

### **An Official Jotting of 'Lub-Dub'**

If you had closely observed, my personal websites have been always carrying a cute little nickname of 'Lavanya Deepak' or 'Lavanya' in short. At the first glance, the reader might get into the following impressions:

1. The writer is a girl by name 'Lavanya', who is either a spouse or daughter of 'Deepak'. In India, the girl name is normally appended with father's name (before marriage) and spouse name (after marriage).
2. The writer has a close relationship to some one called 'Lavanya' or his spouse name would be that. The purpose of this page is to clarify on these points. There are other perspectives or dimensions to these too. Let me make an humble endeavor here to present you the same.

### **A little peek into the history**

Let me walk you back into the history to my college days of 1995-99 where I got the first glimpse of Internet/Email. Those were the days I created first email account through 'MSN Hotmail'. I remember my email address. I didn't actually know what is an email address too? In my lab (TS Santhanam Computing Center of VEC), some of the pass-out seniors were only in faculty till they were placed. They guided us step-by-step.

Now whilst creating the account, I was too amateurish. That time, for a few tenure, I was little carried over by 'Sri Kalki Bhagavan' movement (because this was also setting into my school, during my +2). 'deepak@hotmail.com' was taken. So I tried creating one called deepakumar@hotmail.com. But my friends advised that it looked like a girl's name. So, let me create one more. I asked whether I would be charged anything. That was my state of knowledge. After confirming, I created one more account called 'dipukalki@hotmail.com'. Though now, I don't have a passion for these 'Kalki' or 'Kumudam' or another crappy movements, I still maintain this email address (though no significant emails are received) since it is my first address. And naturally, the first infatuation to the Internet used to be the following then:

1. Pen Friends
2. Yahoo Chatrooms

There was a block of chat facility in our college but we had ways to overcome and workaround it too. :) I developed one another craze then. 'Building homepages'. My first two homepages were: Sri Vaishnava Divyadesams and Deepak Home. There was also a craze for creating unique and different email addresses. I still remember some fancy names -- N2Mail, USA.NET, MailAndNews.com etc... Amidst these learning cum celebrations spree, I got a good pen friend by name 'Lavanya'. She was telling me that she was in University of Toronto (Her full name is truncated to protect her privacy). Mind it, the emails we

exchanged were too childish -- Midterm Exams, How was your results, Happy Diwali etc. Even after I completed my college, at least this pen-friendship continued amongst us. I admit that the frequency of those one-liners diluted even more. Now I am in search of a good job and want of money. Where would I pay a steep charges of 120 per hour to cybercafes and chat? After I first joined my first company in December, the email exchanges were little restored, though not as much as in the college days.

After I joined a company called Cybernet in 2004 [four years after my college] because of work pressures and tighter schedules, my Internet browsing habits pruned down to a minimum and only for business purposes. But I still had greener memories of lust-less, greedless true pen friendship spanning across the continents and covering diversified timezones.

### **The Transition ...**

The pen-friend seed gave me a boost and first step encouragement to write small articles and start my own weblog too. Now, instead of writing in my own name, I just thought I should write in pseudonym. In India, we call this as pen-name or punaippayar in Tamil. I chose my other name 'Lakshminarasimhan' but it was too lengthy and not many people could even get it finer. 'Lavanya' lent a helping hand. The name 'Lavanya' itself was sworn in by me as my 'pen name'. Even during the college days, I had a passion for our sampradaya. So I was just what the heck is this 'Lavanya' name all about. Is that just another bunch of fancy nomenclature or does it have some sanskrit meaning. India Express Girl Baby names helped me in that. 'Lavanya' stood for 'grace', 'compassion', 'elegance' and 'beauty'. If I don't give credit to some one called 'Sujatha Rangarajan', I am a cheat. 'Sujatha' is not a woman. He is a guy by name 'Rangarajan', who writes in his pen name of 'Sujatha' many science fictional novels. One robot story that was recently telecast in Doordarshan Channel I was again another inspiration for me to go in for a pen name in lieu of my given names. 'Lavanya' was just not a pen name for me. If you closely follow 'Sri Lakshmi Narasimhan Sahasranamam', you can find that 'Lavanya' is also name of the Lord. Next came an incident were actually felt I needed a name change for numerological reasons because of continuos hurling of bad luck on me, my percieve short-tempered attitude and impatient gesture. Perhaps, my guess was my name 'Deepak' stands for light which symbolises 'heat waves'. Hence I was thinking I should summarily change my name as 'Lavanya Deepak' in government gazette. My close wellwishers suggested me that I should avoid that since at least in Indian environment, this would be a bigger peril in the long run. So I chose the following ad hoc adjustments to see how the name change fits.

1. Swapping of my name as 'Vasudevan Deepak' (Transposition of Surname to First)
2. Abbreviating middle initials.

While these satisfied the statutory regulations, my soft skills were still lacking. After joining C S Software, I chose to 'push' "Lavanya Deepak" at least in the informal sense. Not sure whether the numerological jugglery or my faith in 'Lavanya', this did help me in improving my soft skills and streamline my outlook to the world. I remember, my friend (Sreedhar Katikireddy affectionately called



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'scrollbar' for his patient typing of long long

emails during really late hours) often teasing me 'Deepu. When you get married, your name would get appended to your spouse. So is this an initiative or do you have some one 'Lavanya', in your life. I could just only smile off the instance. I am not that guy who would succumb to just a crazy love affair or an lust-driven base infatuation. If at all, God gifts me with a girl with the same name, it should be a 'zillion dollar priceless gift',

as if I am being promoted as the emperor of the universe. But in any case, 'LD' would stick on to me. It has become the part and parcel of my heart-beat.

That is the only reason, my personal websites now even show 'LD' as the logo. I don't see any distinct tangible person behind this. If at all, during here and there, some one was teasing me that I am in love with a girl, I would not refuse the offer though. 'Lavanya' has become my heart and soul. I am in love with my sweetheart. She is my conscience. She is my beacon light -- the invisible guide who guides me through the

world's way and the cyber way with an unfaltering determination, perseverance and endurance. People say when marriage topic comes, this 'LD' might create some hullabaloo. But I am confident that my conscience would not run me down. The enormous confidence and patience that has been cultivated by this self-discovered treasure and the tight fence firewall which ensures that I never go out of ethical way anytime would surely, I trust, help me in explaining and convincing to my tangible future life partner the veracity facts. I am sure when that stage comes, the physical and virtual LDs should converge, which is where is a peaceful family life to begin. Wish me!!

Lovings yours,

Deepak Kumar Vasudevan