



## You are still there!

You are reigning over there, calm and smiling, Peeping mischievously, through the smoky veil, you are still there, beaming, sailing, soothing, Tell me how many members of us were there then Here today, only me, others have left and gone. My parents, siblings, all knew you, admired you, Made me too to appreciate you, smile with you, My childish way, I crooned, cooed, waved at you, Alas! they are gone, gone leaving the little one, stranded, live in sadness, but to gaze at you. How could you smile, please, do you understand My sorrow, the pain of my wound which bleeds, Being alone, I gaze up at you, as memories flood, Eyes swell up with tears, to dribble down cheeks. My shadow is loneliness, isolation, and sorrow. I'm left alone, to struggle to find the path Of life, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, Aunts, uncles, all have gone away leaving, leaving me, but I faced challenges, yes I did, you ought to know Yet, who's there to share my gains, sorrow but you! When we're together, we gazed at you, as I do now, But they left me, to cry, grope, to fight the world, Their memories, warm, loving, hard to forget, "Poor Me" Emotions prick me, tears dribble down, cruel memories, How I miss them "Dear lady moon! But still you're there".

- Radha Ranjani Jaywardena

## The forgotten generation

Peace at last in our land, Harmony amongst people in our land, all the years of calamities, all the years of misfortunes, all the years of unrest, all the years of sorrow and pain, is gone, hopefully for good, and never come again, a whole generation of wisdom, a whole generation of talent, is forgotten in all these turmoils, they survived and lived, and now they are growing old, and yet their hearts are happy, To live peacefully in an Island, that is a paradise.

- S.R. Vivekananthan



## Pour down heavenly rain

I watched the rains pouring down, In torrents it came and gushed along Carrying away all rubbish and garbage Making the world pure and clean. Lightning flashed splitting the sky Glittered and sparkled the waters that poured Thundered and boomed the heaven above As if they destroyed all harmful things. After the rains, how glistening were the trees Clean and happy, they all were. Pour down, pour down, a heavenly rain And bathe the man with the heavenly pour. Let all our vices be washed away And make us realise the value of life. Let jealousy, vengeance and hate disappear And love and compassion be born in their hearts. Let man and nature live in harmony And make this earth a living paradise.

- Lalitha Somathilaka

## Street woman

I'm fading .... I'm suffocating No one understands me, but never mind. My battles are tough... helping hands are less No one understands me, but never mind. Tears are my friends....silent cries are my talks No one understands me, but never mind. Loneliness hugs me...pain wraps me No one understands me, but never mind. Oh people...do not give me that look! Walk beside me I'm not any germ... It's not a game of selling my body. It's the battle of feeding many. Come....look into my heart. Thousands of emotions You will find. I'm just an imperfect soul Just the way you are. Stop treating me inhuman. Stop labelling me dirty For I too deserve a life of happiness like you enjoy ....

- Finuza Farook Shazir

