

TO

The Deputy Commissioner,
Kamrup Distt.
GURAHATI.

Dated: 1 Aug. '85.

Sub. :ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION TO JALAJ SHRIVASTAV
ASSTT. COMMR. , KAMRUP.

Sir,

With due respect I beg to draw to your notice the acute shortage of residential accommodation, due to which I am forced to live in the Circuit House so far.

I assure you, Sir, that this application is not an esoteric and purely academic analysis of "Homes to All by 2000 A.C." schemes, but a totally personal problem, which, owing to the appearance of a snake in my bathroom today, assumed grave proportions (pun unintended).

The natural reaction would have been to follow the precedent established by Archimedes, but my urbane upbringing and anticipation of a Forestry Attachment made me stay and study the intruder, who had violated all protocol without even batting an eyelid (I realised later that they have no eyelids.) The snake was $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' long, $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, the shade of green that exists in all tablecloths supplied by the Nazerat branch, and a wriggling sliminess that would make Machiavelli blush.

I decided to introduce myself, showing my Identity card, issued under the seal of your authority. He merely stuck out his tongue (in fact, he was doing so incessantly anyway), thus inviting action u/s 188, 189 IPC in addition to Ss. 107/151 CrPc. The only catch is, if his family moves a habeas corpus and knows of the snake's whereabouts, I would have a problem. Namely, if the immigration techniques that have existed in the air of Assam have rubbed off on him, I can foresee him bringing his wife and children, who will bring their spouses who will bring their brethren, and so on, and soon I will be brushing and shaving myself in a viper's pit. Ideal for pagans, maybe, but not me.

Further, I quickly glanced through the "Distt. training for Probationers" handbook issued by LBSMA, as also the "Training of IAS probationers in Assam", pointing out to him that no less illustrious a person than Assam's Chief Secy. Mrs. Trivedi had framed it, and neither handbook required me to undergo a perpetual Reptile Attachment, but he just would not listen (he could not, in fact, as snakes are deaf).

The only point the snake can raise in his petition is that, whereas he is a registered citizen and a permanent resident, having shown clearly his intention to settle down I am a mere:

1. Asstt. Commr. on probation with no Art. 331(2) to protect me since the Chhappan case decision, whereas he is a confirmed, whatever he maybe,

2. a U.T. cadre probationer, on loan to Assam, & a guest.

Thus, the coexistence of a Reptile with someone who is a reptile neither by birth nor adoption, may generate contentious administrative & political problems. As I should like to respect my host state's residents' sentiments, I request you to avert the situation by allotting me a quarter on at least the first floor anywhere else. Also, kindly sanction ex gratia, a bottle of Potassium Permanganate & anti-snake bite serum, & a mongoose maintenance allowance from Distt. Treasury.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours's faithfully,

Jalaj Shrivastava

Assistant Commissioner.