

Maya



Beat your feet in my direction
O! lissome lass
With the softness of your tread,
Remain poised before me
While I remain ramrod straight,
Focus your gaze upon my eyes
Expelling the darkness in my heart
With the flashing glory
Of your eyes, rendering
Sapphire dull.
Allow me, with the best of intentions,
To caress, with tender softness
your arms, soft and golden hued,
And cheeks bearing a rosiate glow.
Permit the soft breeze to play
With your silky and profusely dark
Tresses which would touch my face
With the softness of a feather
Sing to me a lyrical ode
With your titillating voice
Akin to a breath
In a seven-holed reed.
Rendering birds to remain mute
Spellbound in wonderment
Fascinated by the lyrical
Quality of the notes.
Do so, I beseech of you
If such be your desire,
Before the first blossoms
Of the spring fade.
For such gesture
Of supreme magnanimity
Any quantum of wealth
Would be yours,
The treasury remains open.
The tumult being a prince
With the cumbersome weight
Of the wealth is unbearable
And I need a deviation.
Let it be known O! Charming Prince,
What you perceive
Is Maya's shadow.
Hold on to such longings, albeit,
Without cleaving.
For beauty lies
In whimsical thoughts
And not in reality.

- Kamal Premadasa

Into that haven

Where deafening discordant voices
Throb no more
Violence meted out on fellow countrymen
Abhorred
Where man, woman and child can walk free
In dignity
Where divisive factors merge
Into one bond of unity.
Violence abated
Angry rhetoric stilled
Where a Sri Lankan sees a Sri Lankan
Unhindered by varying hues
And prejudiced differences
Merge into, national views
Where progress spurts
With a prosperous rebound
And one united voice resounds
Under one banner of unity
A nation's voice profound
Into that haven of peace and harmony
May the nation's soul reach out.

- Jeannette Cabrall

Destination

I walked here and there
I ran this way and that way
I searched everywhere
But I didn't know where to stop
I met people
Some were kind
Some were rude
Some were cunning
I didn't know
What to do
I thought of stopping my journey
I thought of finding a kind heart
I had no solution
I was scared, I was alone, I was helpless
But.... Suddenly.
I couldn't believe my eyes
I felt I was searching for it
A lovely smile - I recognised
I felt I was waiting for it
Now I do not want to go back
Now there's no need to wait
Now I've reached
My destination

- Hemamali Gunarathne

Seasons of life

Sprouts appear, nestlings chirp
Along with it a new year's born.
Amidst much love, blessings and hopes
Appears a baby, 'tis the Spring of a life.
New things he sees, new things he learns
The loveliest period of the life, I feel.
With the end of the childhood,
Comes the summer.
New visions he has, ready for challenges.
Hot blooded youth, some people may call it
Swamps and thickets you'll come across
Be ready to face them,
They'll polish your life.
Summer ends up with a new found love
To begin the next, the Autumn of life.
More disciplined now, with a spouse and children
Working hard to make both ends meet.
Grey hairs appear to tell the world
That the Winter of life is fast approaching.
Cold and feeble, three quarters gone
The end of the road is not far ahead.
Like the snow that covers the world around
A cap of white hair adorns your head.
"Be ready" it says to leave this world
To an unknown next,
You would soon be leaving.

- Lalitha Somathilaka

Hours of nights
Fire flies glow
The dark outside
Hidden moonlight
Filters slight
Through the trees
Stars shed bright
Lamps begin burning
Flicker to
The soft night wind
Soot filled shades
Burning oil pungent
Spreads around
glows, shadows, light
All enliven nights
Unhidden lamps
Light up all sites.

- Miran Perera

Lamp light

Montage
Poetry



Ammi, the closest to my heart

I look back and I see you
Holding my hand and teaching me to walk,
A beautiful woman gracious and elegant,
A strong woman who knew what to do,
Yet, a compassionate woman,
Who sacrificed selflessly her whole self,
To create three beautiful children.
So far away from you today,
Yet so proud to say, I am one of your creations.
A mother myself I realise the enormity,
Of all your struggles, tears and sweat!
I wish every child born on this earth,
Gets a mother as strong and beautiful as you.
Miles can never separate us,
For I feel you in my bones,
In each breath I take and in each heartbeat,
I may have hurt you,
I may have cheated you,
But this bond stands for you,
Till my last breath,
As your proud eldest,
I hold my head high,
And march along life's journey.
Remember I am your strongest,
And will fight the world for you.
I love you more than you will ever know.

- Dr. Eranga Nissanka Jayasuriya,
London.