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THE WAND

ORGAN OF THE SRI LANKA MAGIC CIRCLE

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June 2015

The Official Guardian of Magic

Magic Mini Contest
on the 28th June
Members Day!



**Come & Witness the
Talents of
Sri Lankan Magic!**

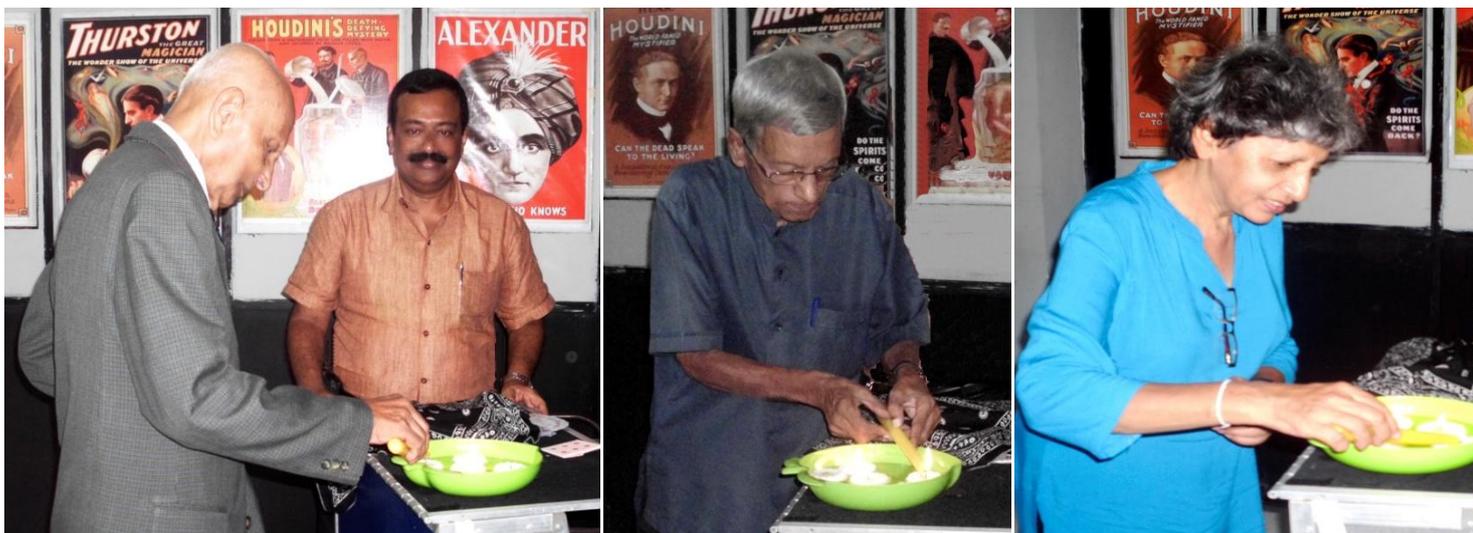
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Major Piyatilake receives the honor

Major R.M.Piyatilake who could not make it on the AGM day, received the insignia and the certificate of Honorary Life Membership by the SLMC president Rohan Jayasekara.

(Please see "Down the memory lane by HDN")

June Birthdays

- 5th M.M.S.Pushpakumara
- 14th Indunil Jayawickrama
- 22nd Sanjeeva Hewapathiraana

The monthly get together of the SLMC for the month of May 2015 was held at the “Vishmithapaya” on 31/05/2015 commencing around 10.00 am. The following Members were present:

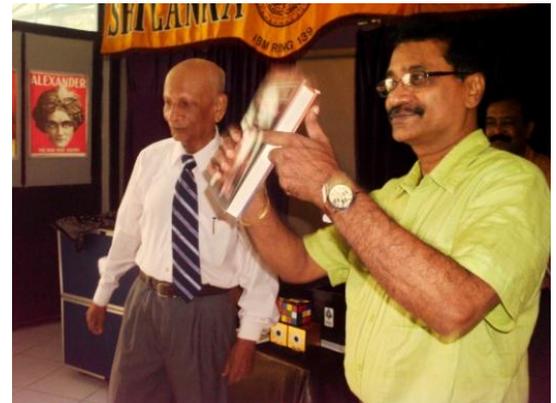
Amarasiri Wijesinghe, Asanka K. Pathirana, C. Heendeniya, Chandrasena Gamage, Chrisantha Silva, DineshThangavel, Emil Eranga, Gayan Wickramage, H. D. N. Gunasekera, Hiran Seneviratne, Lilani de Mel, M. K. Wimalasena, Priyantha Gamage, Rohan Jayasekera, Rohith J. Silva, R. M. Piyathileke, Shelton Jayasekera, Sujeewa Hewapathirane, Suranjith De Soysa, Thusitha Jayasekera, U. Abayakumara, W. A. K. Weerawardena, W. S. Boteju, Wilhelm Perera and Yogitha Anthony. The notice of absences was received from Ronald De Alwis, Joy de Silva and Devsiri Fernando.

The session started with the lighting of the oil lamp. The GS welcomed the members and invited the President Rohan to address the gathering. The President Rohan thanked the gathering for their presence and emphasized the importance of active participation of all members in various activities of SLMC.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Major R. M. Piyatilake, U.S.P. He is one of the most senior members who were elected into the elite group of “Honorary Life Members”. President Rohan presented the personalized insignia and the certificate. He also shared some of the past memories of SLMC



highlighting the contribution made by Major Piyathilake. Among the others who shared the memories were Shelton Jayasekera and HDN Gunasekera. Those who present were fortunate to see the classic, “Silent Mora’s Balls & Net” routine performed by Major Piyatilake, one of the best ‘cups and balls’ performers in the SLMC’s history. Being an ardent promoter of



reading to gain knowledge, he made a donation of a book to the SLMC library- “Maximum Entertainment; Director’s Notes for Magicians and Mentalists” by Ken Weber.



Entertaining the gathering, Suranjith De Soysa, Yogitha Anthony, Emil Eranga, Amerasiri Wijesinghe, Priyantha Gamage and Chrisantha Silva displayed various tricks for day’s member performances.



VP Contests and Administration, Suranjith announced that the Mini contest scheduled to be held at the next get-together on the last Sunday of June. He explained the rules and regulations for the mini contest and advised the contestants to come properly prepared and rehearsed. He also requested members to attend the monthly training program to get ready for the event.



It was the time for the star performer for May. The Star Performer was Asanka K. Pathirana. He started his performance with a Card routine followed by silk magic and die-box routines. His final act was sword through neck performed with an assistant selected from the audience.

Two new junior members, Mast. Sadila Thesara and Mast. Senul

Dheenuka administered their oath by the President Rohan Jayasekera.



The proceedings of the day came to an end around 12.00 noon with a treat from the birthday boys.

CRISHANTHA

Down the memory lane by HDN

'Sleight of Hand'? IT IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

The Coronation Ceremony of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II took place, 62 years ago on 2nd June, 1953 at the Westminster Abbey. Ceylon was one of the 6 independent countries outside United Kingdom (including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan) who recognized the British monarch as the Head of the State. Prime Minister Hon. Dudley Senanayake attended the ceremony representing the people of Ceylon. Under the command of Lt.Col. A.M.Muthukumar, the Government of Ceylon sent a contingent of service personnel selected from the Armed Forces, to participate at the Coronation Parade, which included 2000 military personnel from the Commonwealth countries.



There was an important significance of this Royal Coronation parade to 'Magic in Ceylon' because one of the young officers there representing the Ceylon Royal Services Hospital, was already smitten by the 'Magic Bug'. He was Rajapakse Mudiyansele Piyatilake.

Major (Rtd.) R.M. Piyatilake, U.S.P.; is known in the Sri Lanka Magic Circle, simply as 'Piya' or Major Piyatilake. He was born on 19th April, 1930; hails from the village called Moonamale near Kurunegala. His father was then Chairman of Wariyapola Village Council. Young Piyatilake had his education at St. Mary's College, Chilaw and both Maliyadeva and St. Anne's colleges, Kurunegala. His first experience with Magic was as a young boy, at a social function of the area where he witnessed an amateur magician Mr. V.G.Perera, performed. (Mr. Perera was then Manager of the Govt. Farm, Wariyapola; who later joined the SLMC and became an active member in 1950s & 1960s.)



Piya recalls the nostalgic memories of their month long sea voyage by 'H.M. Empire Trooper' through Canal Zeus etc. It was customary, for anyone severely infected with 'Magic' to look for magic-shops and magicians whenever they stepped on a foreign soil. Piyatilake used his leisure in London to roam theatres and book shops looking for magic. This was how he came across the magician Lenz, the inventor of the 'the kaleidoscope of perfumes' at the Max Andrew's Magic shop. Max Andrew was a magician, dealer and publisher of the magic periodical 'Max Andrew's Magic Magazine'. As the craze of the day was for sleights of hand, Piya selected the book on the subject "IT IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK" by Jeffry Buckingham.

Major Piyatilake, who was honored last year by elevating to the 'Honorary Life Membership', joined the SLMC on 1st August 1961. He is the second most senior by membership and third most senior by age among the SLMC members today. He was elected to the executive committee of the SLMC in 1963 and as Assistant Secretary in 1965. With the sudden demise of the newly elected editor of 'The Wand' Mr. D.W.J. Madurapperuma in 1972 (the Jubilee Year), Piya had to take over the editorship of 'The Wand' as well. He was the Secretary SLMC in 1983- 86, and then served the circle in active capacity as a Vice President for many years. My close association with 'Major' came in 1983 as his Assistant Secretary.



Prez. 'Bodi' & Secy. 'Piya' at a Council meeting - 1983
Above: Young Piyatilake with A.A.M.Milhar and Hector Jayatilake from the SLMC group photograph 1964

He had been a regular performer during 1960s at the circle shows, contests and charity events and a charismatic practitioner of sleights of hand tricks. I was flabbergasted one day at a get-together when Piya performed the classic 'Cups & Balls', culminating with a large lemon, B-onion and a potato appeared under the cups in place of the finger tip sized balls he used. To date, he was the best 'Cups & Balls' performer I have ever seen.

An excerpt from Mudaliyar Amarasekara's comment appeared in 'The Wand' November 1966 on a monthly get together hosted by Mrs. R.P.De Silva, read as follows; "I had the pleasure of witnessing four of our members performing close-up magic at a drawing room party. I must give the first place to Mr. Piyatilake who presented his 'Cups and Balls' in a masterly manner. I said masterly, because his patter which was well timed synchronized

with every move, it compelled the audience attention, and his mis-direction was such that a surprise followed a surprise. The audience was left spell bound with mystery and he made his bow to a well-deserved ovation.”

To my personal assessment Piya was one of the two well read magicians. (The other name I could mention was late Noel Wickramasinghe.) Major Piyatilake was a ‘generous’ senior member of the trade. He never kept secrets to himself. When you query on how it is done, the next day he would give you a full demonstration of the trick. Veterans like Shelton and Rohan too would affirm this point. Let me quote one of the Shelton’s experiences as a young enthusiastic magician;

“During a show organized by the SLMC in 1960s, I saw Lt. R.M. Piyatilake performing a card manipulation. I had seen it performed by the magician Channing Pollok in the film ‘European Nights’ but had no clue as to how it was done. After the show, I immediately ran behind the stage and asked him whether he could teach me the moves. Without hesitation he showed and taught me how it was done. He also gave me his address and asked me to see him if I want to learn more especially sleights of hand moves. I visited him many more times and learnt a lot more.”

Today at the ripe old age of 85, Piya, spends his well earned retirement alternatively in Sri Lanka, and in USA (where his children settled down) Also he was fortunate to meet the elite of magicians in the international arena at the conventions and workshops he attended in USA. Though he leads a solo life in Sri Lanka, he is not alone at his apartment at Kalubowila, where “Jeff” the talking doll keeps his company.

WARNING!!

Beware of the tricksters who dare to do ‘Tricks’ on Magicians.....!

To our knowledge, two of the magicians from Sri Lanka had already become victims of a well planned fraud.

This was how it happened according to one of them; One day he was contacted by someone identified himself as an agent working for a travel trade firm, through a phone number commenced with the Singapore IDD code (0065). The person calling informed that the magician’s details were found in a web directory and negotiated for a contract to perform in a Singaporean hotel for two weeks; with the possibility of extending the contract subsequently. Negotiation was so professional and there were no reason for a suspicion. The payments and conditions were agreed and the dates were fixed. Usual formalities followed through e-mails. Online flight bookings and hotel reservation for the magician and assistant were received.

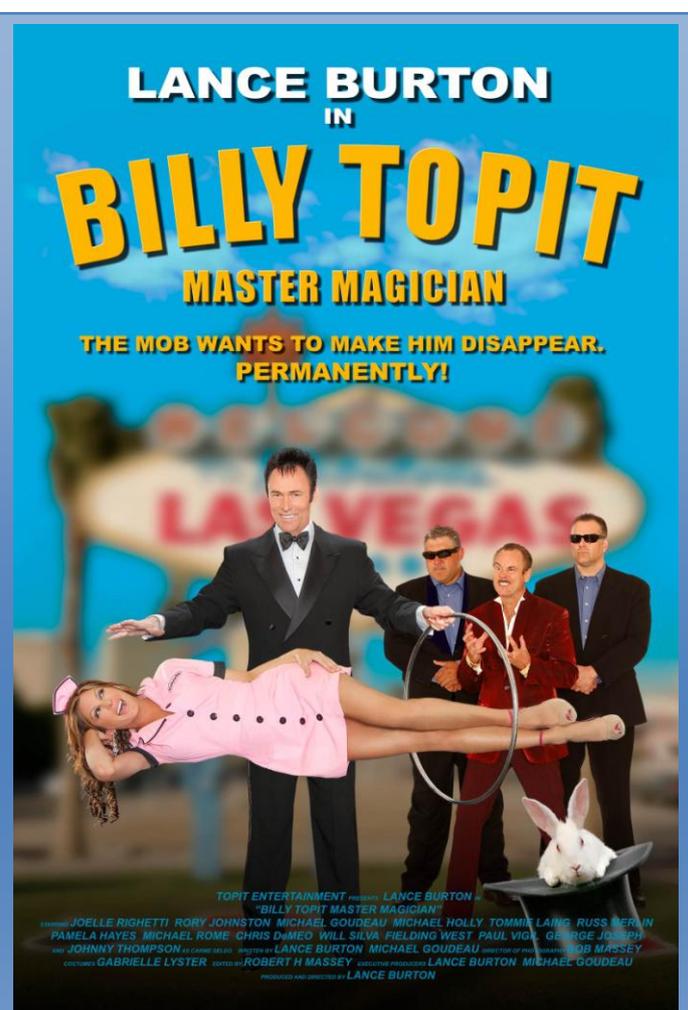
Few days prior to the departure the so called agent requested the magician to deposit half the air ticket fee to a bank account, just to confirm the acceptance and magician’s commitment for the assignment. He was promised that this amount would be reimbursed when they landed in Singapore.

After the amount was deposited there were no responses from the agent. Particular phone number dead and no responses to the e-mails.

It was too late to realize that the magician had become a prey of a well designed swindle.

Magician had only one option; ie. to make a complain at the Police. Police investigations are being done at the moment.

Beware of such fraudsters and please inform the Police while negotiating, if you get a similar offer.



A Las Vegas magician who performs at children’s birthday parties convinces the woman of his dreams to be his assistant, while the local Mob guys try to make him disappear permanently! BILLY TOPIT MASTER MAGICIAN is excellent at performing magic, he is just not very successful. His life gets complicated when some greasy mob guys comes after him looking for money. Billy uses his magic skills to avoid confrontation as long as he can, because he wants to concentrate on his magic career and his new girlfriend.

Things get wildly out of control and BILLY TOPIT MASTER MAGICIAN has to call on his best friends for help. The Magician, the Ventriloquist, the Jugglers, and the Mime will have to stage a rescue! These guys are not the A-Team, not even the B-Team, but they’re all Billy’s got.

SLMC MEMBER NEWS

“Magic for Non Magicians’ workshop by IBM-RING139 & SLMC

The first ever workshop “Magic for Non Magicians” pioneered by IBM Ring 139 in collaboration with SLMC was held at ‘Vishmithapaya’ on Saturday 30th May for the first time in Sri Lanka. It was a thriving and lively training session for magic enthusiasts and hobbyist with hands-on experience. This ongoing programme with several levels of proficiency, aims to educate and promote the art of magic among the general public.



Yasas Gunaratne features in ‘The Linking Ring’

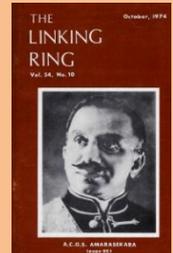


International Brotherhood of Magicians’ (IBM) Ring-139 President and Territorial Vice President (TVP) for Sri Lanka, Yasas Gunaratne featured in the 2015 May issue of “The Linking Ring” (Vol. 95 No. 5.) The article covering one and half pages includes an eye-catching portrait of the young TVP from Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka obtained the IBM charter in 1954 and continued to date with breaks in between. There was only a handful of SLMC members featured in this renowned

magical periodical since then.

Mudaliyar ACGS Amarasekara hit the front cover of ‘The Linking Ring’ in October 1974 (Vol. 54 No.10) with the ‘Hocus Pocus Parade’ dedicated to him. Messrs Linden Alwis, Herbert E. Gomzal, Rupert A. Perera, Anslem De Silva, Nihal P. Weerasinghe to name some others from Sri Lanka received recognition in ‘The Linking Ring’. Yasas joins this privileged group of SLMC members.



"SPIKY" The Magician - Asanka K. Pathirana performing for a charity show "AGAPE" at the Methodist Church - Maharagama on the 23rd of May.



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පිළිබඳව උනන්දුවක් ආශාවක් ඇතිවූ මුල් කාලයේ මැරික එකක් දෙකක් ප්‍රගුණකර අන් අයට පෙන්වා ඔවුන් මවිතයට පත්වන අයුරු දැක උපරිම සතුටක් ලැබූ අවධියේදී සිත් ගත් මැරික අංගයක් ඉගෙන ගැනීම සඳහා ඕනෑම දෙයක් කැපකීරීමට අප පසුබට නොවෙමු. මෙම උනන්දුව සහිත අභිසක දරුවන් විජ්ජා කරුවන් අතින් අපයෝජනයට ලක් වූ අවස්ථාවන්ද අපට අසන්නට ලැබී ඇත. පහත දැක්වෙන කතාව ධවට්ඨලකට ලක්වූ එවන් තරුණයකුගේ අත්දැකීමකි.

මා පාසල් දිවියෙන් සමුගනිද්දී මැරික ඉගෙනීම පිළිබඳව දැඩි උනන්දුවක් සහ ආශාවක් මා තුළ විය. මම 19 වන වියෙහි පසුවුනෙමි. එවකට මැරික ඉගෙනීම සඳහා එක් ක්‍රමයක් වූයේ සෙනග ගැවසෙන ස්ථානයන්හි මහමග අසල මැරික පෙන්වන විජ්ජා කරුවන් (itinerary conjurers) ගේ විජ්ජා දර්ශන නැරඹීමයි.

වරක් මෙවන් විජ්ජා කරුවකුගේ විජ්ජා ඕනෑකමින් නැරඹූ මා ඔහු පෙන්වූ එක් අංගයක් කෙසේ හෝ ඉගෙන ගත යුතුයයි තීරණය කළෙමි. සතයේ කාසියක් අත මීටමොළවා ගත් ඔහු යම් මන්ත්‍රයක් කියා අස්ථි කැබැල්ලකින් අතට තට්ටුකර ඇහිලි දිගහැරිය විට අල්ලේ තිබූ කාසිය අතුරුදහන් වේ. දර්ශනය අවසානයේදී සෙනග ඉවත්වියන තුරු සිටි මා එම විජ්ජාව උගන්වන මෙන් ඔහුගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියෙමි.

එය එක්තරා රහස් ජීවමක් බලයෙන් කරන බවත් එම ජීවම ලබාගැනීමට නම් රු. 5.00 ක් අවශ්‍ය බවත් ඔහු කියා සිටියේය. මුදල ලබාගත් ඔහු තමා යොදාගත් අස්ථි කැබැල්ල මා අතට දී එය ජීවම කරන ලද මිනිස් ඇටයක් බවත් රාත්‍රී තුනක් නින්දට යනවිට එය කොට්ටය යට තබා **ඔම් නමෝ ඒස් වහ:** යන මන්ත්‍රය තුන් වරක් මතුරා නින්දට යන ලෙසත් දැනවිය. සිව්වෙනි දින සිට ජීවම බලගැන්වෙන බවත් ඉන් පසුව ඕනෑම දෙයක් අතට ගෙන තෙවරක් මන්ත්‍රය කියා අස්ථියෙන් තට්ටුකළ විට ඒ දේ අතුරුදහන් වන බවත් විජ්ජා කරු මට පැහැදිලි කළේය.

ඔහුගේ උපදෙස් අකුරටම ඉටුකළ මම සිව්වෙනි දින උදෑසන මගේ පළමු ප්‍රේක්ෂකයා වන අම්මා වෙතට ගොස් කාසියක් පෙන්වා මා එය මායා බලයෙන් නැතිකරන බව පැවසුවෙමි. කාසිය අත මීටමොළවා ගෙන **ඔම් නමෝ ඒස් වහ:** යන මන්ත්‍රය තුන් වරක් කියා ඇට කැබැල්ලෙන් තට්ටුවක් දැමුවෙමි. අනතුරුව බොහොම විශ්වාසයකින් යුතුව ඇහිලි දිගහැරියෙමි. කාසිය එලෙසම වූ අතර අම්මාගේ සමච්චල් සිනහවට ලක්වීමට මට සිදුවිය.

විජ්ජා කාරයා මා ධවට්ටු බව පැහැදිලිය. උත්සාහ කළ නමුත් ඔහු සොයා ගැනීමට ද නොහැකි විය. රු. 5.00 අහිමි විය.

වසර කිහිපයකට පසුව එම විජ්ජා කරු මහමග අසල මැරික පෙන්වද්දී යළිත් අහම්බෙන් දුටුවෙමි. දර්ශනය අවසානයේදී ඔහු වෙතට ගොස් සතය නැති කිරීමේ විජ්ජාව ඉගැන්විය හැකිදැයි ඇසුවෙමි. මා හඳුනා නොගත් ඔහු ඒ සඳහා රු. 5.00 ක් ඉල්ලා සිටියේය. මා දන්නා විජ්ජාවක් පෙන්වන්නදැයි අසා ලේන්සුවක් අත මීටමොළවා එය බිලියඩ් බෝලයක් කර පෙන්වුයෙමි. ඔහුගේ ඇස් උඩ ගියේය. කට ඇරුණි. එය ඔහුට උගන්වන ලෙසට මා අයැද සිටියේය. එය ජීවමක් බවත් ඉගැන්වීමට නම් රු. 25.00 ක් අවශ්‍ය බවත් මවිසින් දෙනු ලබන ජීවම කරන ලද මිනිස් ඇටයක් කොට්ටය යට තබා **ඔම් නමෝ ඒස් වහ:** යන මන්ත්‍රය සත් වරක් මතුරා දින 7 ක් නින්දට යා යුතු බවත් කීවෙමි. ඔහු අත එතරම් මුදලක් නොවීය. යමක් මතක් වී සැකයෙන් මෙන් මා දෙස බැලූ ඔහුට කලකට පෙර මට කළ දේ සිහිකළෙමි. එවිට මා හඳුනා ගත් ඔහු බලවත් සේ ලජ්ජාවට පත්ව වදිමින් මගෙන් සමාව අයැදීය. බිලියඩ් බෝලයේ රහස් කියා දෙන මෙන් බැගෑපත් වූ නමුත් මම එය ප්‍රතික්ෂේප කළෙමි.

වසර කිහිපයකට පසුව හෝ එම කපටි මිනිසාට පාඩමක් ඉගැන්වීමට අවස්ථාව ලැබීම ගැන සතුටට පත්වීමි.

මේ තරුණයා කපටි මිනිසාට ධවට්ටුණේ අදින් වසර සියයකට පෙර 1916 දීය. ඔහු අත් කවරෙක් හෝ නොව මහාචාර්ය ඩැල්වෝ නමින් ප්‍රකට වූ ලිත්ඛන් ද අල්විස් මහතාය. සිතන්න එදා මැරික ඉගෙනීම සඳහා ඔවුන් කෙතරම් මුදලක් වියදම් කරන්නට ඇතිද? එකල පාසල් ගුරුවරයකුගේ මසක වැටුප රු. 15.00 ක් හෝ රු. 20.00 කි. මෙම කතාව පැරණි මතකයන් දක්වමින් ලිත්ඛන් ද අල්විස් මහතා නමින් 1964 ඔක්තෝබර් වෝන්ඩ් සඟරාවේ පළවූ ලිපියකින් උපුටා ගත් අනුවාදයකි

_HDN

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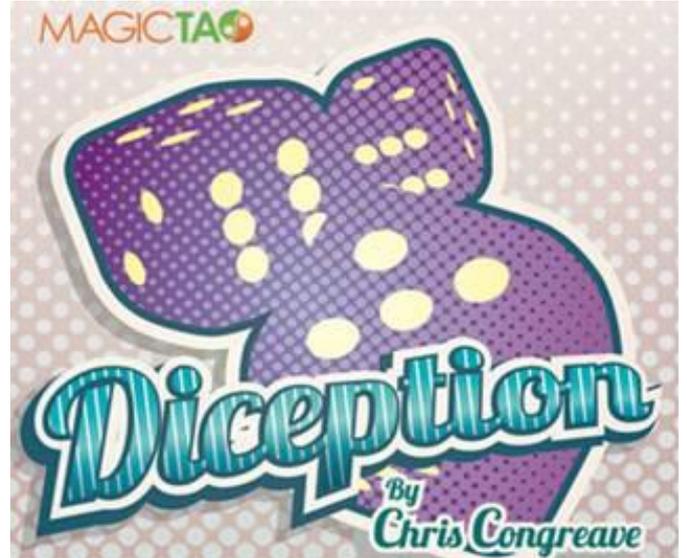
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