



# Shattered dreams

Darkness invaded the room  
Once glittered with hope.  
To shatter poverty she toiled and toiled  
Burning midnight oil  
Saw the visions of molecules;  
Floating in a stream,  
In her sweet dreams  
Discussions  
practicals, tutorials,  
like pickpockets took her hours  
even in extreme solitude,  
Burner, beaker, pipette and burette  
Drove away her boredom

Now all turned topsy-turvy  
She mourned silently  
death warrant in her hand,  
Sorry, dear toads and mice  
For seizing your lives  
Nightmares on snakelike stethoscopes  
Strangle her neck in dreams.

- Anula Peramune



# This land of tranquillity

The green-blue waters gently lash the grainy shore;  
The long swaying palm fronds frisk  
As the balmy breezes blow.  
A benign sun beams  
Bathing the land in its all-pervading glow.  
And gently the stream lets rustle  
As they meander ever more.  
Peaceful! Oh, so peaceful! As in days of yore.  
Can't hear? The spurning torrents  
In bridal splendour fall.  
Can't view? The misty mountains  
In its verdure adorned.  
And the afterglow when the sun has set  
Radiating a great calm!  
Can't scent? The *Araliya* and *Jasmine*  
*Rukatthana* and *Sepalika* serene  
Pink Lotus buds recline in ponds  
With *Olu* and *Manel* for company.  
Whispers of tranquillity in a Paradise Isle  
By nature's bounty blessed;  
As under one banner of freedom  
The nation its allegiance profess.

- Jeannette Cabraal