

# The echo

Enraptured by a lilting voice echoing far beyond the hills,  
I trekked expeditiously to glimpse the singing echo;  
Hidden by lush bamboo trees was a stupendous waterfall, flowing  
its waters to the deep down cliffs,  
Beside it was a bewitching lass perched on a rock singing away her heart,  
Mesmerized by the enchanting voice, I listened to the sweet melodies.  
There was tranquility all around, as if the trees, birds and animals were all  
listening to her songs and nodding their heads in rhapsody;  
Having an inclination to savor the music more, I crouched low behind a gigantic rock.  
Dusk was falling swiftly and I did not notice the time go by,  
Whence suddenly, a luminous glow appeared, and in a flash the pretty  
damsel disappeared,  
I searched for her far and wide, my untiring efforts were futile,  
Dejected, I was confronted by an old woman to whom I related my tale;  
You have encountered an apparition who visits this site every full moon,  
A pathetic young girl laid her life pining for her beloved lost in these waters, she said.

- Yasmin Jaldin

# Honour and pride

It is the event  
Which bestows honour  
Upon the Enlightened one,  
The Greatest one,  
Amidst the showers of praise  
Of the whole race  
It is the thread  
Which finds the past and the present,  
And carries to the future  
The everlasting glory  
Of a nation  
It is the stage  
Which is ready once a year  
For the talented lot  
To evince the world,  
Proudly preserved traditions  
Of a nation  
It is the event  
Which mingles pure souls,  
Irrespective of caste and creed  
To share profusely,  
The joy of glamour  
With a selfless motive

- Kumari Weerasuriya

# King's Eyes

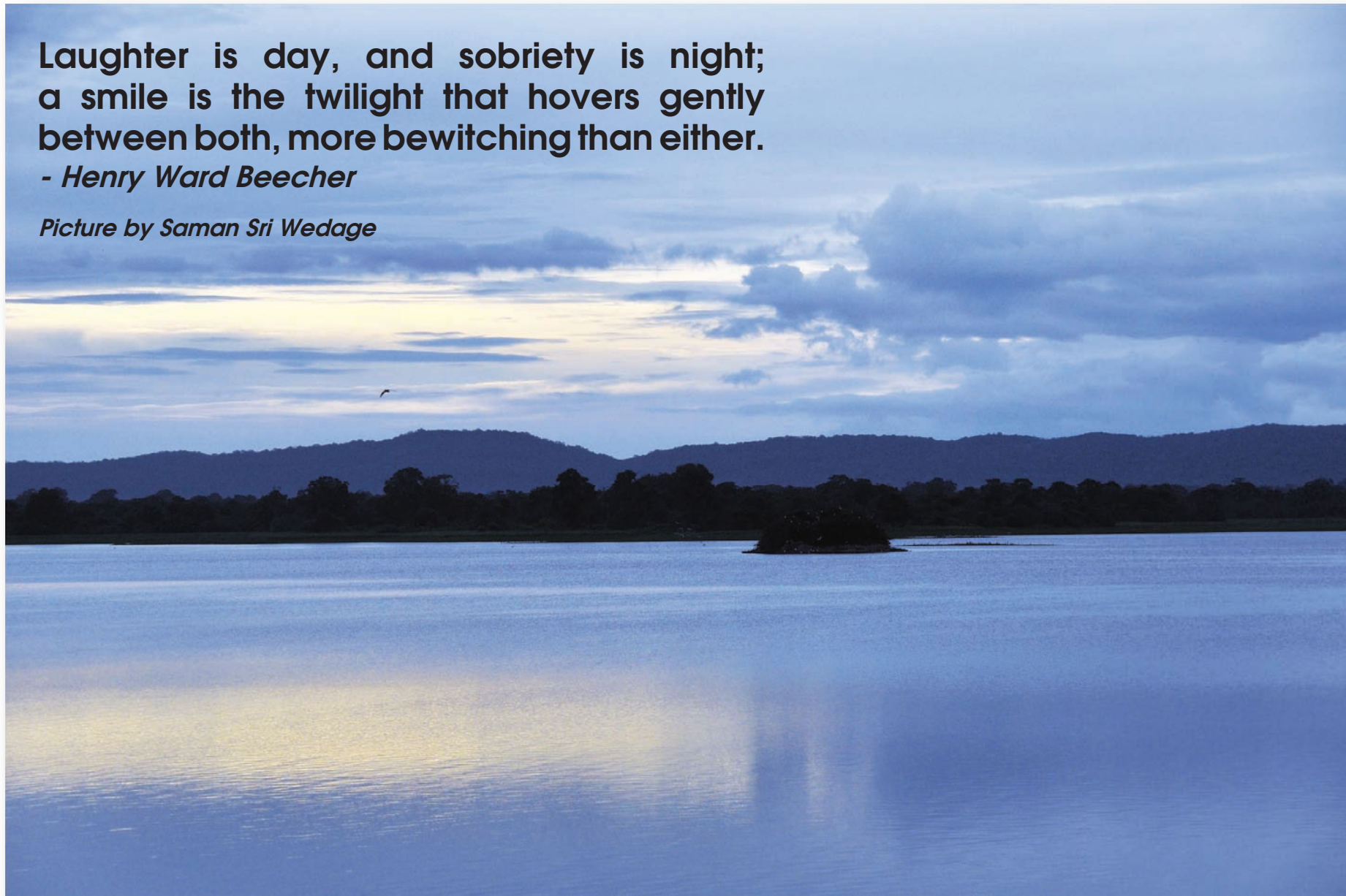
His watchful eyes always manifest sparkling wisdom  
Screen many things that remain hidden and unseen  
His brave acts glorifies the entire kingdom of animals  
His alerted and awakened eyes are warm and caring  
Against enemies his eyes become as cold as hailstones  
Always ignite ferociously contrary to disastrous attacks  
Becomes a king by the Mother Nature's natural selection  
Strong instincts and intuitions emerge powerful emotions  
Profound eyes foresee all the challenges and the dangers  
Answers are written in the depth of those insightful eyes  
Eyes that respect the virtue of honesty of fellow inhabitants  
Protecting the dignity and integrity of his endangered pride  
Fight against the evil forces that make harm to the innocents  
Defend everyone from danger and securing their existence  
Looking for a safe future in a small world in the wilderness  
King of the wilderness has curious eyes running everywhere  
Eyes that reflect fairness and kindness on every living being  
Everyone likes the wistful spark that shines within king's eyes...

- Hemakumar Nanayakkara

Laughter is day, and sobriety is night;  
a smile is the twilight that hovers gently  
between both, more bewitching than either.

- Henry Ward Beecher

Picture by Saman Sri Wedage



## MONEY

Across continents and nations  
Beyond colour, creed, language and races  
Throughout life chases the poor and rich  
Arouses ego, build up competitions  
Everyone keep eyes wide open  
Smells the fragrance of notes  
As money makes money.  
Beggars to lords  
Every man on earth other than God  
Urge for money...from seconds to years  
It is the king of earth  
Without a thrown and a crown.  
No matter who agrees  
But owes everything, including nature  
Move from one to another  
Touches every hand clean and dirty  
Beautiful and ugly young and old  
No gender matters  
Time and place not in control  
Peeps through every door and window  
Mocking at the ones  
Sober to sad who needs him to come  
If it comes even do not stay  
If it stays, he does not let to pray  
Makes you happy, taking away your sleep  
It's like a stray dog  
Do not belong to any comes and goes  
Its friends become fanatics, others lunatics  
Searching him day and night  
Takes away peace and happiness  
If it stays in abundance  
Nobody can live without it  
It grabs its place in everyone's life.

- M N KAIYOOM