

What is your idea of perfect happiness? When 99.5% of respondents in a government-sponsored poll think that the government is the best thing that ever happened for this country. Or maybe in the all of the universe, because such figures are even higher than God's rating.

What is your greatest fear? Teenagers trying to expose corruption scandals. Scholars organising panels on the merits of democracy. In short: We fear thoughts, ideas and opposition. We fear young people who think.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? None. Don't kid me.

What is the trait you most deplore in others? Curiosity, doubt, imagination. Because they make people smarter, they make people ask questions. Questions aren't good.

What is your greatest extravagance? Submarines, aircraft carriers, a constitution. But nothing is extravagance when it comes to national security, no?

What is your current state of mind? Drifting.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue? Justice, freedom and human rights.

On what occasion do you lie? We don't lie, that's our shortcoming. Politicians lie. Soldiers don't. We shift our position sometimes, that's different.

Which living person do you most despise? Need I say it?

What is the quality you most like in a man? Silent. I mean, men who are silenced.

What is the quality you most like in a woman? See above.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse? "Go live in another country."

If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what would it be? A sprinkler in a house on fire. A fly squatter in a house full of dead bodies. If that's too poetic, then a brick in the courtyard of Rajabhakti Park.

Which talent would you most like to have? Songwriting. Real songwriting, like Adele or Taylor Swift, and not the mumbo-jumbo that gets played infinitely on the radio.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? I would get angry less. It's not good being so quick-tempered. But if I changed myself, would I still be myself? Would I still be able to save our country's soul?

What do you consider your greatest achievement? The two songs I wrote for the nation. The 80-baht lottery policy. Peace, harmony, the weekly TV show, and the way 68 million people now have only one uniform thought.

What is your favourite occupation? Captain of a whaling boat, like Ahab, from whose bow I can perch in my perennial hunt for the white whale that destroyed the ship that is our country.

What do you regard as the lowest depths of misery? When the world questions our intentions. When the Western powers doubt that what we're doing is for the future of this exceptional country. And when China, our good friend, charges us such a high interest rate for that fast train that doesn't even go that fast!

Who is your favourite writer? Luang Vichit Vadhakarn.

Which historical figure do you most identify with? Jesus Christ -- the person, not the exclamation. We're a Buddhist nation, but I admire his sacrifice for humanity. Look at how we've sacrificed our retirement, our dignity, our pensions, and now we're crucified by the international media, especially after the 99.5% poll.

Who is your hero of fiction? Luke Skywalker. First, he's trendy. Second, he destroyed the Death Star, which in my mind is the headquarters of all political parties.

What do you most value in your friends? Courage to stay completely silent when they should have spoken up because I've done something wrong.

What is it that you most dislike? A road map that keeps extending forever, like canned food that never expires.

What is your greatest regret? That politicians will soon come in and destroy the solid foundations that we've built during our rule.

When and where were you happiest? Life is tough, and what we do with our best of intentions can run up against the flow of time and history. 2015 has been long, and 2016 will feel longer -- for us and for you. I'm still waiting for that happiest moment.

What is your motto? Please bear with me. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.