Landmark to boost development throughout Lanka According to Mahinda Chintana, a long vision, Anuradhapura stood the chance this year to awaken Raja Rata For sixth in the nation's calendar to enjoy its benefits. This is to enhance the isle with the bliss of freedom, Rural to all urban alike, without discrimination; Networks of roads and bridges, once full of potholes and bumps Facilitating free convenience flow of travel, Prospering in vegetation and agriculture in every plot From paddy, vegetation, fruits and flora of eco-friendly, To make Sri Lanka greener than green ever before, As an icon to be admired in the Indian ocean, Smart young lads in service, without gender bias, From every town and village in remote and urban Lend hands to develop nation, as everyone dreams Their birthplace a galore of pride, Every year a district stand for this national lottery; Selected for the beneficial of the government funds; To be uplifted, improved and decorated, Thatched houses become tile roofs, mud walls to brick, Genuine example fro improved shelter promised, Pure water for drinking, water around for utilities, And electricity for all in essential and leisure Barren lands haunted by terrorism once abandoned Now pastures catering to cultivation and farming Sad faces blooming with smiles Frightened hearts beating soundly with happiness Loving children attend school with facilities Looking up for a brighter future full of expectations Like every child, gifted in the cities. Full of fun and choice of their own. Deyata Kirula developing district by district, All provinces and districts stand in same horizon. To make Sri Lanka, a country in Asia With glamour and trend to attract like honey. Soon we will see this beautiful pearl, Shining in the sunshine of the East, in this new era Flooding with tourists and visitors from all nations; To admire! Admire the bliss of God. Then you and me will be prouder of this bountiful nation To be Sri Lankan and those left us to call them other nationalities Will surely worry to make for it, This day will come when Deyata Kirula walk into every home.

- M N KAIYOOM

The cuckoo outsmarts the crow

It's indeed a wonderful bird Its melodious note we've often heard Like a common crow in its appearance But with a fine and pleasant difference The latter is the nation's seavenger While the former the season's harbinger to all of us they're not strangers Their life – full of challenges and adventures Their activities intriguingly interesting The cawing one being rather cunning Swooping suddenly to snatch things Executing the accurate feat while flying. But the cunning type is outsmarted When in its well-made nest are batched The cuckoo's eggs stealthily laid And are born the young song birds. When birds cheat, it's fun and music But man's deceit causes curse and chaos.

- N.M.L.M. HALEEL



As the clock ticks, And as I heave a sigh, I drift back off To dreamland, Again.

BHAGYA SENARATNE

Shanthi

The skeletal, starved Ricketty child Leaning Sacrilegious, Villainous On the Golden fence Of the chetiya Stared, mouth drooling At the mounds of food on the rock Thrown away after morning offerings And looked pleading at the mother Anaemic, emaciated mother In torn, tattered, soiled rags; And heard the priests chanting Compassion Shanthi, Shanthi, Shanthi!

- BEN RASNAEK

"What would be left of our tragedies if an insect were to present us his?" - Emile M. Cioran

Singing bird on the peak of a tree, Asked me to tell this tale to thee, Insanity maybe yet I understood he, Gave myself in since it was free. During my flights over the years, I have witnessed the happy cheers, As my departure nears and nears, I feel something and gives me queers. What happened to baffling cheery deers, Or to the singing friends filled my ears? Dancing beauties dying in sears, I lost myself... among the fears. Today I crossed the murky frontiers, I saw a dull world drowned in tears, No more the glorious world endears, Only a place... filled with spears. The screaming alarm is warning me, Hurry yourself up no need to plea, Gazed in the mirror for one last see, Oh why am I not as free as he?

- JAYARUWAN GUNATHILAKE

Flower 'Mahinda Shiranthi'

- Lewis Carroll

Flower is always a symbol of love Its fragrance changes to its nature's vow A flower jasmine though tiny Night reigns its perfumery beauty Rose, lily, carnations and many others Beauties of nature isn't a pleasure Thereby nature loving mankind Addressed their offspring in gesture Baptised them by natural flowers Mom is Rose dad is Namal Son is Dasa daughter Nelum Now the world's taken a different turn Flowers bloom by name of a man! In Singapore a special flower was grown By budding together as one flower A new orchid flower blossomed on To the morning sunrays blushing out Coyly said am named 'Mahinda Shiranthi' Butterflies fluttered to the sound of music Of the birds who sang melancholy Fairies, started painting the flower Whilst Sri Lankan flag became the blower

- MALATHI PERERA