



# Friends

When the mansion is enormous and magnificent, and  
 One is engulfed with wealth and prosperity,  
 Many friends gather around to enjoy its fruits.  
 When the dwelling is a shack and reduced to rubble,  
 Then, one has nothing to offer, friends number few,  
 Which spells deep trouble.

- Yasmin Jaldin

## Come back, dear

Oh! Where are you?  
 Such a welcoming song  
 For the New Year's arrival!  
 Your voice echoed everywhere  
 And *Erabadu* flowers danced  
 Adding more beauty and joy.  
 Oh! Where are you?  
 Silenced or migrated?  
 Tell me please, for,  
 Your sound of silence  
 Has withered *Erabadu* buds  
 And stolen the joy  
 Of this festive season!

*A. Jayalath Basnagoda*

