



## Tribute to a tired soldier

Oh, tired patriotic soldier!  
Your bravery in fighting  
Anti-peace forces  
Will be remembered by  
All patriotic serendib  
Because of your dedicated service....  
History of our blessed Island  
Will keep your patriotic service  
Recorded for the descendants  
To read and draw inspiration  
For avoiding such bloodshed  
Among the citizens of Sri Lanka!  
Because of your achievement in war front  
Let North and East  
Be the integrated parts of  
Our Island and shine  
As one united new Lanka

- M.Y.M. Meeadh

## Janaganga

Geographically situations of Sri Lanka  
Has changed wonderfully have ye observed  
Not only the rivers Kalu, Kelani and Walawe  
That flows from tops to the down seas

Have you forgotten the tsunami  
That came in and went back with disaster  
Families parted lost all loved ones  
T was a cemetery around sea coast

But when the men,women and children  
That fled from Puthukudiruppu in a minute  
When the sand dams were broken  
By our soldiers, them to flee from LTTE

It was not a river suddenly shot up  
But thousands heads were flowing down  
To the bosom of our soldiers to be secured  
This Jana Ganga ran down merrily hours

So,like Tsunami another river flows  
No destruction but laughter and cheers  
No deaths, delivered babies in her  
Fed, clothed and many more caress

Long live "Mahinda" this river echoed  
One land,one Nation, one flag - hoisted  
Multi-religious, multi-ethnic all are one  
North,East,South,West bondage done

- Malathi Perera

## Blessing

Facing great challenges  
Amid terror attacks and traps  
Let sunshine and  
Rain drops be a blessing  
To our sons of this oil

The whole world knows  
Genuine harmony that lies in your heart  
Some journeys amid thorns cannot be put into words  
But, can be realised after sometime  
Our people sleep comfortably  
Simply because of you  
Hope you will give your rod  
Rather than fish  
To your sons  
To serve this paradise in the years to come

Though your demise is painful  
You remain in our mind forever  
With growing confidence and strength  
Fulfilling our lives dreams  
You will bring the best gift of peace to my Alma Mata  
That grief can bring  
And the future will be brighter

We hope the reunion of hearts  
Which have broken and split here and there  
And to bring back the old glory of wisdom  
That people can share

- Janadari Kapugama

## The joy of living!

Plant a seed of love  
in your heart.  
And watch it grow  
day by day!

Water it well.  
And nurture its growth.  
Make it swell  
into a blossom, divine!

It'll bring you joy  
everlasting, in abundance.  
And make you glad  
to see it double!

Thus, we must be  
a blossom of love  
that blooms, eternal  
bringing joy to others!

Be generous and kind hearted  
for God loves the good.  
And help others  
the way, you should!

Do unto others  
as to thyself  
that which is good  
T'is, a divine blessing!

Be simple and humble  
in all your ways,  
for God loves them  
those who are humble!

Be noble and honest  
to self and others.  
And be content  
for life's a brief candle!

- C. Mohanlal de Mel

## Death! How dear you had been

Dear Death, many people say  
You are very cruel to many  
But on that cold and fatal day  
You have changed my destiny

You had come silently after me  
In your usual way, on the sly  
Still I wonder how that can be  
To spare me so, how and why?

I never ever felt thy call  
That you'd come to call me away  
But now I see dear, after all  
Some further, you had given my way

You had never allowed me to feel  
The chill of thy mighty hand  
While nearing me for thy deal  
Had seen, I should be on land

Dear Death, a lot, many thanks to thee  
For sparing me a little, to serve others  
Then towards the end, you drag me  
But peacefully, like for many others.

- Athula A. Dodangoda

## Our gallant soldiers

You cleared the North from the terrorist hold  
Your gallant victory, amidst difficulty was bold  
The opening of the A9 Road, the fall of the Elephant Pass  
Trapping the LTTE to a corner, of Mullaitivu was very class

We watched you in the Media, our heartbeats were with you  
Wading through the waters of the battle field, with morals true  
Crawling through the jungles, firing as you go  
You kept the Nations' heartbeat scamping with you to and fro

Full control of the Jaffna Peninsula is under the Army now  
A dream comes true, to the troops, the Nation would bow  
Mothers who have lost their sons in the battlefield, are now held in high esteem  
As Gamini of Hasalaka, the soldiers, we lost have all fought like a team

Our President has to be honoured, both as a good leader and a friend  
The crackers that rocked high spoke of the nation's support in every trend  
The National Flag as it unfurled, fluttered in the breeze  
Echoed the joyous cries of the Nation, who now breathe at ease.

- Vinitha Karunaratne

## Tell me your dreams

Moon is up above the sky  
Deep blue still sky  
You are fast asleep  
With your hair strewn  
Far and wide  
Your face is calm and peaceful  
You have nothing to worry  
You smile in sleep  
Tell me,  
My love,  
Tell me your dreams.

- Sachitra

## Democracy triumphant

Mid seventies  
Tamil leaders  
With Vadukkodai gimmick  
For a separate state  
Misled the young  
Pretend to cover  
The indifference of them  
To make an effort  
To serve them better  
Putting the blame  
On Sinhala dominance  
Things went wrong  
They became the victims

Of their sowing  
All democratic governments  
elect  
With imperialist advice  
Knelt before terror  
To drag it for  
nearly three decades  
Taking the lives of innocents  
Mavil Aru reversed  
The trend around  
To combat terror  
For democracy  
To be triumphant

- D.K. Piyrathna



## The shadow plot of James Joyce's Ulysses

DR. SENARATH TENNAKOON

James Joyce's 'Ulysses' is an exceedingly difficult and complex work of fiction to read, though it is one of the most rewarding literary creations. Joyce uses the strategy of the stream of consciousness method to portray the inner nature and working mechanism of the human mind in this novel. Joyce's story is a record of a day in the life of a Dublin Jew named Leopold Bloom, who is an advertisement canvasser. He has a wife, Marian Bloom, a singer. Joyce gives the day as 16th June 1904. The happenings of this day include, the preparation of their break fast, Bloom visiting several offices, attending a

funeral, going to the seashore, pub and a brothel. Bloom also talks to a friend in a cabman's shelter and finally returning home to meet his wife. His wife has actually entertained another man during the day.

The series of events that form the plot of the novel is not very exhaustive and load bearing.

The characters are very few. The issues and conflicts too are few. The context too appears to be not specific. But Joyce minutely records circumstances and gives details of the roving of the human mind.

For instance, Joyce gives a long description of the mind of Marian Bloom while she lies half sleep around midnight.

### References

1. Dyson, A.E. (1987) Issues in Contemporary Critical Theory, The Macmillan Press Ltd, London
2. Canning John (1974) + 00 Great Books, Century Books Ltd,
3. Sherry Vincent (1994), Cambridge University Press, UK

"Does this judgment alter once, Joyce's story reveals the logic and momentum of a shadow plot? The events in Ulysses run in parallel to the adventures of Homer's 'Odyssey' and the correspondences range from circumstantial details to the motives and aims of the protagonists" (Sherry, 1994)

Joyce has tried to show that the wanderings of Bloom around Dublin are similar to the wanderings of Ulysses (Odysseus) as described in Homer's 'Odyssey'.

Ulysses, the gallant Greek hero after the great Trojan war got lost in the sea of perils for over twenty years during his homeward voyage, before he could reunite with his wife and son. In Joyce's 'Ulysses', all events operate within a single day. Bloom returns home to see his wife, and Molly have lost their son and Bloom has an

adopted son, Stephen. Joyce always found his gauge of myth in his creation as in Homer's Odyssey.

On the one hand, Joyce has imbued inspiration from Homer's great epic and on the other he has attempted to present the life events of a Dubliner in the mid month of the year 1904.

Although in Homer's 'Odyssey' the happenings or the events appear to be mystic and motivated by divine powers, in Joyce's Ulysses, the events and issues are realistic current events.

Joyce worked on creating this novel from 1914-1921 in Trieste, Zurich and Paris. It was first published in Paris on 2, February

1922. Like his other novels Joyce always found his events and characters from Ireland (Dublin).

The character Stephen Dedalus is none other than Joyce himself. Like Joyce, he is the son of a ruined family due to a father's extravagance, a brilliant scholar who rebels against the Roman Catholic Church which educated him.

This same character appears in Joyce's 'The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man' and 'Stephen Hero'. Stephen in Ulysses is similar to 'Telemachus' in Homer's Odyssey'. Both feel that they have lost their heritages.

Is Bloom a hero like Ulysses in Homer's Odyssey? This is a difficult

question to answer. The time periods are vast and different. The contexts and the cultures are different. There is a compression of social events in Joyce's Ulysses unlike in Homer's epic.

There are no 'gods' and divine power that toss and move human lives. A critically motivated reader of the novel would find that Joyce is portraying Bloom as a hero of the modern world.

Bloom is a cultured, civilised and sympathetic man. He loves his wife and daughter. He looks after Stephen as his son. He helps a blind man across the street and subscribes heavily to the welfare of his dead friend's children. His human qualities are com-

mendable. He is never narrow-minded.

Many characters and events described in Homer's 'Odyssey' find their resonance in Joyce's 'Ulysses' - 'the Lotus Eaters', 'The Sirens', 'The Wondering Rocks' and 'Cyclops' etc. The reader and the critic will have to imagine extensively to grasp the meanings and significance of Joyce's 'Ulysses' not only by responding to the text contents, but also by finding connecting linkages with other relevant literary creations. For instance Joyce's 'Ulysses' Bloom's cigar and in Homer's 'Odyssey', Odysseus's (Ulysses's) spear have been ironically compared (Dyson, 1987)