

R.I.P. DOLLY UNNITHAN 58-59: 1-7-2018

While traveling by bus to Penang today after the Kirkby Reunion in JB, I received this sms at 1.03 pm from Bala: "I just received a call from Salma that Leela's sister Dolly Unnithan suffered a cardiac arrest and died on 1/7."

I immediately smsed Leela: "My dear Leela I am so sorry to learn of Dolly's demise"

Leela at once replied: "Tq Rama. It's a week now n I was still in a very emotional stage during our johor reunion to share this info with kirkbyites. I felt mon today was a better time. Tq."

Lela was remarkably brave to have attended the JB Reunion, suffering silently and caring not to spoil the mood of the Kirkby Reunion by disclosing the demise of her sister.

Those Kirkbyites who had known Dolly had asked Leela at the JB Reunion, "How is Dolly?"

Leela simply answered, "She is where she is." She told little but in a way she told a lot! It was true, Dolly was where she was.

Leela was close to Dolly and kept in touch. But her death was a devastating blow for Leela. "She went alone to the States and now she is gone alone. That is heart-breaking," she confided.

Dolly was a well-established artist of renown. She had held exhibitions in UK, Europe, Japan and America. She lived in

New York in an apartment where various artistes stayed: painters, dancers, curators, poets, etc.

Arrangements are being made for Leela's brother and his daughter to travel to NY to arrange for the funeral but prior to that a lot of paper work has to be done to positively identify Dolly so that her funeral can take place.

I told Leela that Malays take death very well. She responded, :That's true. You understand the Malays. The Malays accept death as the will of God."

Dolly was my Senior in college. She belonged to the 58-59 batch of Kirkbyites. Our paths crossed again when Dolly attended the S.T.T.I. course in 1963. She followed the Art course and I was with the Education of the Blind.

I was to meet her again for the third and last time when she attended the 2016 KL Kirkby Reunion.

May her soul rest in peace!

All Kirkbyites extend their sympathies to Leela over the demise of her dear sister.

Take care and stay well, dear Leela.

With very warm regards,

RAMA

9-7-2018