WHEREEVERNOMANWANTSTOGOESLAND

WHEREVERNOMANWANTS TOGOESLAND was not a prime tourist destination. It was not even a destination for there were no beautiful landscapes, only rugged mountains, a few small rivers which managed to serve the population, no casinos or posh hotels, only small family-run rooms to let in the villages. In one of these villages set in a valley between two mountains, lived the Gopati family. They had four children a boy, called Noti, a girl called Sopi, a boy called Gropi, and a girl, called Dopi.

They lived in the only town in the land. Its name was HOPI, for its large population lived in hope: hope for rain to water the lands that grew along the small rivers, hope for a good harvest so that there was no need to import food from other countries, and especially hope that the political turmoil in which they lived could be peacefully resolved. The Gopati family was a devout Christian family which had been members of Saint James Baptist Church for many generations. They were proud of this heritage. Sopi played the organ for services, Gropi was the Youth Leader, Dopi was a Sunday School teacher, Noti was the Medic in charge of minor injuries at youth camps, and their father was Reverend Timothy Gopati who had served in that capacity from his marriage to Mrs Thelma Gopati who led the Baptist Women's Association.

Because of all the above, the Gopati family was very influential in local politics. They supported the CP party,

that is the Conservative Party which put their country first. The Leader of this party was Mr Smith. His office was in Parliament Building. They were the dominant party led by traditional Christian values. Other parties did not hold these views, and they attacked the CP from different angles. The GP, the Global Party, wanted the country to have influence on the world stage, while the PP, the Pleasure Party, wanted to allow all kinds of issues from the outer world to become law in their land. They wanted, for example, casinos and approved drug use.

The first child born to the Gopati parents was Noti, and then Sopi, Gopi and Dopi followed at two yearly intervals, after which Mummy Thelma said, “No more!” There was no university in the country, so on completing their high school education, the very bright Gopati children flew to THELANDWHEREEVERYONEWANTSTOGO to study. University education was free for students who had attained ninety percent on their School Leaving Certificate. This was just as well because Daddy Gopati would never have been able afford this on his stipend.

Many of the young people who went to university in THE LANDWHEREEVERYWANTSTOGO never returned home, and, in this respect, the young Gopati family differed. After qualifying as a neurosurgeon after seven years of study and three years to gain experience, Noti returned with his wife, Griselda, and their baby son. He was warmly welcomed

because the hospitals in Hopi needed more neurosurgeons desperately. Dopi had chosen to major in Piano Performance and History of Music and had graduated cum laude. Being a very pretty woman, she had many admirers but was in no hurry to get married. She taught piano at a girls' school and gave recitals in the Town Hall in aid of the Conservative Party. She also served the St Jame's Baptist Church as organist, relieving her mother who had many other duties in the church and Baptist Union to fulfil.

Gopi had not gone to university, but instead had enrolled in a theological college and graduated as a minister after four years. He was thrilled to return home, become assistant minister to his father, and marry his sweetheart, Isabella. Sopi had gone to university for four years and studied Politics, Political Action, and all the Conservative Leaders. On returning, she campaigned for the Conservative Party, crisscrossing the country. Sopi was an excellent speaker, marshalling her thoughts and exposing the opposition parties. She was a crowd pleaser and had a great sense of humour. Time and again the enthusiastic crowd chanted, "Sopi! Sopi!" and waved their banners. It was no wonder that she was elected as the youngest member to ever serve in Parliament!