

Christ the King

King He was!
 Born in a stable, adored by the Magi
 Bearing costly gifts, befitting a king.
 King He was!
 Oft attired in the seamless robe
 His mother wove.
 King He was!
 When forcibly donned in a purple robe
 A crown of thorns
 Jeered by Pilate, "Here's your King of the Jews!"
 Jeered by the mob "Hail King of the Jews."
 King He was!
 Conquering sin and death
 Rising triumphant that Easter morn.
 Today He reigns, King of the Universe
 Accepted King and Lord!
 Of the diverse peoples of the earth
 His faithful subjects.
 Enthroned in their hearts
 Accepted King
 A king like no other!
 Christ the King!

- Jeannette Cabraal

The crisis of Bethlehem

For now, the Babe of Bethlehem, lies not there; then where?
 Where vigorous cyclones and tsunamis have devastated,
 And victims of violence lie emaciated -
 Sans victuals, sans clothing and neighbourly care.
 With Hardly a prospect, their pockets being bare,
 Where children half naked and utterly illfed,
 Would rummage some dumpster,
 In case they could salvage a morsel of food,
 Their dire hunger to assuage.
 While the five-star haunts with wine and dine overflow,
 And the rich, like dives, would do nothing more,
 But mouth greetings of old "Merry Christmas" they'd say,
 But raise not a finger to help others in His name,
 For whose sake Christ was born, in a manger so crude, so bare,
 Yes Christmas is crisis, God's judgement here begun,
 Amid so much merriment, apathy and high fun,
 For our Saviour's bambino, still yearns to be born,
 In the inns of our hearts - this Blessed Christmas morn.
 So mark you, dear reader, Christmas is here to stay.
 If only we would care for others, In His Precious and Holy name.

- Rev. Lucien G.B. Fernando

Montage
Poetry

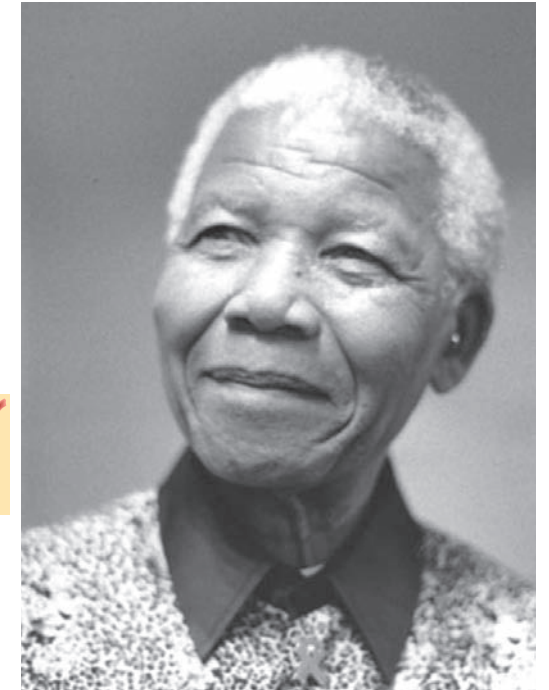
Season of the mistletoe

Cold dark, winter
 When snow sweeps across
 The mountain peaks
 Draped in flakes white
 The solitary mistletoe
 Brings another season alight
 As red berries ripe
 So arranged on snow white
 When dew drizzles down
 Nights cold, around town
 Olives abundant so grow
 In between the mistletoe
 Heralding Christmas again
 Perennial green on plains
 When stars shine on
 The season begins head on

- Miran Perera



Nelson Mandela



The beacon of light to the dark continent,
 Who brought dignity and freedom,
 To the innocent people of Africa.
 Who preserved the noble values of,
 Democracy, integrity, unity in diversity.
 You taught the world humanity and harmony.
 You vanquished the ugly apartheid monster.
 And brought unity to all people.
 Your far-sighted vision of a harmonious,
 Multi-racial democracy of shared prosperity.
 The colossal figure of South Africa.
 Revered freedom fighter,
 Dalibhunga the rural boy of Qunu,
 Nelson Mandela!
 We honour you!

- Richard Basnayake