



Abide with me

I trust in you, my Lord!
Earth's joys are fleeting
Its glories soon pass away
There is change and decay
In all that we see in and around
When friends and relatives
Fail to soothe and comfort me
I count on you in my solitude and silence
You are there beside me as my only Helper!
Our solitary lives ebb away day after day
It's difficult to discern what's in store for me
Days go by so swiftly more than we can ever imagine!
Willy-nilly, we are drawing closer to our end.
Please Lord dwell with me in all my days!
So, no terrors or woes can befall me
Tears and joys are part of my life, O Lord!
Your goodness and grace ever pervade me
No foe can harm if you shower on me blessings
Bitterness and tears afflict our earthly lives
I fear no enemies, when travails distress me
I triumph when you are beside me, O Lord!
I am with you in your presence every moment
Your blessings assuredly baffle satanic power
Do guard and guide me always, my dearest Lord!
In darkness, cloud and sunshine ever abide with me!

- *Christie Fernando*

Kuwenigala

Expelled from the palace
By prince Vijaya
Kuweni with two children
Isolated in the thick jungle
Roaming here there
With ragged clothes
Eating fruit and leaves
Destitute came to the destination
Under a high rock
Stubborn, Kuweni
Came to a decision
The three jumped from the summit
But leaving the heart of the angel
On the summit

- *Wijerathne Dahigamuwa*

Polly and Pearl

Along with the first rays of the sun,
I heard some birds chirp
When I looked through my little window
I saw two cute little birds.
They hopped on the ground, flew around trees
Touched each other's beaks.
Polly and Pearl I christened them at once
A lovely couple, I mused.
Dried leaves they carried, sticks and coir
Building a nest, I knew
Where they made it, I couldn't surmise.
Their "dove-cote", the little nest.
I missed their chirp just a few days
Until I heard it one day
But it was only Polly's alone
And a melancholy chirp it was.
Polly has changed for he neither played
Nor hopped and flew about,
Looking forlorn chirping alone
A pitiful sight it brought.
Some mishap must have happened to Pearl
He is happy no more.
It is life, whether man or animal
I wiped away my tears.

- *Lalitha Somathilaka*

The purple lotus

On flat green leaves
Floating atop, stagnant
Muddy sludge of water
Where fish come up
Breathing, emanating
Bubbles burst on air
In between the purple lotus

Spreads, balances on water
Colour brilliant shading
Edges of the petals
As insects cling on colour
Ripples dark quickly around
As water birds step on
Trampling the leaves green

Again nature balances
When moonlights up
The placed night brings
Comfort amidst its gleam

- *Miran Perera*