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IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Jai Ram Reddy and the Politics of Postcolonial Fiji

BRIJ V. LAL

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

E PRESS
For the People of Fiji

History says, Don’t hope
On this side of the grave
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme

Seamus Heaney
MY FIJI

I offer a vision which sees this beloved land of ours united in its diversity, forged out of adversity and built on trust. I offer you a vision of Fiji of which historians will say that, in the midst of our tragedy, we found courage and wisdom, and foresight and determination, to lead the nation away from the precipice into a prosperous future. I can only hope that my vision for this most wonderful of nations will fulfil its promise. I can only pray that we who have the moment at hand will find the courage, the strength and the determination to let the past be past, and build a nation that will stand not just to 20/20, but down through the centuries.

Jai Ram Reddy, 1993
Date and Place of Birth: 12 May 1937, Lautoka Fiji

Legal Qualification
Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand (admitted 1960)
Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Fiji (admitted 1961)

Work Experience (Legal)
Staff Solicitor and Associate, AD Patel and Company (1961–1966)

Public Service
Leader of the Opposition’s nominee in the Senate (1972–1976)
First elected to the House of Representatives (Apr. 1977)
Leader of the Opposition (1977–1984, when resigned)
Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Apr–May 1987)
Member, Falvey Constitution Review Committee (July 1987)
NFP–FLP nominee to the Deuba Accord Committee (Sept. 1987)
Elected Member of the House of Representatives (1992)
Leader of NFP and Leader of the Opposition (1992–1999)

Honours and Recognition
Fiji Independence Medal (1970)
GOPIO Award for Political Leadership (NY. 1990)
Companion of the Order of Fiji (1998)
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