White or Yellow Yam

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Life in late 70's in Jamiaca that drove people from the Island.

Published on
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White or Yellow Yam

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Subba Rao

â Which one you like?â â White or yellow?â
â White or yellow; what?â
â Yams.â
â I canâ t stand yams.â
â I have been substituting yams for rice for the last 3 years.â
â I canâ t live one day without white rice.â
â Whatâ s the big deal with rice; one can eat potatoes, yams or Bami instead of rice.â
â What is Bami?â
â Flat bread made from cassava flour.â
â Any provision, forget it; I canâ t digest.â
â How about regular bread?â
â I only eat bread when I am sick,â â We canâ t even get sliced bread anyway.â
â Well, I met an East Indian man from Western end of the island, he said he mills his own rice and he can get us few pounds of rice.â
â How long that lasts?â
â May be 2 or 3 weeks.â
â Then what?â
â We will find another source to get rice.â
â We cannot live like this here searching for rice.â
â I lived here without eating rice for more than 3 years.â
â Thatâ s you; I need to eat rice every day.â
â How about making Puri with all-purpose flour?â
â Puris are greasy; I canâ t stand on a regular basis.â â We canâ t even get whole-wheat flour to make roti, as much as I hate roti.â
â It will take a year or so to get normal here, and then we can get practically everything from white rice to wheat flour and many others.â
â Thatâ s what you have been saying for the last three years,â â Itâ s time to get out of this place.â
â If you are thinking of Unites States, forget it; I would never get a job like one I have it here for tor the last 8 years, I make as much as comparable job in US, I have my own staff, 4-week annual vacation, a new car for every 3 years with expenses paid, free tickets to India for every 3 years, tax free annual pension amounting to 25% of annual salary, free 3 day annual vacation break at a beach resort and other benefits; my qualifications are not accepted in USA, if I decide to quit this job and move to US, I will start at the bottom and work with idiots for life long.â
â Well, either we or I alone was going.â
â OK, letâ s go together then.â

â That was 26 years ago, the rest was history; very choppy; from year-round sunshine to below zero temperatures and all that.â

â How about Tea-Party town hall meetings?â

â That too.â

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