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Soothsayer extraordinaire

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CELEBRATED astrologer Professor Thevariddu Murugan Raman Kutty does not look at the stars for clues about the future. He is more down to earth.

He bases his predictions on the measurements of one's girth, limbs, neck and other body parts, or by studying the angle and size of the nose or thumb.

"By comparing the length of a person's limbs and shoulders with the circumference of his head, neck and waist, for instance, I can obtain certain average points.

"A person whose average is 305 and below will not rise beyond the status of a worker, one with 420 points will be a moderately rich person while those who score between 570 and 710 are leadership material," Kutty explains.

Neither schooled in mathematics nor in actuarial science, the 68-year-old soothsayer extraordinaire from Kerala, India, can translate a human subject into a combination of binary codes through his unique talents.

TMR Kutty, as he is fondly called, has predicted the fortunes of more than 900,000 people all over the world based on his calculations. He will enter the Guinness Book Of Records on completing his one millionth reading soon. For this purpose, he methodically maintains careful records of everyone who has benefited from his service including videotaping their views of his predictions.

Kutty's talents designate him as an physiognomist, astrologer, crystal ball gazer, numerologist and palm peruser. These designations however only serve to place limitations on his vast capabilities.

The much sought-after soothsayer who charges no fees for his consultations, looks at his work as a mission of benevolence to correct the lives of humanity - to put them in their constitutional position in the cosmic order of existence.

He predicted the assassination of India's third Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. He was a close confidante of Indira's son Rajiv and similarly foresaw the premier's assassination by a suicide bomber. He says he has now fully consolidated his unique talents in taking the role of a swamiji (sage).

Kutty has also been successful in astral healing of patients, through the touch of his hands.

However, he points out: "The suffering one undergoes in this life is purely a result of his own present and past ill deeds.

"The key to a healthy and problem-free life is to refrain from negative actions and cleanse oneself of the reactions of past bad deeds by carrying out benevolent action."

In his 42 years as a soothsayer, his predictions affected the direction of Indian politics, cinema and artistic fields. He has been invited to the Middle East, Africa, Australia and many Asian countries on consultation and healing engagements.

He said during his recent trip to Oman, he was asked to read the fortunes of some 1,400 people.

Although he had no formal education, he was conferred a honorary professorship by the University of Calicut in India for his mastery of the art of astronomy and astrology.

Kutty's popularity among the South Indian film world also landed him three movie roles.

The swamiji was on a brief visit to Malaysia from Singapore last month. Speaking in a mix of Tamil and Malayalam, Kutty said his ability to determine the future was based on his calculations and his strong sense of intuition and divine help.

The unassuming swamiji adds: "It all began for me after I obtained the gift of soothsaying through my dead grandfather under mysterious circumstances.

"Seeing my ability, several experts in soothsaying took me under their wing and helped me develop my talent."

When asked about Malaysia's future, Kutty, after casting his cowries and shifting them, said the country will successfully emerge from its economic problems and go on to become an economic power after the year 2005.

"There will be positive economic growth from 2003, after which it will be full steam ahead until 2005 when Malaysia will attain sixth or seventh ranking among the top world economies," he said.

Kutty said the indications were that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would continue to lead the country for another term and steer the nation out of its current economic problems.

"Dr Mahathir is a very powerful and capable leader. His administration is good and has the popular backing of the majority of Malaysians.

"However, the past 10 months have been most disturbing for Dr Mahathir, whose leadership has faced many challenges from his many political enemies.

"But according to my calculations, Dr Mahathir's enemies will not succeed in their attempts to oust the Prime Minister. In fact, he will surmount the odds to emerge victorious and be able to solve all his problems by May.

"Dr Mahathir will only relinquish his power when he is ready to do so. This will be at the end of his next term, when he will name his successor," said Kutty, who has practised astrology and physiognomy for over 40 years.

On Dr Mahathir's health, he predicted that the Prime Minister would not encounter any health problems presently and would go on strong until he is 85 1/2 years old, when he will face a health hurdle. If he overcomes that, he will go on to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Asked about the future of the world as a whole, he said the beginning of the new millennium would see the world beset with many natural disasters.

"The people of the world should be very careful during this period as it would seem as if the end of the world is nigh, but by 2010, peace will return to the world again," he said.

On Indian politics, Kutty remarked: "As I have predicted earlier through the Indian media, the BJP can survive only two years of its five-year term.

"Sonia Gandhi (Rajiv Gandhi's widow), will become the next Prime Minister of India and she will steer India to become one of the five most powerful economies of the world."

He also predicted that Sonia's daughter, Priyanka, would contest successfully in the Indian elections in 2001.

"The stars favour her to lead the country in the next millennium," he said, adding that there was a possibility that Sonia's son Rahul would also take the premiership after Priyanka.

Kutty currently runs an English primary school, a school for soothsayers and a temple in Panagatti, Palakkad in Kerala. He also aspires to build an asramam (shelter) to supply free vegetarian food for the poor.

Those interested in contacting Kutty can call 03-2824157, 06-6324157 (Seremban), 02-2918034 (Heman Kumar - Singapore) or 019-9604072.

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