



Be straightforward

Straightforwardness,
A virtue that every individual
Should possess
To give of his best
To the welfare
Of society,
If a teacher is unable
To do his duties
Thoroughly well,
There's no value
In his knowledge and
Methods of imparting it efficiently
'Cos people will neither
Listen to him nor
Follow his advice...
The same holds true
Of all other professions:
When a person is equipped
With this virtue,
He gains complete
Faith and confidence
Of others all the time,
And also contributes much
To social progress

- Anjalie Chandima Silva

The knower of all worlds

Endowed with vision clear
Through knowledge of eight fold path
And virtuous conduct in variety of ways
A perfect blend
Of head and heart qualities
Wisdom and virtue
Vijja Carana sampanno'
Blameless purified
Reaching that excellent place of
peace and safety
Deathless Nibbana
Enunciating rightly, you only spoke
Fitting worlds in the fitting place
This auspicious and sublime
"Sugatha" the name befits you well
Knowing the world in all its
ways complex
With Buddha's insight keep unparalleled
As being formation and location
Its essence birth arising and cessation
Experienced and penetrated them all
Unstintedly imparted it
To those who knew it not
Lokavidu' – knower of all worlds
Of men subdued and tamed
A perfect guide, unequalled
Anuttaro purisa dhamma sarathi'
Kings and princess drunk with power
Murderers, villains, robbers and sinners,
Arrogant women, obsessed by beauty
And even animals wild, ferocious,
You tamed them all
As no one ever did before
Instructing gods and men alike
Of the life to come
And of the supreme goal ultimate
'Satta deva manussanam'!

- J.P. Pathirana

The fall has come...

The fall has come, the fall has come
Except the evergreens like pine
Other's attired in their glorious hues
Of shades of red, orange and yellow.
The wind is blowing at times in fury
Carrying with it the coloured glory;
The orange-red leaves of the maple tree
Are they dancing in agony
To bid adieu to their mother tree?
The slender branches shudder and struggle
As the gusty winds blow through...
One season has ended and another begun...
That's Mother Nature's role, you know.
A few days pass, and the maple tree
Us standing in stark nudity
To brave the cold, dark wintry days,
In the hope of a warm distant spring.
The naked boughs are silhouetted
Giving a lonely emptiness...
Will the hopes be fulfilled...
Of having an apparel of green
Seasons may come and seasons may go,
Nothing on earth would last long;
Birth, existence and final death
So strive utmost for Nirvanic bliss.
Note: Fall or autumn is the season after summer and
before winter, when fruit and crops become ripe
and the leaves fall of the trees.

- Piyawathie Jayasuriya

Tastes that matter

Sweet or sour
Hot or bitter
Difference matters
When tastes we prefer
Sins for a sinner
Sweet as sugar
For a while his life is
Hot and sour
But the truth is bitter
Crystal clear
That one day a sinner
Will regret and suffer

- Dilangani Fernando

An ode to a mischievous student

I heartily wish
I can easily find
A hide-away
To a world of wonderment
Dreaming with a rapture
Of your cherubic face
As your demeanour
Captures my heart
With a redeeming quality
Of innocence
Poised with a rare-feat
Of composure
And I must truly confess

That teaching you
From the beginning
To the end
Was a pleasurable commitment
And it surely
Made my heart light
Like a carefree butterfly
Flying and somersaulting
In the azure sky
Though all good things
Must come to an end
And for parting
I was, perhaps

Ill – prepared
Leaving me with a heavy heart
Allowing me only
A little comfort
When I am left alone
To ruminate about you
Mingling with joyful memories
Which ironically
Culminate with a piercing pain

- Ranjan M. Amarasinghe