

Is it actually *nataka* in Karnataka or just a farce trying to elevate itself to the level of a noble art form called *nataka* (or drama) as glorified by greats like Shakespeare and Kalidasa. Here, Devegowda is neither a Shakespeare nor Kalidasa and looks more like a Dhritarashtra in Mahabharata which is more of an epic and not at all a drama. You can understand a Dhritarashtra with hundred sons in his times but with just four sons who could imagine that Devegowda could become a Dhritarashtra ? Maybe it is one of the miracles of modern times.

What are the intentions of Devegowda? Is losing power more important than losing his secular credentials is a question that may not be answered for many years to come. Even when Dharam Singh was the chief minister many people knew how close Gowda was to Yediyurappa (ho! let me not forget that it is Yedyurappa or something like that now). It is an open truth now that if Yeddyurappa is the next CM it is only because of the new spelling of his name and not because of any substance in him. Yedyurappa and Gowda used to compliment each other about the other's greatness and achievements for a long time even before Kumaaraswamy decided to forge an alliance with BJP the first time.

Today Yedyurappa saying that he would go to the people to decide about what action needs to be taken is a big joke because it is not one of the many times that he has taken the consent of the people of the state to decide about his political decisions. How he thinks about the people of the state only when things go wrong or against him should be seen with no surprise by the people of Karnataka because he is a master at handling words and emotions and the ease with which he changes both is an art known only to him.

Forget about Yeddyurappa asking for the opinion or taking the consent of the people of Karnataka, he has even failed to feel the pulse of his supporters. It is a known fact that though Kumaaraswamy was known to be ineffective in many ways, the BJP MLAs found him more approachable, congenial and understanding. Yedyurappa's attitude of intolerance and certain aspects of his behaviour like nodding before he has even heard the MLA or like deciding even before understanding the issue are things that strike fear in the hearts and minds of the BJP MLAs. Maybe that should explain why many BJP MLAs wanted Kumaaraswamy to continue as the chief minister.

It will be seen in the future with a Yedyurappa as CM that the Dal MLAs would have more access to him and the BJP leader would be more favourably disposed towards them. Kheny and Bellary Reddy are to be made the unwilling sacrificial goats at the altar of power and looking at the way Sadanada Gowda almost kissing JDS leader Merajuddin Patel and the firebrand MLA C T Ravi of Chikmagalur and the Bababudangiri notoriety hugging and caressing Zameer Ahmed would make anyone think why Advani prasing Jinnah was made into such a big issue. Nobody should be surprised if hereafter in view of the comfort of power BJP went even go to the extent of becoming the champion of the Muslim causes. God save those who believe these guys and die too (some cases kill too).

Does Devegowda know that the government can never be formed with Yedyurappa as the CM? Was JDS supporting BJP only a ploy to absolve itself of the blame it had brought upon itself as a result of Kumaraswaamy's folly under the able guidance of his father? With BJP behaving silly and desperate for power even the staunch supporters of the party have started losing respect for their leaders. It is only the Congress with all its internal differences and many many heavy weights is still

appearing as a solid party and could attract more votes in the next election, only if it does not end up doing anything silly before that.

It would only be advisable if the Congress party has its wisdom intact and would allow the Governor to decide on his own and the BJP and the Dal to decide and shape their own fates. Why a party of something like hundred twenty three years of experience behaves like an imbecile should be one of the wonders of India.

Whether anyone accepts it or not, the truth must be that Devegowda was caught in his own game and unlike a smart spider knowing how to avoid the sticky strands of his own web an old and weary Devegowda went wrong in his steps. What are the reasons for re- alliance? Fear of the party breaking up? Kheny getting to build his road? Bellary Reddy becoming stronger and trying to trap the Gowda family? Or not losing a few more months that can be bountiful? People who know Devegowda very well also know about the amount of love he has for his MLAs . It is not a secret that there have been many times when he has asked many of his MLAs to leave the party if they were not happy with it. How exactly Gowda planned to run his party and the government without his MLAs should be a political million dollar question. The billion dollar question however is that how inspite of Gowda's attitude, Kumaraswaamy's trickery and Revanna's weight, the JDS MLAs are still staying together. Perhaps, the answer is there and we are unable to find it.

It is important for politicians to be active, devoid of emotions, in control of their ego and extraordinarily energetic, whatever they are, but whether they are worthy of people's respect, from now on, is something that no self respecting man is interested about.