

# Sangha - The Most Venerable

The last component of the Triple Gem - Sangha treated with reverence  
Is a group of monks committed to Dhamma in its wider sense  
Sangha means an assembly of learned monks in reality  
Devoted to observe and follow the doctrine to the best of their ability  
They sacrifice their material comforts valuable time and energy  
Their characteristics are not found in any one, but the Buddhist clergy  
They serve the Buddhists spread far and wide across the globe  
They are best recognised in their coloured robe.  
They comfort the sick, the bereaved, the aged and the helpless  
Their love and compassion is limitless and boundless  
They occupy a very high place in lay minds  
They are well supported materially by the laymen of the right kind  
The Buddha welcomed all into his fold as he gave no recognition to birth, caste and creed as well as social distinction  
During early years to control the order there was no constitution  
But the Buddha was there to guide them in their quest for liberation.  
The Sangha was well guided disciplined and well monitored  
In early stages moral and spiritual behaviour was strictly adhered  
No matter what their differences were, they upheld their identity  
At the same time showing that they belonged to one single entity.  
The Buddha insisted the sangha to maintain discipline in the highest level  
To achieve emancipation not going against the laws that prevails  
Moderation in food intent on higher thoughts and secluded abode  
In addition to arrest indiscipline he introduced a disciplinary code  
The Buddha preached a discourse known as 'Ovada Patimokka'  
Establishing the tradition of Sangha coming together before the rules of vinaya  
It is said to have created a Sangha Samaja very disciplined and orderly guiding  
Sangha life covering the entire sphere of conduct and progress morally  
Sangha had two responsibilities in their life to bear  
To remain celebrate and carry his message to the masses sans fear  
During Buddha's time they were genuinely suited to be Sangha spiritually  
And also well qualified to serve the people intellectually  
During Buddha's time, To Sangha we owe a deep debt of gratitude  
for preserving Dhamma as well as their positive attitude.

- *Rupa Banduwardena*

## POEMS

### Blessed

Luxurious rosy and creamy hues  
Adorn her soft tender skin.  
Pink lips shaped like petals,  
Dark beautiful angelic eyes open wide  
And look up at me in deep contemplation  
With adorable varying expressions  
My beautiful daughter  
Bundled in my arms  
A miracle, a true divine gift  
It's so surreal to finally have her close.  
To actually be able to see and hold her  
And hear the sweet sounds she makes,  
Kiss her soft rosy cheeks  
And bask in that indescribable feeling  
Of love, tenderness, ecstasy  
And absolute gratitude;  
Our beautiful new member,  
My little new daughter  
It's overwhelming  
Extraordinary  
So miraculous to have you  
It's such a beautiful feeling darling  
To be your mother

*F Sajida Naina Marikar Hazim*