
Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others,  
Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.**



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Life of the Author





# I Wanted to Be a Pacesetter

My life was the first gift of God for me  
I have tried to make the best use of it all  
Love became the second gift for me  
I tried to spread this emotion to all.  
Understanding came as my third gift  
It made my life move ahead without a rift  
Then music was the greatest gift of all  
It wanted nothing in return just listen and roll.  
I was fortunate to get this life, short as it was  
Love and understanding made it full of class  
But music made the life real meaningful  
I loved life with music, it made me cheerful.  
Those who join me know life is to enjoy  
Keep listening to songs and rhythms for lasting  
joy  
We would love and understand life better,  
If we gave it a go and lived as a pacesetter.



# PROLOGUE

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**By David Reddy, (Purushottam) Past President of the Students' Council, Teachers' College 1959 and my College and High School mentor.**

*“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will*

*determine the significance of the life we lead.”*

*— Nelson Mandela*

I am pleased to introduce the readers to, Dr Ram Lakhan Prasad's latest book "The Other Side"-a collection of his thoughts, because what he has written really resonates with me. We both hail from Fiji ,sharing similar backgrounds, growing up in sugar cane villages where there was a great support from extended families and in particular, our grandparents who not only cared for us but also, taught us some valuable life principles. Adopting their values of working hard, persevering in the face of difficulties and having an unwavering faith in God, these all have stood well in the tests of our times. We were fortunate to attend the same high school and then proceeded to training college, where we picked up a few more good habits and values from teachers and fellow students. Our association continued after graduating from the training college, as we went

teaching in Labasa, Vanua Levu and then other parts of Fiji.

Looking back, we all agree that our lives in various roles and in different occupations, brought us in close contact with a large number of people and we had become part of them, absorbing some wisdom on the way. Each of us has living experience spanning eighties and we know too well, the joys of good times and pain and disappointments of swimming against the tides.

During Dr Prasad's last trip to the home land (Fiji), he took what turned out to be a momentous car journey of several hours. Seeing the familiar places and watching people in various activities, flooded his mind with some old memories which caused him to reflect deeply on his own journey of life thus far. This was no less an epiphany for Dr Prasad which resulted in compiling this book on the important lessons learnt to make his life meaningful. All the subjects covered are ideal for reading, meditating and hopefully cultivating good habits to succeed with the goals of life.

Dr RL Prasad also generously shares in this book, his own personal philosophy on what values to subscribe to in order to achieve a fulfilling life, living daily with confidence and with a sense of purpose. He encourages the readers to be courageous and follow their dreams.

Taking the role of a good guru, Dr Prasad also encourages the reader to lead a truly balanced life in developing our body, mind, soul and spirit. He has used quotes from some famous people to make his points in this regard. He exhorts the reader to observe the nature

and focus on the Creator and His attributes, “love“ being the greatest. Dear reader embark on the adventure of thinking others better than yourself and also loving them as yourself.

This book is well timed for publication during the holidays (however, not in particular), when folks would want to use spare their hours in reflecting on their work, relationships, past experiences and future goals. These topics are covered in this book and would be useful for that purpose,

I recommend this book as I note, there is enough substance to use it as an addition to a daily devotional, irrespective of our faith.

David Reddy, Auckland, NZ



# 1

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## Introduction

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During my active working life from 1960 to 2002 I have been lecturing, teaching, speaking at various functions, writing and creating my thoughts on various subjects and issues of particular interest to me. The thoughts were of political, social, cultural, economical, educational and general interest and nature. None the less, they were my own and I kept accumulating them until 2019 when I thought of putting them together as A Collection of my Thoughts I called it 'The Other Side'.

Many of my writings are published on the web and some are printed as hard copies of bound books and stored in my personal library at home. By December 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, when I complete my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday I would have written over 52 books and these are included as the List of Publications in the beginning.

I personally believe that in the process of our growing up, we have the tendency to change. For better or for worse, it is up to us

how we express and manage these changes in our daily living. Over the years of my active employment and family as well as community life, I saw many of my family members, teachers and friends change and I was no exception, Change, is inevitable they say.

I began my primary education in a village school in February 1946 and showed up at school barefooted, shy and timid with a lot cheaper and modest uniform and school bag of khaki material that my father so lovingly made for me. The bag contained my slate, a few writing clay pencils and my lunch parcel that my mother so carefully put in a metal container. While several students showed up at school with new shoes or a new uniform I was armed with nothing fancy but myself. However, I soon found my proper place at school and became one of the favorite students of the teachers when I managed to establish good friendship with other colleagues and do a lot better than others in my studies.

Besides my home and my village the school was my favorite place of learning. My teachers and my faithful friends and colleagues were my mentors. I paid proper attention and respect to all those who interacted with me with respect. Books became my treasure and reading them was my deep interest. Student life moved on and home life became my propeller of good conduct.

It is believed that many things in life are temporary, therefore if things are going good for us let us enjoy it to the fullest because they will not last forever. However, if on some days things are not going well and we are feeling bad. let us not worry too much about them because they too cannot last forever either.

In the words of my ancestors when things are not adding up in our life let us start subtracting them gradually. Our every day may not be good but there is something good in every day. Good or Bad Day but just smile because we have a lot to be thankful for.

*My experience is that even Angels have fallen  
and failed.*

*Then why should we have fear of fall and  
failure?*

*Journey of our life begins with our first firm step.*

*I know that everyone has secrets to tell but they fear  
reprisal.*

*People who rise and rise are the ones who have learnt to  
never give up.*

*People, who love, laugh and learn from mistakes live life  
fully well.*

*Fear for us can be two edged sword when on the one  
hand it becomes the greatest thief of all our time and on  
the other hand it becomes our vision and our dreams.*

*Of course, anything can be possible when we firmly  
believe in what we are doing.*

*I tried my best to develop my positive life and living and  
God helped me achieve all I was able to do.*

# 2

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## MY BELIEF MY RESPONSIBILITY

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It is none of my business what people say of me and think of me because I believe that I am what I am, I do what I do and what I say I am free to say. I expect nothing and accept everything. This is one of the reasons why it makes my life so much easier to live. I too share the loaded view of Dalai Lama who says that there is no need for temples and there is no need for complicated philosophy because our own brain and our own heart is our temple if our philosophy is kindness.

I have been and am not only responsible for my own life and actions but I believe that doing my very best at every moments of my short but interesting life has always placed me in the box seat of my life and living to better structure my future. I thank God Almighty for guidance and blessings. I pray whenever and wherever I



can with no fixed unnecessary traditional ceremonies. My prayers are simple and straightforward. 'Oh God Almighty take me in your fold and guide me to live a truthful, good and beautiful life. I ask for nothing more than your kind blessings.'

### **PURPOSE OF MY LIVING**

The last time I was in Fiji, I had an important discussion with my soul during a ride in my rental car from Suva to Nadi. These are my thoughts of those peaceful moments when I am alone and perhaps among the moments I cherish most because I am free to relate to my soul.

A lot of topics churned through my mind for a while but after driving for nearly half an hour, somehow the topic that intrigued me was about being happy, so my soul and I discussed the four aspects of our being: Body, Mind, Heart and Soul or the physical world, our thoughts and knowledge, our emotions and our spirituality.

Before I proceed any further with the discussion, let me state that I am not an expert in any of these fields but it feels like a balance between these four can perhaps contribute to a certain harmony in our life, while neglecting some in favour of other fields that may lead us into various problems.

This is an example of the circle I used to draw. In the outer circle went the long term goals and purposes. In the second inner circle I used to put the short term goals. It was always fun to give these things some thought and I enjoyed doing these. I even encouraged my people to do the same to be successful in life.

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