

Poetry Series

Swarnapali Liyanage
- poems -

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Swarnapali Liyanage(1963/08/23)

I am Sri Lankan originate female living in United Arab Emirates. By profession I am a teacher and live with my loving husband and wonderful two kids.I was fascinated by writing from young age and as well as I have published few poems in local newspapers and magazine. My few new poems can be read at

Composed At My Father's Bed

You handed me to stand
when I was tired of kneeling
standing behind me guided
till I ripened to a woman

Pointing to stars
you gladdened little heart
I threw you tantrums
till you made me apple tart

I was sick of life I needed to cry
Heart was broken I wanted to die
You gave me shoulder to hide my face
taught me how to be bold with grace

I grew stronger; you grew older
Eyes smudges; feeble heart drags
I know you well dad you're braver
Why I feel fear; why my tear flows

I am holding your warm frail hand
You are silently leaving me just now
I know soon your hand will be cold
I want to cry but I've given you a vow

I wonder still you are happy as ever
My heart throbs; God! Don't let him hear
Eyes aim to me though you don't see me
Good bye dad! Your journey is a pain to me

Swarnapali Liyanage

Give Me It Back!

Forbiddings bind me at age
Hope me to be ripe in discipline
My golden childhood beloved
was carefree realm, dawn of life
Flying a kite ran all over meadow
On granny's cuddly lap I listened tales
Hoping at gate dad's coming from work
Dreamed hugging a doll
while mom rocked me to sleep
I yearn those cherished memories back
No matter how much they cost
Behind church in a secret cave
shared our sweets among girls
Hid in attic from grandpa's cane
Gleaned fingerling at near by book
Plucked wild flowers for her vase
at backyard thicket with mom
Take my wealth and reputation all
Give me precious childhood back again

Swarnapali Liyanage

Immortal Bond

A genteel creation of God
gives birth to a soul
her kindness lets you
live her body within

Affection makes a bond
stronger than those in
rigid dear diamonds
a unified vigor lifelong

Her heartfelt compassion
soothes your pain and grief
blessings make your wishes
though you live far or near

Her love is unimpaired
as snow on a high cliff
her courage fetches you
to vintage of your life

Who else gives you such gaiety
cares you with pure endearment
other than your own beloved Mom
honored live image in your heart

Swarnapali Liyanage

Know Your Capacity

Mind is more mightier than your fleshy body
Where it surely fixes upon ever known nobody

May be in cerebrum or somewhere in brain
Reside endless terabytes of facts in plain

past recalls, present views, future plans in span
Save in this secret niche send you back soon

Don't obey your mind as slave to be a serial killer
No matter treat it as master to be a philosopher

Progidy, telepathy, enlightenment all conceptions
Explorations, inventions grow in human minds

Sacrifice, love, hatred, care, creation and devotion
Who can read what is now in your inclination

Your powerful unseen wits makes you alive
Once and while takes you far away deep dive

Don't try to be an android without mind at all
Imagine how worth you are on Earth first of all!

Swarnapali Liyanage

My Great Grandfather

Never gone to school
cannot read or write
my grandfather great

How weather changes
avelanche, sea breeze
he explains all facts

In my life time
I have never won
playing with him chess

Once we lost in
dark dense forest
found way without compass

He perceives great know-how
all around the Earth
from here to universe

I was amazed by his wisdom
learned a big contrast
with my 'intellectual' head

My last vist he cleared this paradox
humbly he smiled and told
'live with nature, nature gives you all'

Swarnapali Liyanage

Ode To Cinderella

In the glaring sun on the melting sand
She marches from near by souk
Pushing a shopping cart to noble palace
Where she slaves for the day and night
As usual pulling air into empty lungs
Agape mouthed open eyed
At a hot summer noon
Nightmares of life 'Cinderella' dreams

She gifts fake legs to loving soul mate
Lost his legs in a minefield
Delays father's death swallowing by a cancer
She dives into the sea in search of elixir
Lights lavender candles on mother's tomb
Before she bore in mind died in a flood
Sends three brothers back school again
She wants to give them what she missed in life
Smiles like a heroine murmurs to herself
Wiping sweat off 'Cinderella' sighs

Whole three years she saved a bit
Flies soon back to her homeland
No wonder everybody in her village
Gather round to listen her adventures
Of the magic land where she lived
She remembers all 'Cinderella' witnesses

With a one pat of the magic wand
A mountain of money creates from oil
All rights of humans vanish in a minute
Generosity, kindness change to sandstorm
For a slight mishap downpour of abuses
Colourful apparels raise from heaven
Mock at her peeping into her wallet
Skyscrapers make necks ache
Glittering wealth makes eyes blurred
Cars as arrows pass blasting honks

Carrying princesses of her same age
All these to her just another mirage
'Cinderella' giggles

From far she sees ' Lady' at the gate
Shining shela and abaya in black
Wiping tears off she speeds up
Ten metres per second
'Cinderella' awakes

souk = Arab bazaar

shela = a kind of scarf Arab ladies cover their heads

abaya = a kind of knee lengthed black robe Arab ladies wear over casual dress

(Note: I wrote this poem as a tribute to underprivileged young maids who work in rich Arab countries sacrificing their youthfulness to support families in their homelands.)

Swarnapali Liyanage

Ode To Tsunami

Roaring anger through great seven seas
erupted as spiteful giant water columns
Swept off fragile nations to oceans
You! the most cruel catastrophe of all
Turned suburbs along seaboards to graves
Naked bodies decayed among their own rubbles
Once paradises changed to unlivable grounds
You! fateful miracle engulfed loving kith and kin
Scattered carcasses gave out foul reeks
Rescuers buried them in mass graves
Crows and foxes devoured untimely preys
You! mindless wonder created such horrible scenes
Orphanages filled by infants, kids and elders
None could erase their awful memories
Blockaded their glowing future for ages
You! mighty disaster made them stand still
Wonderful tales about mermaids and leviathans
skills and talents on gears and crafts
carried to sea among laments of fishing folks
You! heartless monster made mother Earth sadden

Swarnapali Liyanage

Pain In Beauty

Enticing fragrance
Spirited snare
Single Rose in a bush
Eyes carry you there
Beauty appeals a soft kiss
Heart entraps in care
Take a careful touch
Thorns on stalk are bare
Mind your own pains
Rose does not care
Do not be envious
Bees buzz over there
withering petals go off
one by one in swaying air
Heart sobs by a painful pinch
Rose is nowhere

Swarnapali Liyanage

Survival Is The Fittest

Behold! Folks battle against
piety, race and land
Compatriots breath last
at our feet in war field
Most discerning creatures
survived on Earth for ages
What unfortunate genes we possessed
behave us brutal shameless beasts
Let's build our path to forever exist
like one tribe on this mother planet
Declare a flawless hope for successions
getting rid of our greed with arrogance
Let's link our hands together as one voice
war against poverty, pollution and epidemics

By Swarnapali Liyanage

Swarnapali Liyanage

The Three Men In My Life

In each moment of my life
they chase behind me
I am proud of myself
they cannot live without me

They cannot live without me
I feel like hiding far away
no doubt they will find me
I cannot live without them anyway

I cannot live without them anyway
I need their love and blessings
their golden hearts make my day
they grow their hopes on my wishes

They grow their hopes on my wishes
We are same flowers in one bunch
unity and love keep togetherness
I enjoy sitting by them in garden bench

I enjoy sitting by them in garden bench
my husband builds such an amazing heaven
two sons bring all happiness to my niche
Thanks GOD the GIFTS of life I have been given

Swarnapali Liyanage

To My Pupils With Love

On unsure feet
came to my room
begged wisdom
to meet the world

No wonder my niche
an adventure to you
no wonder you were
a challenge to me

I love all your
pretty pranks
minor squabbles
warm togetherness

Memories of yours
in my treasure box
peep into my mind
make me hearten

Your innocent eyes
your honest smiles
no wonder I seek
wherever I roam

Time passes fast
on a horse's back
moment of farewell
year end brings soon

Every face I meet
I remember you all
none cannot erase
my golden memories

On this same Earth
till we hug again
I'll keep pen down
with loads of LOVE!

Swarnapali Liyanage

Worm In A Flower

Pretty silent teen girl at last desk my class
looked down when I always gave her a slight glance
eyes told me pain of heart I was smart to guess
all assignments were delayed days, weeks and months

When all left as usual she came to talk to me
we became friends, she was just another daughter to me
talked about maths, physics, nature, sun and sea
my heart cried she hid something but I could not see

Last summer eve she came hurrying, knocked on my door
hugging me tight she began to cry more and more and more
unravel her utter secret carrying a little embryo
She cursed her own step dad her childhood hero

Swimmers found her body at dam without suicide notes
I got her last post as 'mom wouldn't trust my truths'
She loved to hide from a sinner and all from his sins
Letter ended 'ma'am, he is like a worm in flowers'

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