

# Kunapipi

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Volume 1 | Issue 2

Article 8

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1979

## The Proposal

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### Recommended Citation

Wijenaikē, Punyakante, The Proposal, *Kunapipi*, 1(2), 1979.

Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol1/iss2/8>

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## The Proposal

### Abstract

Dear Mr Ranmuttu, This being my first letter to you please allow me to introduce myself before anything else. I am one Kalupane working in the EXPRESS TRAVEL GROUP. I happened to know you and your esteemed family through one Mr Hatharagama who is also working in our Company today. Through his courtesy and friendship since assuming office, your loving sister was proposed to me as a wife and I agreed to pay a visit as our two horoscopes agreed to a greater extent.

# The Proposal

Dear Mr Ranmuttu,

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This little trip was made quite some time back and I was not decided on the matter as I had a lot of thinking to be done before arriving at decision. Having been a roaming bachelor for 45 years I need time to adjust to matrimony.

Dear Mr Ranmuttu, I have no regrets whatsoever as I am *happy with the proposal* but I am a person who had one ambition in my life and which I still nurture and, if I am given a bit of assistance, I am willing to go ahead with this matrimony without any further delay. I well know that in the village sometimes, people are suspicious when it comes to parting with their hard earned savings. Therefore I am turning to you to help your family solve the problem of your sister's dowry. Besides I know that you people working in Dubai are rich. Why do Sri Lankans go to the Middle East except to get rich no?

I am now aware that you may give me a brand new car and I am also aware that your sister will be getting whatever she needs from you. But my problem is this. The intention of getting a car is not to roam but to make money so that I can start my own

business. I am not very happy where I am working as I cannot do things my way. I am conversant with the travel trade and I have a travel licence. I have good contacts with Germany, France and even London.

Now if I am to succeed with the travel trade I must have a good house as well as a car as in any business venture the first and foremost thing is that you will have to sell yourself before you can get other things into your hand.

Only a few people understand the real values of marriage and life thereafter. Some people have gone to the extent of criticizing me on the request I have made to you thinking me too greedy. Please do understand me, Mr Ranmuttu. It will be easy for you to understand me, living in a rich oil country, better than people in our villages where money is got out of the land by sweat. Please understand that I am asking all these things not only for me but fitting to your sister's future and to the betterment of the family members. Today money is God. If you have money you can even go to the moon with the Americans and come home safely again, isn't it so Mr Ranmuttu? Let us then try and go to the moon, you and I and . . . of course your sister. With the experience I have gathered in the business field I do not intend getting married just to get a car. With the car I intend doing a lot of other things which will be beneficial to your sister too.

I do not know how you are placed in regard to this request but personally I do not mind if you arrange with your parents or brother to fulfil this request for a car until we make some adjustments at a later date. But I request you earnestly to think carefully so that we could all be happy about everything at the same time. I think, therefore, in the best interest of all, that you and I should handle this Car transaction. If I get married to your sister it does not mean that I am getting married only to your sister but to the entire family of yours. If this thinking is true and clear I must finalise every detail, every fraction of this marriage to suit all of us in all our doings in the future. And, being a man of experience in the business and travel field, I think I may be the best man

to handle such a situation.

Of course I cannot tell these things to your parents, brother or sister as they are not in a position to understand what my future plans are. Further their minds have been somewhat prejudiced by some of your close and jealous relatives on this matter. To them a Car has become a matter of significance, a matter for too much discussion. As a result your sister is now expecting a letter from me on account of this talk. I am not yet in a position to write to her until I hear from you. Therefore I shall thank you to reply to me at your earliest as to what your decision would be on all these matters so that I could write or see your loving sister and parents at home without delay and with a clear mind.

Now let me get to the Car you intend sending me down here. I have received a car list from a good friend. Of course those are good cars and the Motor Company dealing with them here belongs to my friend who gave me the list. But some of those cars are good for people who have made money. What WE must have is a hardy car which could run smoothly on little oil giving no problem, to cater to the foreign travel requirements of this small country. Therefore please do not send anything other than a Peugeot 404. When sending the car you must make it a point to keep some mark on the keys of the car to enable us to make the clearance at this end easy and also please keep in mind not to send any extra fittings along with the car such as radios, air conditioners etc. as those are being robbed at this end very thoroughly. Send every possible 'extra' but send them separately.

I would prefer the colour of the car to be yellow or blue as those colours might go along with the business name board I have in mind for my new Company.

Dear Mr Ranmuttu, in conclusion I wish to say that I am happy with your sister, father, mother and other brother but especially proud of a *man like you* irrespective of those other matters, which are yet not settled. Some day, before you die, you are sure to get good returns for all your efforts to help your dear family members.

Wishing you the best of luck in everything you may decide to venture into,

I remain

Yours truly intended to be.

Brother-in-law (L.S.D. Kalupane)