

**ENGLISH**

# WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA

~Summary~

**-by Harsh Mander**

## Prashant Goes to Ersama

On 27th October, 1999 Prashant goes to meet his friend. It was seven years after his mother's death. His friend lives in the coastal town of Ersama. It is 18 kms from Prashant's village, Kalikuda.

## Cyclone Hits Ersama

A cyclonic storm hits Ersama that evening and continues for 36 hours. It is accompanied by continuous and heavy rains. This results in flooding of the town.

As a result, Prashant and his friends' family gather at the rooftop of the house to save their lives. They stay there for two days. They eat coconuts from the coconut trees that had fallen on the rooftop.

## Destruction Caused by Cyclone

The 350km per hour winds accompanying the cyclone destroyed everything. Water has spread everywhere. Houses were broken and trees had fallen. Dead animals and human bodies were floating everywhere.

## Prashant Decides to Go to His Village

Prashant is worried about the well-being of his family. Hence, he decides to go to his village although the place is still flooded with water. He takes a long stick to help him locate the road and has to swim when he loses the road. On the way, he has to push away many dead bodies of humans and animals to make his way. With great difficulty, he covers the distance of 18 kms and reaches his village.

## Prashant's Family Relieved to See Him

Prashant's family members are happy and relieved to see him as they had given him up for dead. Prashant was also happy to see all his family members safe and sound in the Redcross camp. 86 people died in Prashant's village in the cyclone and the people who had survived the cyclone took refuge in the Red Cross shelter as all the houses have been destroyed by the cyclone.

## Prashant Becomes Leader at the Shelter

Prashant stays at the shelter as his house has been destroyed by the cyclone. The shelter is dirty and overcrowded. The victims in the shelter are wounded and hungry. Prashant takes on the responsibility of helping them by organising a group of youths and elders and pressurised the grain merchant to give rice for the hungry people. He cleans the shelter and helps the victims to get food. The orphans in the shelter are handed over to childless widows so that they would get proper love and care. The men in the shelter procure food and materials for the shelter while the women work for the "Food for Work programme started by an NGO.

## After Six Months

After six months of the devastation of the cyclone, Prashant is feeling better. His wounded spirit has healed as he did not have time to think about his pain. The widows and orphans of his village seek his help whenever they are in trouble. Thus, Prashant's courage and affection for needy people teach us to stand bold and cool in hard times.

### Conclusion of Weathering the Storm in Ersama

The chapter – Weathering the Storm in Ersama illustrates how we should form a community of workers wherever a calamity strikes so that we can help people rather than merely depending on the government for aid.