
**WITHOUT
FEAR
OR
FAVOUR**

TAN CHEE KHOON

Editor
Raj Vasil

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Dedication

*This book is gratefully dedicated to my parents
the late Tan Chin Ghee and Tay Kim Siew
who have sacrificed so much for their children and
to whom we their children owe so much.*

Preface

Writing has always appealed to me. During my active days in politics I was forced to communicate with the people at large primarily through the spoken word. Politics was hectic and there was often little time to write. After I retired from active politics, in order to maintain my contact with the people and sustain the fundamental values of democracy and multi-racialism in this country, I decided to write for the press but soon found out that I was not quite "respectable" in their eyes.

It was only when I was awarded the Tan Sri that I suddenly became respectable and I was approached by the Managing Editor of the *Star*, Mr. Hng Hung Yung, to write for the paper. Of course, I was made aware of the fact that he had already secured clearance from the Board of Directors of the *Star* as well as from the Government. Such is the reality of life in this country.

I am of course grateful to the *Star* for giving me the start in writing for the press. I must, however, make it clear that I am not in any way beholden to the MCA, who are the main shareholders through proxies of course, or to the Barisan Nasional Government.

Later I was accepted as a columnist by the *Nanyang Siang Pau* and the *Thinamani*. From time to time too my articles have also been printed in the *Utusan Malaysia* and *Watan*. To each of them I am grateful. I also wish to thank the *Star* and the *Nanyang Siang Pau* for the use of some of their photographs.

Not all the articles I have written have been published. I cannot be too hard on the editors concerned as the publishing and printing laws of our country do make editors look over their shoulders all the time. However, after the assumption of power by the 2M administration none of my articles have been rejected. This is a welcome change.

This volume contains a collection of my articles. It also includes several articles which have not been published by any newspaper.

VIII PREFACE

I wish to thank Tun Mohammed Suffian for the foreword and the kind words he has written about me. Raj Vasil has been of special help for he agreed to edit the articles and write the various introductions contained in the volume. Without his help the job of producing this book would have been much harder and taken a much longer time.

I also wish to place on record my deep appreciation to my nurse Miss Wong Mee Kiew for typing all my articles. She is one of the few who can decipher my handwriting and she has spent many long hours in typing all that I have written often in dribs and drabs.

I also have to thank a large number of my friends whom I have consulted in the preparation of the articles and who have helped me out in other ways. To mention them individually would run into pages but there is one friend whom I must thank publicly — Dr. M.K. Rajakumar. We have been associated together for more than three decades — professionally and politically, in the University of Malaya and now he has been of immense help in my writing.

Lastly I wish to thank my wife for the help she has given me in the writing of these articles.

Tan Sri Dr. Tan Chee Khoon