

GOD IS MY DEFENCE

Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. Psalm 59,9

For some days, my mind has been constantly coming back to this verse, and especially to this one word “defence,” that too in the Thamizh language, my mother tongue. In Thamizh this word has been translated as “High Defence” that is உயர்ந்த அடைக்கலம்” Uyarndha Adaikkalam. Uyarndha means high and adaikkalam does not just mean defence, but has multiple meanings. It is a polysemous word. This word adaikkalam, is formed from the verb “adai.” “Adai” means to reach a place, goal etc. At the same time, adai also is the root which describes the brooding of a hen over her eggs, it also means when all her chicks reach under her wings and settle for the night.

It is such a beautiful analogy woven into the word which also denotes the place of security. We all need this place where we can go and be safe and settle for the night. If one has watched the hens gathering their chicks in the evening, they would clearly know what it means. The mother sits like a tower over her chicks, providing them warmth and security.

Yesterday we as a small group went to a small village near my home at Madurai, to meet the people there, speak and pray for them. Though very close to a big city like Madurai, I felt as though I was back 50 years. The homes are made of mud. Many families suffer because their main occupation is to manually break stones in the surrounding stone quarries.

But each house has livestock of their own, and it was a joy to watch. It was in one such house I saw this. A big black mother hen sitting like a tower over her chicks.



It was fascinating to see small head bobbing all around her. And I was pretty close. Hens also know and are scared of strangers. But the chicks were not afraid and I was clicking away many pictures.

And in the midst of all this, that white one from under her wing started sleeping. That was such a picture of assurance. The mother hen was watching me furiously when her little one under her wings was blissfully asleep.



I was watching them with fascination and remembering the word, “adaikkalam, my high defence.” How true God alone is our Defence.

That is the reason why Jesus wept over Jerusalem, saying, “O Jerusalem how often I longed to gather you as a hen that gathers its chicks under its wings, but you were not willing.” Mathew 23,37

How easily we fret and we are terribly scared, feel very alone when we have our Maker standing by with His open arms.

I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts. Isaiah 65,2

We run here, there everywhere. We make calls wherever possible, but somehow we miss this High Defence.

Though the verse had been running in my mind for the past week, when I saw this whole live picture yesterday, it was as though God had reserved this for my eyes so that I would once again trust and come and find refuge under His wings.

I needed this assurance that my God is my Great Defence, my Adaikkalam where I can rest, be assured and be comforted.

Let us ask God to fold us back into His wings, into His warmth, His goodness, His joy, His love and peace.

THE ETERNAL GOD IS MY REFUGE AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS. Deuteronomy 33,27

