

MINDSPARK

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

The First Creative Writing Magazine
by
Department of English Language Teaching

Untold expressions of the Students and Staff

MINDSPARK

Ignition through words

Department of English Language Teaching
Faculty of Agriculture
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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Mindspark English e-magazine by the Department of English Language Teaching provides a creative platform for professionals and students to present and enhance their creative and artistic abilities in the scope of poetry, short fiction, essays, articles and reviews.

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Message from the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



It is with great pleasure to issue this message on the occasion of launching the 1st Volume of “Mindspark e-Magazine” of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Covid-19 pandemic which has marked a paradigm-shift in the 21st century, has dramatically reshaped the process of teaching and learning in the world. Due to the pandemic, millions of learners have been affected by the closure of educational institutions, which has opened the gates for the largest online movement in the history of education. As a result, universities all around the world had to shift rapidly and readily to virtual and digital strategies. In this backdrop, the idea of launching an English e-magazine is extremely positive as it creates an environment to awaken the latent talents of students and staff who need a platform to showcase their talents.

As the dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, I would like to congratulate all of those who have contributed for the launching of the 1st Volume of “Mindspark e-Magazine” which gives an opportunity to our students and staff to showcase their talents and creativity. I also wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the academic staff of the Department of English Language Teaching attached to the Faculty of Agriculture and the students of the faculty for their commitment and dedication in making “Mindspark e-Magazine” a reality.

I wish “Mindspark e-Magazine” a great success.

Prof A.M.J.B. Adikari

Dean/Faculty of Agriculture

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

**Message from the Head of the Department of English Language Teaching, Rajarata University of
Sri Lanka**



As the head of the Department of English Language Teaching, I am delighted to pen a few words on the occasion of the launch of the 1st volume of the English e-magazine “Mindspark” of the Faculty of Agriculture. At the outset, I wish to congratulate the academics staff of the Department of English Language Teaching attached to the Faculty of Agriculture and the students for their commitment and dedication in making this a reality.

In the phase of the Covid pandemic, the world has come to a standstill and all the sectors including tertiary education have been badly affected and we, the teachers of English have been entrusted with the responsibility of continuing teaching and learning programmes. In this context, the e-magazine provides a platform for the students to improve their writing skills in English and build up the confidence to face the challenges ahead.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to all those who supported in making this venture a success.

Mr. WA Wehalla

Head – Department of English Language Teaching

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

**Message from the Former Head of the Department of English Language Teaching, Rajarata
University of Sri Lanka**



I am gratified to know that the faculty cell of the Department of English Language Teaching of Faculty of Agriculture has taken the initiative to publish the e-magazine titled “Mindspark”. If I am correct, the concept of the e-journal arose at the staff meeting when I was the head of the department. I am extremely happy that the e-magazine is a concerted effort of both the faculty students and the DELT staff. The publication of the magazine has created fruitful avenues to improve and showcase the talents in English language for both the students and staff.

I wish this magazine ‘Mindspark’ a very big success in all their ventures. I also applaud the coordination and efforts behind the team to bring out this publication. I wish you all success.

Mr. RM Dhanapala

Senior Lecturer in English

Department of English Language Teaching

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

**Message from the ELT Coordinator of the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of English
Language Teaching, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka**



It is with great enthusiasm that I write this congratulatory message to the Department of English Language Teaching for the first ever publication “Mindspark” e-magazine which is an outcome of the students and the staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The idea of creative writing entries in this book demonstrates the importance of the silent effort made by the Department of English Language Teaching of the Faculty of Agriculture. The effort has been significant as this is one of the efforts the staff of the Department of English Language Teaching has taken to awaken the latent talents of our students and the staff and this provided a path with our students and staff to divert from their busy schedules and to make a contribution to the field of literature with imaginative and untold expressions. Thus, I make this an opportunity to appreciate the effort of every student and staff members who entries to the e-magazine.

Finally, I take this time to appreciate the effort made by the Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department of English Language Teaching and the former Head of the Department of English Language Teaching, the Editors and all others who have helped in different ways to make this effort a success. I wish that this initiative would continue annually so that it would make a positive contribution while diverting the mechanical lives of the postmodern man.

Mr. AAM Nizam

Lecturer in English

Department of English Language Teaching

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

MINDSPARK

Ignition through words

First Year of RUSL

"DREAMS"

Fly in the sky,

To enjoy university life with friends,

To say stories to mom

On hostel life.

But,

Came crawling home,

Putting two weeks' sweet memories in our bags.

"Good bye"

First year waved us the hand,

"Zoom"

the only word we know,

As one year has passed by,

"Corona"

Thank you so much.....

Making our "First year of university"

only a dream.....

G. Lihini Kirinde

The Statue

It was a new moon day. But the sky was filled with many stars. It was a perfect night to study the sky. But there was nobody to take that opportunity except the giant reptiles. It was the time before the first man appeared on the earth. A star came to visit the earth on that day.

A long necked reptile was having its supper without knowing that it was doomed. A giant fireball fell from the sky and hit the animal. Not only the animal, but also the entire surrounding was turned into ashes. The only thing remained was the spherical rock which came from the sky.

Millions of years passed, human beings began to rule over the world. Many men saw the rock but they didn't give much attention. One day a special man saw that rock and understood its purpose. He was a talented sculptor. He created a statue of a beautiful woman from that rock.

It was a beautiful statue. So many wealthy people in his village wanted to buy it. He sold the statue to his village head for a higher price. The village head kept the statue in the living room to show his status.

After few weeks, the village was attacked by a neighboring tribe. The villagers were slaughtered and their wealth was looted. The statue was taken by the leader of the attackers. He was attracted by the beauty of the statue and he secretly sent it to his village with his most trusted men. Over many years, the statue was passed to many owners. Sometime it was stolen. Sometime it was lost for many years.

Once it was possessed by a Viking ruler. He took the statue with him during his cruises. He believed that it was a lucky charm. He invaded foreign lands very easily. After one of his invasions, he was on his way back to his homeland. He looted many wealth from foreign countries. His pride had already took over other emotions in his heart. He felt he was invincible and he felt that the statue did not fit with golden and marble sculptures he had. It might be a coincidence or actually, the statue might have a mystical power. However on that day the sea changed. The ship couldn't handle the heavy tides occurred from a hurricane. The ship wrecked and sank to the bottom of the ocean with his crew and all the looted wealth except the statue. A shark that came to eat dead crew, misidentified the statue and swallowed it. Later the shark was captured by some fishermen. They saw the statue when they cut the shark in the market. One of fisherman took it to his home but he was attacked by some robber's on the way. The robbers wanted only money. They didn't care about the statue. So it was thrown to the forest nearby.

After many decades, the forest was cleared for cultivation. A farmer found the statue when he was digging the land. Like everyone else, he also took it to his home. That day his son came home from abroad. His son was a man of Science. Instead of the aesthetic value of the statue, he looked at it in another viewpoint.

He identified that the statue was made of a rare mineral which can be found only in meteorites. He took it to his secret laboratory situated in a secret location. The laboratory was full of illegal experiments. There was a skeleton of a fossil reptile. If you had a power to see over past, present and future; you would recognize that fossil reptile was the same reptile that was hit by the meteorite million years ago. And the laboratory was situated in the same place where the meteorite hit the earth. And the man in the laboratory had same face of the man who created the statue. He boiled the statue using machines in the laboratory. Then it turned into a hot ball. It was in the same appearance when it fell to the earth. Was this merely a coincidence or a something beyond human understanding?

Unexpected thing happened at once. The laboratory was situated in an unpopulated area near to a volcano. It was not activated for centuries. But on that day, it activated at once without a warning sign. Nobody in the laboratory could not survive the volcanic eruption. The entire laboratory was covered with lava.

There were many unsolved mysteries related to the statue or the rock. Did it have a conscience? If it was the truth, did it manipulate people and the nature over many years to come to its original point? Did it want to go back to the sky? How could it do that when it's under the lava? The questions might be solved in another era. It is a story for another day!

W.P.P.D.Perera



ARE WE READY TO FEED THE EXPONENTIALLY GROWING POPULATION ADEQUATELY?

Only 29% of earth comprises land while 71% of it is used for agriculture functions. However, most of it has already been used. So, to extend the food production to meet the human needs using conventional farming methods, we have got to destroy our forests changing them into farmlands. But those forests are essential with several alternative measures to guard the atmosphere and to stop global warming. So, the agriculturists have paved their attention to bringing the standard farmlands into cities.

In conventional farming, we need several factors to be considered such as sunlight, soil, irrigation, and fertilizers. Thus, if we have an idea to build up a vertical farm, we have got to overcome these issues which mean, we have to search out some alternatives for them. Sunlight is vital among the factors. Consultants use LED lights which offer specific wave lengths that have been pre-determined according to the crop grown. Most often, blue and red LED lights are accustomed to obtaining the purple hue, because their energy efficiency is greater than white lights, and they allow the most efficient absorption of nutrients simultaneously.

Here, we use a soil less farming system but alternatives which can replace the soil's role. We use farming techniques such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and aeroponics. In hydroponics, we use a mineral nutrient solution in a liquid solvent. Terrestrial plants could only grow when their roots are exposed to the nutritious wholesome liquid, or additionally, the roots could also be physically supported by an inert medium like perlite, gravel, or alternative substrates. In aquaponics, we use a system integrated with fish farming. Thus, unlike in hydroponics, the nutrients used are provided by organic matter in fish wastes. The latest technology is aeroponics. The fundamental principle of aeroponic is to grow plants by spraying the plants' roots and crown with an atomized or sprayed, nutrient-rich water solution. We spray water, oxygen, and nutrients to the roots. Through aeroponics, plants use 95% less water than in conventional farming as evapotranspiration is low, thanks to the closed system. Sometimes, the period of seed to reap is just fifteen days. This is half the time taken in ancient farming, 30 - 45 days. Owing to the closed atmosphere and vertical snacking of the farm, they will grow 390 times a lot of crops per square feet than in conventional farming.

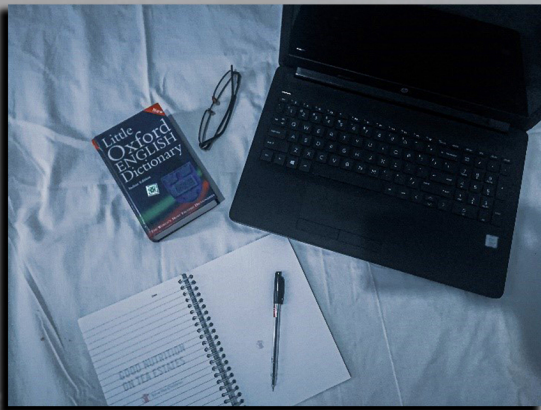
The biggest benefit of this is, not being smitten by the fluctuation of weather. We use a closed atmosphere separated from the outer environment consequently everything is checked, which means, you will obtain a good, uniform, year-round crop production without being frightened of the impacts of adverse climates. Thus, you will have a top quality production and a yield. Vertical farms can be built in any climate or location, irrespective of climate or temperature extremities. Since their stacking grow system enables them to expand upwards, it is possible to attain higher productivity in a tiny space. Another one is that the hydroponics growing method uses 10% percent of the total amount of water used by conventional farming, and the nutrients and fertilizers too. Indoor farming is good for the environment as it massively reduces the number of fossil fuels required for farming instruments that are needed to sow, fertilize, weed, or harvest crops. Vertical farming additionally helps to enhance biodiversity as it doesn't cause a land surface disturbance, by aiding animals to thrive. Global organizations estimate that 20% to 40% of crops we grow are being destroyed due to the pests in conventional farming. Thus, growing in a sealed environment without soil means no pests and pesticides. Consequently, consumers can have a lot of wholesome and healthier foods. Growing foods closer to the people's whereabouts is a huge benefit of vertical farming, as it can come from farm to fork in hours by massively reducing transportation costs, CO2 emissions, and the need for refrigerated storage and making merchandise fresher and more profitable. standards of living are rising. Consequently, farm work is not as enticing as it used to be. Therefore, vertical farming helps to combat this labor shortage. Totally automated indoor growing systems don't need a large amount of manual labor to attain a flourishing year-round production. Labors with low-level skills are needed to sort and pack the harvests.

When it comes to the disadvantages, vertical farming should be set up by experts and needed to be monitored frequently. This has a high upfront cost and significant operational costs too. Though no pesticides are used and crops are grown density is very high, even a small mistake is enough for disease spread.

Global food production has to be increased by 70% across the globe to keep up with the current consumption trend. Despite the fact that it has several disadvantages, we have to adapt to this concept, and scientists across the world are carrying out several types of research regarding this, because this is a good alternative we can have to feed the growing population.

P.H.B. Rajapaksha

Internet: The world at the fingertip



Nowadays, internet is considered as the center of knowledge. It's just like a chain which combines each and everything happening in all over the world. Internet is the most useful technology of modern times which helps us not only with our daily lives but also with professional lives. It gives more effective and speed solutions to real life problems. In many countries, both governmental and non-governmental institutes use internet to popularize to their businesses and through internet they exchange the details of their institutes details with the employments in other countries. During this COVID-19 pandemic situation, internet is very valuable for all the students, adults, employees and other sectors. As university students, they always try to find new things. So, internet is the best solution for that. If we take a few instances where usage of internet occurs in our society, in banking systems, tele banking etc. is best example for that. Similarly, internet is the most useful thing for our education. According to my point of view, internet is the easiest way to reach our goal. I think browsing internet is an easy exercise for our knowledge. We can find so many important educational things via internet. For educational purposes, it is widely used to gather information and to do research or add to the knowledge of various subjects. Internet plays a very vital role in education. During this COVID-19 pandemic situation, all the world members are abreast to the modern technology. We can gather information around the world with our fingertip. Modern technology is like part a part of human lives.

Popular search engines like Google, Yahoo, etc. are the major sources of information. It contains wealth of knowledge that can be searched at any time. The internet has introduced improvements in technology, communication and online entertainment. Today, it has become more important as well as a powerful tool in the world which is preferred by everyone. Everybody needs internet to search for information related to exams, curriculum, results, etc. Not only that, internet is used for agricultural purposes like how to cultivate crop in field and how we can manage that from pest attack and other things and how to prepare soil, sow, add manure and fertilizers and involve in irrigation practices, harvesting and storage. We can study all these processes using internet. And other than using internet for business purposes, a business itself can be started through internet. So, many job opportunities we can find through internet. Then, internet acts as a transport vehicle for the information stored in files or documents on another computer.

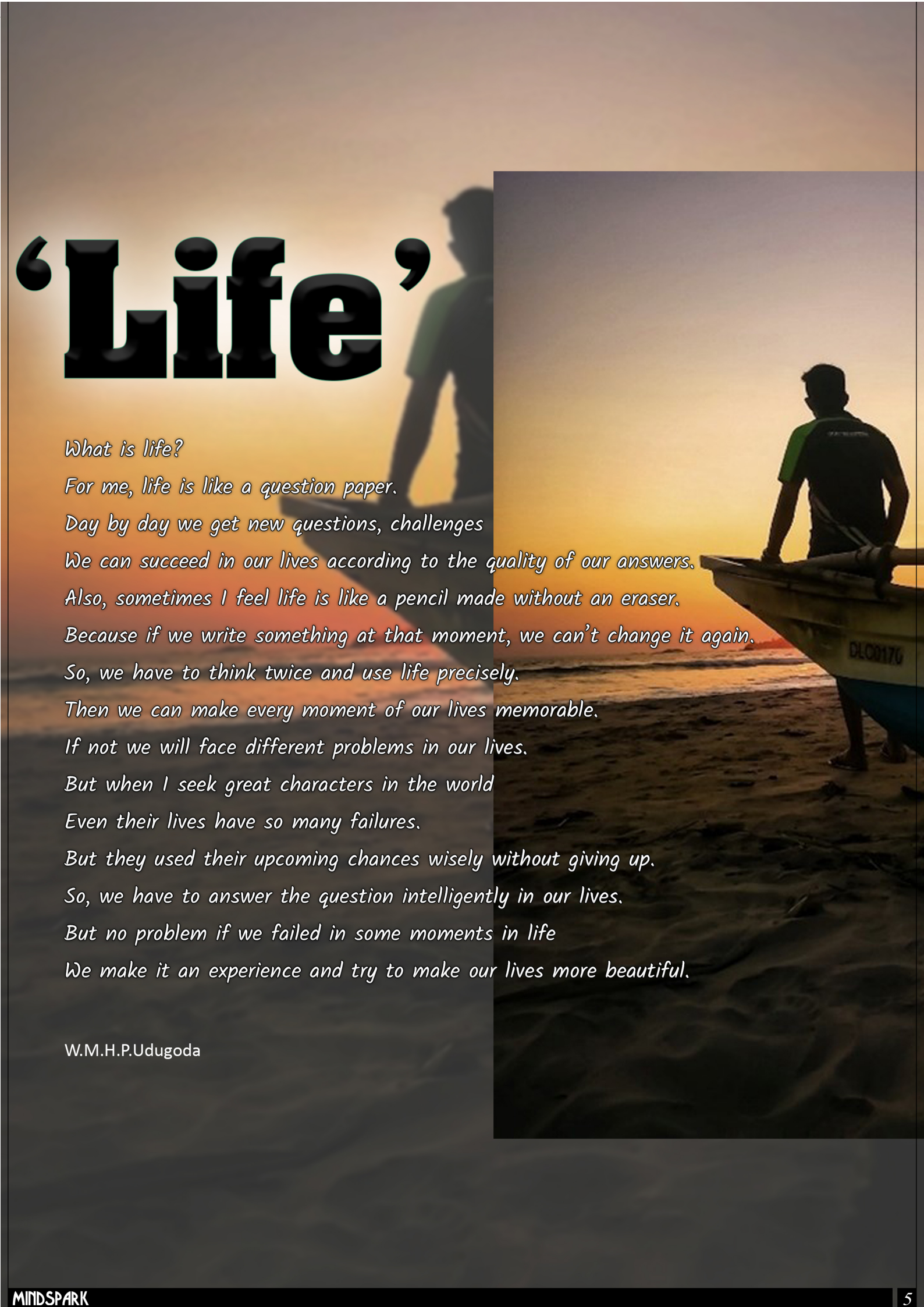
Now a days, internet is considered as the center of knowledge. It's just liked a chain which combine each and everything happening in all over the world together. Internet is the most useful technology of modern times which helps us not only in our daily lives but also in professional lives. It gives more effective and speed solutions to real life problems. In many countries both governmental and non-governmental institutes use internet to give publish to their businesses and through internet they exchange their institutes details with the employments in other countries. During this COVID-19 pandemic situation internet is the very valuable for all the students, adults, employees and other sectors. As university students they always try to find new things. So, internet is the best solution for that. If we take few instances where usage of internet occurs in our society are in banking systems, tele banking is best example for that. Similarly, internet is the most useful thing for our education. According to my point of views internet is the easiest way to reach our goal. I think browsing internet is an easy exercise for our knowledge. We can find so many important educational things though the internet. For educational purposes, it is widely used to gather information and to do research or add to the knowledge of various subjects. Internet plays a very vital role in education. During this COVID-19 pandemic situation all the world members are abreast to the modern technology. We can gather information around the world with our fingertip. Modern technology and human just like part and partial.

Popular search engines like Google, Yahoo, etc. These are the major source of to get information. It contains wealth of knowledge that can be searched any time. The internet has introduced improvements in technology, communication and online entertainment. Today, it has become more important as well as a powerful tool in the world which is preferred by everyone. Everybody needs internet to search for information related to exams, curriculum, results, etc. Not only that internet used for agricultural purposes. How to cultivate crop in field and how we can manage that from pest attack and other things. How to preparation of soil, sowing, adding manure and fertilizers, irrigation practices, harvesting and storage. We can study all these processes using internet. And other than using internet for business purposes, a business itself can be started through internet. So many job opportunities we can find through internet. Then internet act as a transport vehicle for the information stored in files or documents on another computer. It carries together various information and services, such as electronic mail, online chat, file transfer and the interlinked Web pages and other documents of the world wide web.

Among the above-mentioned advantages, there some disadvantages too. In present day society, so many children are addicted to internet. Not only children but also some people are getting addicted to the internet and thus causing problems with their interactions with friends and loved ones. Sometimes, they use internet for unnecessary purposes. Some web sites and other things not suitable for school children. They do not know how to get information from internet like a funnel. So, they miss their school works and experience some bad things which are not suitable for school children. Another problem of using internet is negative health. We use mobile phone or computer for browsing internet. The researchers have found that the high use of mobile phones or computer causes for brain cancers and other sicknesses. And, easy to waste a lot of time on the internet. Then, internet has a lot of cheater sites. Some people own them. Then hackers can create viruses that can get into our personal computer and ruin valuable data. These are the most dangerous effects of the internet. And hackers can use the internet for identity theft. So, these are major disadvantages of internet. So, we understand what good things and bad things are for our life. However, we can find two different sides of using internet. Internet has now become a friend of human beings.

H.M.N.S Herath

‘Life’



What is life?

For me, life is like a question paper.

Day by day we get new questions, challenges

We can succeed in our lives according to the quality of our answers.

Also, sometimes I feel life is like a pencil made without an eraser.

Because if we write something at that moment, we can't change it again.

So, we have to think twice and use life precisely.

Then we can make every moment of our lives memorable.

If not we will face different problems in our lives.

But when I seek great characters in the world

Even their lives have so many failures.

But they used their upcoming chances wisely without giving up.

So, we have to answer the question intelligently in our lives.

But no problem if we failed in some moments in life

We make it an experience and try to make our lives more beautiful.

W.M.H.P.Udugoda



Cinema is a true art medium that can shock the audience. But the magnitude of the shock really depends on the nature of the film. While the post-shock is limited to a few hours after being felt at the end of some films and the shock caused by some more films circulate inside the head for days, perhaps weeks. But some films are rarely made which manage to leave an ever-lasting impression on the hearts of the audience.

The Godfather film in 1972, based on Mario Puso's novel called as the same name belongs to that rare section. It was directed by Francis Ford Coppola and the film's enormous popularity has made audiences lucky enough to see two sequels to Godfather part 1 in 1974 and 1990 with Puso - Coppola combination.

GODFATHER SUMMARY

The Godfather film series is set in the American-Italian society, which is notorious for the activities of mafia gangs. The protagonist of the first film is Vito Corleone, who immigrated to America from Sicily. He was also known as the 'Godfather', he was the head of one of the few major families which handled the helm of the American underworld.

It was the preliminary stage that the heroin trade began to spread around the world. Throughout the film, there is killing each other for power, business, and money. The story starts to change with a shooting at Vito Corleone, who lives an elite life. The next heir to the Godfather crown is Sonny Corleone. He is incredibly angry and a man with short-sightedness. That's why he, unfortunately, has to be shot by another underworld gang and die on the road. Michael Corleone's youngest son, who is trying to stay away from the underworld, then has to accept the family's infamous legacy.

The second film unfolds about what Don Michael Corleone does as the 'Godfather' of the American underworld. He is very good at that subject. Michael goes to the top of the American-Italian underworld and business world. He learned a lot from his father. On the other hand, despite being a dangerous mafia leader, Michael was a loving man who was always eager to give his best for his family like his dad, Vito Corleone. In addition to Michael's story of threats from other mafia gangs, criminal investigation allegations, and the breakdown of family life, Godfather Part 2 also unfolds in parts that Vito Corleone's immigrated to America from Sicily and how he became a mafia leader.

The third part of The Godfather unfolds about 30 years later. At that time, Don Michael Corleone was a well-known tycoon in America as well as in Italy. He was a businessman who contributed millions of dollars to social work around the world through the Vatican. This part reveals a very serious truth about the activities of the mafia gangs and the various perversions that take place through the church and the politicians and priests behind those things. The Godfather III movie ends with an unfortunate incident in front of the Sicilian Theater where Michael's young son performs his first opera.

**"KEEP YOUR FRIENDS
CLOSE,
BUT YOUR ENEMIES
CLOSER"**

The Godfather Trilogy - Review

PUSO, COPPOLA, AND THE GODFATHER

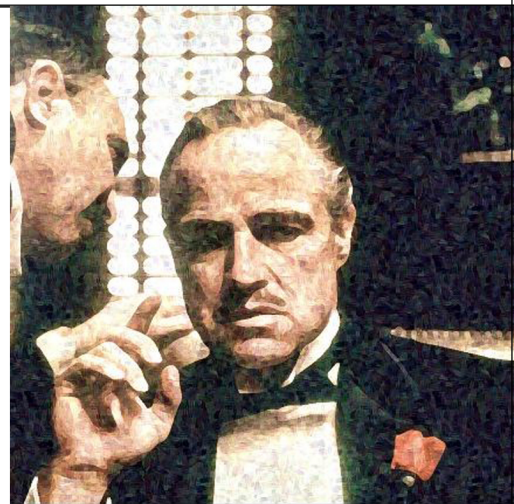
Although Mario Puso was known to many as an ordinary novelist from his 1969 novel, The Godfather proves that he is no ordinary storyteller. In fact, the Godfather script is more than just a superficial story about criminals and mafia gangs. Through Godfather, Puso was able to touch humanity, love, enmity, and wrath from a depth beyond that. He tries to see through his characters in a very subtle way how people deal with feelings like family, security, and fear. Puso's poetic writing style also adds a wonderful aesthetic to the Godfather screenplay.

Before 1972, Francis Ford Coppola was not so popular. But with the release of The Godfather, the name has been added to the list of the most popular directors in the world. Everyone knows that he is very rich in handling the language of cinema through Godfather. Coppola, who co-wrote the Godfather screenplay with Puso, is also producing the third Godfather film. The main reason why these three films are not second to each other is the Coppola-Puso combination.

Rapid rhythm is one of the most common features in crime genre movies. Instead of the speed that we often see in crime movies such as editing, image editing, camera work, and music, but in The Godfather series, we contact a very slow-flowing rhythm. The value of adding to that mysterious, uncertain, slow rhythm through the background music is not a minor thing because that music brings the Italian feel. In fact, there is a numbing fear inside that slowly going silence.

The Godfather camera, editing, and lighting are designed to show a complex message about the nature of the main characters. We frequently see in Vito, Michael, and their next heir, Vincent Corleone, with a better sense of the mysterious nature of those characters. A director can achieve such success only if he uses film grammar very accurately. Gordon Willis was the cinematographer of this trilogy. He was able to show Vito's dark character by dark shadows as well as Michael's and Vincent's in allusion. That's why in Vito's scenes his face is half blacked. It is splendor, atmospheric, emphatic. Coppola enjoyed his dark interior spaces with remarkable faces.

Nino Rota is a definite character that needs to be talked about in this review. His music style contains the passion of Italian folk. He had driven people totally insane from his tremendous album. He was able to turn music from smooth to crusty. In 1972, Nino Rota received a nomination for the Godfather, but it was found that some part of the score had been used in 1957's Fortunella; it was also scored by Nino Rota. However, in 1974, he received an academy award for the best dramatic score for The Godfather part II.



We meet Marlon Brando as Vito Corleone in the first film. When we heard this name, one person comes into our mind instantly as great legend Gamini Fonseka also considered as 'Sri Lankan Marlon Brando'. Although Brando was nominated for academy awards, he refused his Oscar for Best Actor. Michael's character is acted by Al Pacino. When people hear the name Godfather, most people think of Marlon Brando, but in fact, Pacino is one of the most praised characters in those three films. The acting talent that he unleashes through the character of Michael Corleone is an outstanding one. It is very difficult to play and understand such complex characters with several opposing character traits. Puso and Coppola have built Connie Corleone's character cleverly that she ranges from an innocent bride to a Godfather's mentor. It tells whether we change fate or live according to fate.

PAIN OF CONSCIENCE

We see Michael Corleone in the last minutes of his life in retrospect. He recalls the three women that he loved the most for a lifetime but lost. Michael Corleone felt all his pain, ending the Godfather movie trilogy with a lasting memory for the audience's hearts. He lost his two wives and loving daughter. According to the theory of Karma, what happens to a person as they caused it with their actions.

AFTERWORD

A biographical film is scheduled to make in the future. It is the best evidence that series heat is not gone. Golden Globe Winner Oscar Isaac is ready to play as director Francis Ford Coppola, while academy award nominee Jake Gyllenhaal will play former Paramount studio head Robert Evans in a movie about the making of Biographical feature of Coppola and seminal feature of the Godfather.

This biographical film will note the battles between Coppola and Evans, which included taking a gamble on casting Marlon Brando, who had failed to win the audience for many years.

It is no rhapsody to say that this holy trilogy has won numerous awards, including the Oscars and the Golden Globe. It must be watched by anyone interested in cinema. Through Godfather, which takes us deeper than a series of simple crime stories, Puso and Coppola remind us again and again of what a powerful art form cinema is.

"There are many things my father taught me here in this room. He taught me; keep your friends close, but your enemies closer"
~Michael Corleone~

J.P.P.Bimsara



THE UNIVERSITY LIFE MISSED DUE TO THE COVID 19 VIRUS

The university life is a very beautiful experience that is not for everyone. It is a great opportunity for a minority. Lots of students in Sri Lanka compete for this chance. After passing the A/L examination, some students cannot enter the government university due to the minimum facilities at the universities. It is also a pity that a minority of the students who get qualified for government universities have to wait almost a year after facing the A/L examination. However, most of the students dream of entering government universities.

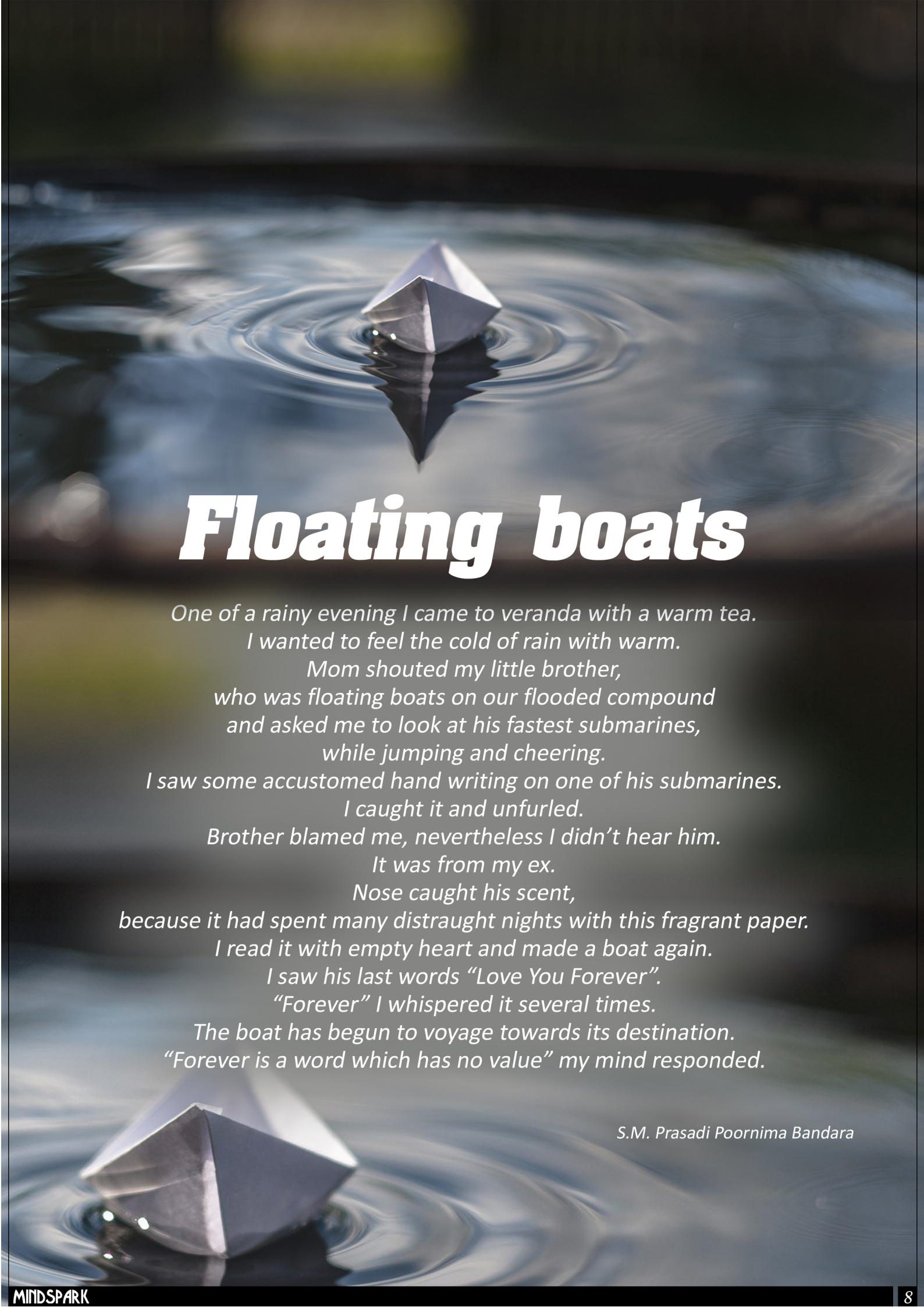
It is also difficult to believe that this time it was an epidemic that prevented the effective use of such a difficult university mandate. The Covid 19 virus which broke out in China was spreading all over the world unbelievably fast. It is unfortunate that Sri Lanka is also a victim. As a developing country compared to other countries, Sri Lanka must work hard to tackle this crisis successfully. Because of this situation, the government of Sri Lanka had to lock down entire the country for more than four months to prevent the spread of the virus.

As a result, even education was disrupted such as school education, university education as well as tuition classes. Not only that education but also government services, jobs of the private sector, businesses, transport facilities, and even day-to-day activities were disrupted. The majority of these activities were done online. Schools and universities were closed indefinitely.

It is a pity that university activities are still done online even though other services have started after a while. But, it is not possible to start such universities in accordance with rules. However, some students are unhappy with this unfortunate situation because they could not gain real experiences in university life. Sadly, the dreams that have been created about university life since school education is fading. Although the education activities continue to be done online, how do we get other experiences at the university?

No one thinks this virus is a reason for university students to miss out on their first year entirely. There is no doubt that they will regret the experience they lost. Not only first years but also entire university students lost their beautiful time. They lost their hostel life, laughing with friends, learning with friends, field visits, practical activities, and many other activities. However, the people of the world hope that the virus will soon be eradicated and the world will be healed.

M.P.G.Kaushalya

A close-up photograph of a small, white, triangular paper boat floating on a dark, rippling surface of water. The boat is centered in the upper half of the frame, and its reflection is visible in the water below it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green, suggesting a natural setting.

Floating boats

One of a rainy evening I came to veranda with a warm tea.

I wanted to feel the cold of rain with warm.

*Mom shouted my little brother,
who was floating boats on our flooded compound
and asked me to look at his fastest submarines,
while jumping and cheering.*

I saw some accustomed hand writing on one of his submarines.

I caught it and unfurled.

Brother blamed me, nevertheless I didn't hear him.

It was from my ex.

*Nose caught his scent,
because it had spent many distraught nights with this fragrant paper.*

I read it with empty heart and made a boat again.

I saw his last words "Love You Forever".

"Forever" I whispered it several times.

The boat has begun to voyage towards its destination.

"Forever is a word which has no value" my mind responded.

S.M. Prasadi Poornima Bandara

Do you love yourself?

C. Sachinthoni

You might laugh reading the question thinking, "Of course, I do. Who does not?" Then I ask you again, if you really love yourself, why are you not happy, because you would be happy if you are loved no matter what you are; broken or sick. This explains why we need to love ourselves. Your love for yourself has to be enough to guide you through thick and thin with an abiding smile on your face.

If you really love yourself, then how come you have not done anything to make yourself happy? How many of us are making an effort to create a better version of ourselves for tomorrow? If you are so sure you love yourself, why do we get into toxic relationships, keep procrastinating, and ignore health? All our success begins with self-love, whether it is your career, health, or relationship. You may be wondering as to why self-love is this important? Of course, it is of tremendous importance. Self-love is the hand that guides you where you want to go. Unless for self-love, why would you even bother to get a promotion, achieve your fitness goal, or purchase a new car?

So, what actually is self-love? Is it something that you can obtain through a beauty makeover? Is it something that you get from reading an inspirational phrase or can engaging in a new relationship make you love yourself more? As much as these feel good and are gratifying, self-love has deeper roots penetrating our lives. It is the key to our mental health keeping depression at bay.

A research was conducted with people over 90 years of age from all parts of the world, to obtain their advice for the younger generation. It was revealed that the advice by a majority was to love yourself and to keep choosing those who make you happy. A 100 year old lady named Mary has given her thought "Nobody ever dies wishing they had worked more but they had loved themselves more and enjoyed life more."

Self-love is dynamic. It grows through what we do. The more we act in ways to expand our love for ourselves, the more we begin to accept our weaknesses as well as our strengths. For this, there is a seven-step prescription. Becoming mindful is the first step where you are guided to know what you think, feel, and want authentically, so you are knowledgeable as to do what you want rather than depending on what others want for you. Step two would be to act on what you need rather than what you want. This is what makes you focus on your life goals when you are distracted. Clearly distinguishing between your needs and wants will assist you in concentrating on opportunities to reach your aspirations.

Practising good self-care is the third step which includes taking better care of yourself. Nourishing yourself with sound nutrition, exercise, proper sleep will lead you to love yourself more. It can be as simple as buying a new book, enjoying a new movie, or even trying a new dish as long as it makes you happy. This applies to social relationships as well. When you take good care in choosing whom to keep around you and in building healthy relationships, you will expand the horizons of self-love. The fourth step of setting boundaries is what brings out the best version of you. When you learn to say 'no' to things that would deplete you either physically, emotionally, or spiritually, you will succeed in expressing how great you are. Protecting yourself is the next step. It is all about bringing the right people to your life at the right time. Getting rid of toxic people that restrict you from being the best is essential in loving yourself more. The sixth and the main element in self-love is forgiving yourself. How many times do we repent over a mistake or obsess over a failure? Sometimes, we can be hard on ourselves to the extent where we punish ourselves. When you learn to grow from your mistakes, move on from resentment, that will make your life calm and peaceful. The final step to self-love is living intentionally. When you have a purpose for your life, you will accept and love yourself more. You will then make decisions to support your intentions and ultimately will end up in love with yourself irrevocably when you succeed in achieving your intentions.

Everything begins with a single step or a single decision. You can begin with a simple action such as tidying up your room or setting up new life goals. You can choose one or two of these steps, to begin with. Just imagine the new yourself who will be much appreciated and loved and you will find the courage to start afresh. The more you love yourself, the more positivity and calmness you will reach. If you want someone to change your life, take a good look at the mirror.



LESSONS BLOOM ON OUR WAY!

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit matchstick. The matchstick is held between the thumb and index finger. A small flame is at the tip, and a trail of white smoke rises from it, curling into a heart shape. The background is dark and out of focus.

We say, "Life just flows,"
But believe, it tells a lot and shows.
Cry a little; Smile a little!
Walk a little; Run a little!
It takes us deep down the slope
And at times across the globe.
Just ponder and wonder!
Don't take things for granted
Don't ignore things when granted.
"What on earth can anyone do?"
Don't question having an answer.
You know you just have to
Simply pause and think,
Then you'll understand and wink.
Now it's your time to say,
"Yes! Lessons bloom on my way."

Tharshini Puvaneswararajah

Home garden, household Nutrition and food security

The home garden can be defined as a farming system that combines different physical, social and economic functions on the area of land around the family home. It is used as a place of work and for the storage of farm produce. Home garden produces a variety of food and agricultural products, including staple crops, vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants, livestock and fish for both consumption or use and for income. Well-developed home garden provides multiple benefits such as providing nutritious non staple food for all the family year around, contributing considerably to family's income by sale of home garden produce etc. Not only that, but also it eloquently affects physical, mental and social wellbeing of family members. Considering all these advantages, the influence of home gardening on household nutrition and food security is remarkable.

The easiest way to get a variety of nutritious food on a daily basis is from a home garden near a kitchen. At the same time, the garden can be watered and fertilized with kitchen wastes very easily with no cost. Practically, it is very helpful for a mother who prepares a meal to fulfil the need of herbs, green leaves, spices, vegetables or fruits from the garden which is few steps outside. The most important basic need of a family is food as a keen attention should be paved on household nutrition and food security. Food security is defined as that all the people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. But how can we ensure food security?

Home garden is a common form of food production in many rural communities in developing countries like Sri Lanka. It is a place for improving household food security through providing access to a diversity of nutritionally rich foods. Currently global food system produces more than enough food today, yet more than 800 million people face the undernutrition and malnutrition. Food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture are among the leading objectives for achieving zero hunger which is one of the millennium development goals in the world. However, with the rapid increase in population, safe food production and secure food supply become the serious concern for less developed countries. This situation has established the importance of home gardens in food security. It also promotes the above mentioned leading objectives with sovereignty and dignity. At the same time, it provides an additional secure food supply even during the harsh weather conditions of the year. The vegetables and fruits grown in home gardens provide the essential micro-nutrients which are the best mitigation against the hidden hunger that is caused by its deficiency. Micro-nutrient deficiency leads to serious physical and mental health issues that lead to low productivity. But the kitchen gardens are known to increase local opportunities to eat better. The balanced diet is not only the quantity of food but also the adequate amount of essential vitamins, minerals, lipids, proteins and carbohydrates. The home garden provides many of the nutrients essential for an adequate diet for a healthy life. Most of the time, the diet of the majority of families in the developing countries is based on staple crops like rice that contributes to micro-nutrient deficiencies. It results to higher death rates from heart diseases, stroke and cancer.

Even very poor, landless or near landless people can practice gardening on small patches of homestead land, vacant plots, roadsides or edges of a field or in containers. And also, gardening can be done with virtually no economic resources, using locally available planting materials, green manures, live fencing and indigenous methods of pest control. Therefore, home gardening at some level is a production system that the poor can easily enter. It leads to nutritional benefits to families living in slum areas by increasing the availability of carbohydrates as well as nutrient-rich vegetables and fruits that are not economically accessible to poor slum dwellers in some parts of the world. There are numerous reasons behind the food insecurity. It is not merely the physical availability of food but also the economic and physical access of food is also there. The economic hardships force people to consume less and settle for food with low nutrition. Adverse health effects including vitamin A deficiency are more prominent among low income countries. As the best solution, home gardening is practiced mostly where this problem is acute in order to assist and address thereby improving the quality of diet by facilitating a year-round production of vegetables and fruits. At the same time, households with gardens typically obtain more than 50% of their daily food supply. And, garden systems that include animal raising also obtain their primary and often only source of animal protein.

In many cultures, women play an important role in food production and are active in home gardening. In most scenarios, women's contribution to household food production is immense since they consider much on household nutrition especially child nutrition. On the other hand, it provides an upliftment for the status of women who have useful knowledge on domestic needs. Home gardening has been a long-standing practice among the rural and urban household in Sri Lanka for centuries. However, due to rapid development and urbanization, people have engaged in white collar jobs and thereby no time is spent on home gardening. As a result, most of them search for market to fulfil domestic food requirement with low quality and high application of fertilizers rather than growing them in their own home garden with low cost.

Home garden is based on traditional practices, local environment and culture. So, this is the best time to take this responsibility to pave more attention on home gardening in order to ensure family nutrition that ultimately creates a healthy, active nation in Sri Lanka.

W.M. Shalika Nirmani Wijesekara

A Feminist Critical Approach to "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys

'Wide Sargasso Sea' (1966) is a novel which was written during the mid-1940s by Jean Rhys, a mid-twentieth century novelist who was born and grew up in the Caribbean Islands of Dominica. It was written as a prequel to the famous novel, 'Jane Eyre' (1847), written by Charlotte Brontë. The story of the novel revolves around Antoinette Cosway, who is known as Bertha Mason in Brontë's novel, 'Jane Eyre' and Rhys focuses on the reinvention of Bertha Mason's identity through 'Wide Sargasso Sea'. She is a creole heiress neither belonging to the White Europeans nor the Black Jamaicans. The story describes her youth in the Caribbean Islands and her unhappy marriage which leads her to end up becoming a mad woman. The novel is set in the 1840s, a few years after the abolition of slavery in 1834 by the "Slavery Abolition Act - 1833" and the story takes place in; Coulibri, Jamaica; the Windward Islands and also in England. Rhys tries to clear some misinterpretations in 'Jane Eyre' as she believed that Brontë created a wrong image of both West Indies and Creole women in her novel. Narration is an important aspect of this novel, because Rhys gives a voice to Bertha, the devil in 'Jane Eyre', through this novel. The three parts of the story are narrated by various narrators and so, part one and a half of part three are narrated by Antoinette. Through that, Rhys gives Bertha a chance to reveal her side of the story through her own voice.

In 'Jane Eyre', the reader meets Bertha when she is in the depth of madness while she is being confined in the attic of "Thornfield" for nearly fifteen years. She is merely depicted as an obstacle to Mr. Rochester to marry Jane Eyre. Brontë dehumanizes Bertha through her novel and portrays her as a woman with uncontrollable passion. Brontë creates an animalistic portrayal of Bertha and she emphasizes her as an uncivilized, untamed, uncontrollable and disastrous woman. She removes Bertha from the story by giving her a tragic death to give a happy ending to the story of Rochester and Jane.

Rhys deconstructs the characters of Bertha and Rochester through the novel, 'Wide Sargasso Sea' and she reveals the hidden story of Bertha, which is not mentioned in the 'Jane Eyre'. According to the story of Rhys, Rochester becomes a wealthy man by owning the wealth of Antoinette and he marries her as a mean of becoming economically stable. According to the English Law of that period, the husband becomes the owner of the properties of the wife after the marriage and, therefore, after marrying Antoinette, Rochester becomes rich and Antoinette becomes helpless. Rochester takes the control of Antoinette's life along with her properties and starts to dominate over her life. Within a very short period of time, he starts to neglect her and finally, he betrays her by making love with a servant girl. These experiences of Antoinette lead her into madness at the end. Rhys tells this untold story of Bertha through 'Wide Sargasso Sea' and she makes Antoinette a heroine by depicting her as a strong woman, since she is the one who creates and destroys Mr. Rochester. Also, she portrays Rochester as merely a pathetic man who becomes wealthy through the wealth of a woman.

Rosalind Coward in her article, 'Are Women's Novels Feminist Novels', brings an argument regarding feminist novels. Coward says, "It is just not possible to say that women-centered writings have any necessary relationship to feminism" (Coward, 1980). It indicates that just because there is a female protagonist in a story or there is a focus on female experiences in a novel, a novel does not become a feminist novel, but, it is the served purpose which determines whether it is a feminist novel or not. In 'Wide Sargasso Sea', the unvoiced, passive protagonist in 'Jane Eyre' is developed into a self-assured, passionate, thinking, feeling and rational young woman. Thus, Rhys gives a space and identity to the mad woman who is considered as the barrier which prevents the progress of the white man in "Jane Eyre". Through the novel, the writer talks about the various levels of oppression encountered by women. It shows that the women's oppression is not monolithic but diverse. The main character of the novel, Antoinette is psychologically and physically abused by her husband and he considers her merely as a commodity to achieve his economic stability. The worst violation carried out by Rochester is to erase her identity by converting 'Antoinette' into 'Bertha', and by doing so, he violates Antoinette's individuality too. Finally, he imprisons her in an attic by branding her as a mad woman. Antoinette is a rejected woman in multiple ways. She is rejected by the White community, Black community, friends, her own mother and finally by her own husband too which drives her towards insanity. So, Antoinette is a woman who is oppressed both physically and psychologically. The oppression that the black women suffered acts in another way. They are seen as commodities and objects which belonged to the whites. Christophine is a wedding gift given to Annette by her first husband and even Amelie and other black women are also portrayed as savage and uncivilized creatures. So, through the novel, Rhys shows how this oppression acts in different strata. And, finally, Rhys does not show the suicide of Antoinette as a mere death, but as a mean of escaping and final grasp of her agency and autonomy.

Rhys focuses on the representation of female experience through the novel basically by describing Antoinette's bad experiences of her marriage as it is a fundamental feature of a feminist novel. She describes how marriage becomes an entrapment for Antoinette. Through 'Wide Sargasso Sea', Rhys shows the subaltern nature of the woman within the institution of the marriage where the husband is viewed as the ultimate authoritative figure. Though the contribution of both the individuals is equally necessary in the institution of marriage, the female partner is not considered important in the patriarchal society. The marriage becomes a site of discrimination for her. It separates the woman from herself. So, within the institution of marriage, the woman has to sacrifice her individuality. Simply, marriage becomes an economic transaction that occurs between two males in the patriarchal society. The same thing happens to Antoinette as her marriage is negotiated by her step brother, Richard Mason and Rochester for 30,000 and rights over her inheritance. Ultimately, marriage becomes a mere economic transaction where the woman becomes a commodity in the patriarchal society. So, for Antoinette, the marriage turned into a trap where she had to sacrifice herself. Simon de Beauvoir in her text 'The Second Sex' says,

"She becomes his vassal. He is economically the head of the community, and thus embodies it in society's eyes. She takes his name; she joins his religion, integrates into his class, his world; she belongs to his family, she becomes his other "half." She follows him where his work calls him...she is annexed to her husband's universe; she gives him her person: she owes him her virginity and strict fidelity" (Beauvoir, 2011).

Beauvoir's depiction of this female tortures and the erasing of the female self through the institution of marriage are explicitly visible in Rhys' 'Wide Sargasso Sea'. Rochester, as the authoritative being in the institution, changes Antoinette's name into Bertha. This erasing of her name ultimately turns her into a person who belongs neither here nor there. The name has a big significance in one's identity and the changing of the name is more like destroying the identity. Jamaica knows her as Antoinette. But, she cannot trace her roots in Jamaica as Bertha because, Jamaica does not know anyone called Bertha. So, Rochester and his patriarchal authority destroy Antoinette's mere existence.

Gayatri Spivak argues that no one should be able to read 19th century British literature without taking account of the fact that literature was an important part of British imperialism. She argues that novels like 'Jane Eyre' help to justify the colonial violence, which they interpret as 'England's social mission' or civilizing mission because novels like 'Jane Eyre' create an ideal vision of England and British people. In her book 'Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism', she mentions that,

"Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, on the other hand, have seen Bertha Mason only in psychological terms, as Jane's dark double. Instead, I will develop the suggestion that nineteenth century feminist individualism could conceive of a 'greater' project than access to the closed circle of the nuclear family" (Spivak, 1985)

Here, she makes a reference to 'The Madwoman in the Attic' by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, which was published in 1979, in which they take Bertha as a symbol who represents the way in which women's voices were silenced or suppressed in the 19th century society and the way in which that affected literary texts. Spivak points out that Euro-American feminists like Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar basically focus on the psychological aspects of Bertha. Also, she points out that many critics make Jane Eyre a hero, but do not talk about Bertha's contribution to Jane's success. So, Spivak challenges the feminist theorists who make Jane a hero without focusing on Bertha's contribution and she argues women's oppression is not the only focus of the feminist theory, but it should concern about women's happiness and she shows how Jane's happiness has been built at the expense of Bertha's happiness. According to Spivak, Brontë depicts her protagonist, Jane, as a new feminist ideal and makes her a hero by making Bertha a villain.

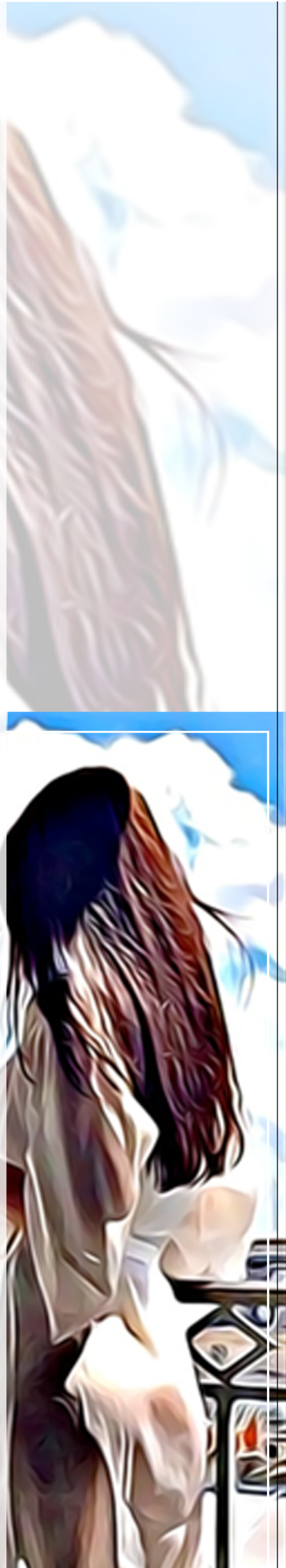
Accordingly, the representation of feminist experience, representation of gender relationships and recounting the marginalization of women according to their origin and the space given to their voice in the society can be recognized as the major focuses of Rhys in writing 'Wide Sargasso Sea', which has received rather a cult status in women's studies.

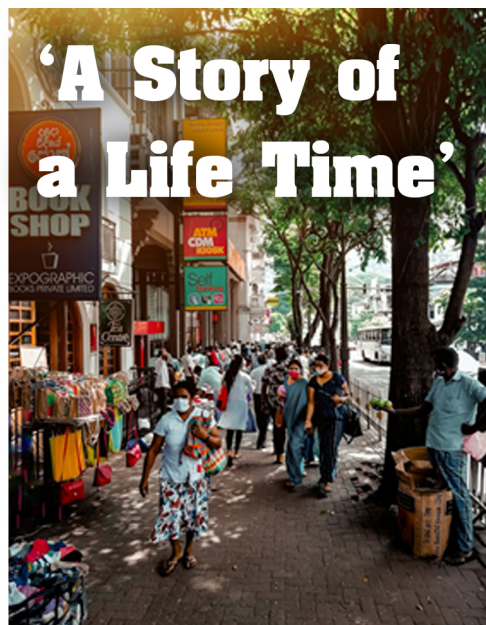
BGDS Nandarathna
Department of English Language Teaching

'To Will; from Lou'

Yes.. I'm Lousia Clark
Happy, simple, family care taker
Working in a cafe? Happy? You may think
Yes I enjoyed.. all for my family; But.. I lost...
Will Traynor.. yeah everyone knows; Such a famous guy you were..
Next.. I was your companion..
Actually, companion for paralyzed young man..
Did I impress you in my 1st day?
But your words were cold..
Talkative me; loss my words front of you..
Huh.. all for my family; that's how I thought.
And yeah.. I'm a good companion.. you know?
Alicia, your ex.. how she could broke with you?
Your chagrin.. I saw from smashed photographs..
I did feel sorry.. that's what I am..
But, since when I got feelings for you?
Even to choose you over Patric.; my seven years love..
Most may choose Will over Patric; it's because of money..
But me.. no never..
Although you were paralyzed; you had time for me, not Patric..
The movie I enjoyed with you..
The dance at Alicia's' wedding; on your lap, yeah in the wheelchair..
The warm kiss from you..
The boring concert.. huh..
Arouse my feelings for you; my unconditional love..
But, how my heart felt; when I knew your contract..
How your parents felt; with your six month life contract..
You needed to suicide.. at Switzerland; to get rid of wheelchair..
I know.. I broke..
Did everything I could.. but you never changed..
Ask Nathan.. how moped I was..
How could I fixed my mind; to be with you; at your last moments..
Cuddling you.. with a whimper..
After few weeks of your obit..
Sitting on your favorite café in Paris; reading your encouraging letter..
With a sachet from perfume shop.. I'm here; with money you left for me..
Following my dreams.. as you wished..
'keep pushing' and 'just live'; your last words..
Yes I live.. with all you in my heart; forever
Before you.. I was nothing..
After you.. I am everything..

H.K.M.R.A.M.Kumarasinghe





'A Story of a Life Time'

I lied. I paid. I smiled at others' tears.

But, now I pray at the sacred place introduced to me by the people who loved me. And who thought I was the best. Am I the superman they thought to be? Yes. I was. But I am not. The cold storms of the rainy season bought me a hell of a gift with this tragedy around the world. What is it? Some says it is the anger and temper of gods or the results of 'Karma'. Others say it's a bio weapon released by some kind of an alien. A mysterious writer had written and had predicted the information about occurrence of this tragedy in the 1980's, in his scientific fiction novel. But, who knows? However, I have to finish this praying at this mightiest place which was said to be built by the first people. Because, I was given only 15 minutes to breath in this sacred place. I don't know what I will get by this pray. May be the blessings of triple gems or the blessings of a Christian god or Jesus, or may be the Allah's blessings. But, today I have not enough strength to argue on that. I only need the cure for all my problems burning deep in my heart. They say that losing the human heart's health is the main cause for death by this tragedy. So, humans have to do more yoga and less carbs in these tragic times. In Latin, they named this tragedy to give the meaning as 'the crown'. Yes. They have done it really well and accurate. It's a story of a life time which is not told to my grandsons in this Latin word tragic disease, as it was named 'Corona'. It had won the victory of defeating the world human population. They say in a population the immunity can be immersed after a certain time period. Yes. It was the truth. But, new genetic varieties of Corona came and destroyed the temporary happiness we had. Again the king won the victory of the battle against the humanity and crowned the world. I got the train at 6.00 p.m. They say it is better to have a distance between humans to prevent Corona. But how can we keep distance with our beloved ones, even at the death bed. I have to go there quickly. If not it would be better to take my life first instead of her. Wasana Gayathri. The name has not given her the good luck as it says. Wasana, 'the luck'. "Best of luck my dear Charitha.", she uttered. I felt the difficulty in her breathing words. Oh I miss her. So, I have to be fast as a camera flash. They say light flashes travel at a speed of 3 x 108 meters per second same as the sunlight. "What's the time please?", the stranger asked loudly. "It's eight past thirty." I replied louder than him. They said that wearing a mask is a must and it should be a surgical mask or K-95 mask. At the first week of our king's great invasion to the world, I felt the blockage of my breath through the mask around the whole day. Earlier, I had felt that similar difficulty when I wore the lab coat at the soil and plant science laboratories. Because, the half of our university batch filled into those labs for practical at the same time. After all, it's only a life time full of memories. Bad memories make you uncomfortable when you are at the public. Or the good memories with her and with others who considered me as the superman: my parents.

A mother's love was the greatest gift of my life before the age of 22. After that I saw her at the university. Is it a miracle? How a mother's womb can create such a beauty? "Look at her. The girl in the green blouse. Isn't she beautiful like a goddess on Earth?" I asked my friend Kasun. "No. I don't think so. Look at the girl on right in pink skirt. She's hot." Kasun replied. In those days, replying a message was the greatest difficulty in my university life. "Did you eat something? Or Someone?" I typed on screen. "Oh no it's very rude." I whispered in my mind. "Hi there! Did you eat?". I wrote on the chat. "Hi Charitha! Not yet. Did you?". She replied immediately after seen. Yes it was a very quick reply. That day, I knew the most important person to her life is myself. So, I hang onto her and grab her arms and walked on the river banks. And even kissed her lips very rarely. They say that "dreams come true". Yes. It's true but, not for long. Only for 38 years. Yes. Today is 1st of January 2060 and I am suffering from the passing away of my one and only true love. Wasana. I was lucky to have her in my life at least for past half century. Now, I have to go quickly to her for the last time: to see the corpse of her before my last breath. No it's been 24 hours and 3 hours after combustion of her silent dead body in the cemetery for Covid-19 dead patients. They said that, "These times are hard sir. We can't allow you to see. Please respect the law. This is the procedure we have to follow according to the anti-Covid department of Sri Lanka and also according to the WHO." The only thing I was able to do is to watch at her watch in my pocket and imagine her face at growth stages of my family in past years. For the last time I looked at her face on her old golden watch before I throw it into the Mahaveli river. Yes I did it because; I don't have any other choice to relieve my pain in the deep heart. Now I only want to see the bloodline of myself and her growing in this Covid-19 environment. Some people sit on a tripod at a pub in a very remote area after losing his or her loved ones. But according to the law of Anti-Covid department which was established by the Sri Lankan last cabinet at the last parliament meeting held on 2021, the Alcohol was prohibited to be wasted in the stomach of the public. They said that, "Alcohol is precious than the black gold in these days. So, save it. It is the money you have to pay to the King Corona. You will know it and learn it slowly." So, I got the job at DCSL (Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka) PLC and helped them to distil 75% concentrated alcohol. The power of nature is ruling all over the world. Yes! Humans built nuclear weapons which can blast a hole in the Earth. But, in return the nature put masks on our face and sprayed alcohol not in stomachs of sadists, but on the human skin. Humans dig the Earth's soil and blocked the plant root system by concreting the world. But the concrete environment we created was not last long prevailed. The Covid virus came and created a halt for humans, instead of a hole in Earth. Now the cities are blooming with the blossoms of oxygen and fresh air. But still we can't remove our masks and inhale the fresh breath from outside nature. Yes. They ordered us to live in separate rooms with cameras on walls. Rooms were separated by concrete walls except the bedroom. The bedroom of two rooms was next to each other and made of transparent glass walls instead of concrete. So, we saw each other only through these walls and we embraced our 'Karma' during the past 38 years. I remember her face at our online wedding. Yes. Sri Lankan Anti-Covid department had granted us VR (Virtual Reality) facility through the Zoom app just only on our wedding night. All the participants were gathered on the online platform and the preacher had continued the events. Yes. There were many missing things, including the 'Poruwa'. Oh! It's 10.00 p.m. now. Now I am going to insert the key into the key hole of my house. My home. Yes! It's not my house. It's my home. Home for Chandrasekara's. It had been called 'Mahagedara' by many generations. I was the first one unable to bring my wife into this precious place and convert her into a Chandrasekara. Yes. It was a noble habitat. The cobwebs of nasty spiders had drawn their maps and their insect traps throughout the walls of 'my home'. Still it is my home. Isn't it? Tell me! Wow! The vicious cycle of a life time had treated every human well in these tragic times. It's 12.00 p.m. in the mid night. The moon light falls on to the glasses of the window. A shade came on to the wall. It's just the shadow of a banana leaf.

I followed my eyes from the feet of the shadow girl to the top. The shadow ended up under the real feet of a real girl. Those feet were covered with mud or some kind of dirt. May be its charcoal or burnt ash. I watched her from bottom to top. She was wearing a pale colour saree. I couldn't find any difference between her saree's colour and the pure white colour. The dirt on her feet was not on her saree. It was very clean and bright. But veins on her hand were very thicker than an average girl; veins were embossed on her skin like a 3D tattoo. Oh my god! I was embarrassed by the sight of the most seen jewelry in my life; it was hanging on her neck. I don't know why, but it was too much shiny than the one I saw on my wife's neck. Yes. It was my love's necklace. "Is this a horror movie I am watching now?" I whispered in my heart. But my brain was shivering like a burnt furnace. I felt the weakness of my eyes. I didn't want to watch her face, so I turned up and the final thing I felt was someone's hand touching my right palm. And I felt like walking with him or her together. A girl is carrying the ball to the goal by passing away the other girls' hockey sticks. Suddenly, I heard a crack sound. "Oh! No! Her head is bleeding" Someone said. I also wanted to say that it's not her head that it's her right side of the forehead. Our heroine had hit the goal on that girl's face with the stick. I turned my neck and tried to reach the ground to see the face of her. But someone was still grabbing my hand. So finally, she turned her face and looked at me. My heart suddenly stopped and while this was happening the blood clotted on the forehead of the other girl, so medic took out her from the field. The face of our heroine had many similarities of the girly face that I cannot forget in my life forever. Yes, it looked like Wasana's face. The last thing I remembered from what I saw was the words Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Puliyankulama on a maroon colour board. Suddenly, I saw a boy looked like me in my 20's, sitting on a bench writing something on a notebook. I looked at his curly blackish hair very eagerly, and I was feeling jealous of his hair. Yes. I am old now. Everything changes in the world not very quickly, sometimes very slowly. Still I wanted to reached him and ask, "Who are you young man?" But still the hand was grabbing me very tightly like the iron padlock holding the steel gate. But the thing was everyone around this place are not wearing masks or not using any sanitizers filled with alcohol. Then 'the mysterious hand' took me on to a river bank. Then, unleashed my hand from her immediately. Yes, it was her in that whole chapter. My one and only true love, Wasana. Her face was shining like a bright shooting star on the Earth. Yes, my face was covered with that star light like the Earth's surface at night when sky is full of stars. "Charitha! Do you want to know who were they?" She whispered. "Yes! My love." I said. Actually we were communicating not verbally, but in mind by thoughts. "They are our children!" She replied with her enchanted voice. "A male dead body found in a manor in Kurunegala, was claimed to be Covid positive. A fake Anti-Covid license was also found with a fake National ID card in his left pocket of the trouser, named as 'Bharatha Hitibandara'. The Anti-Covid department had ordered to burn the dead body within 24 hours. The real identity was unknown. I am Jaliya Pushpakumara from 'Life FM'.



C.M.C.M. Chandrasekara

Parents care



There was a young girl who argued with her parents. She wanted to go to a party with her friends, but her parents, who were very protective of her, would not allow her to go. The girl stormed off to her bedroom and slammed the door behind her.

"DO NOT ENTER"

Later the evening, she decided to sneak out to the house and go to the party without her parents' knowledge. The girl got dressed and then slipped out her bedroom window and walked quickly to her friend's house. At the party, the girl met a guy who was a few years older than her. They talked for a while and she found him very attractive. He made her laugh. The guy was drinking heavily and before long. He asked her if she would like to go to another party nearby. She happily accepted the invitation. As they left the party and walked out to the bar, the guy stumbled. The girl noticed that he was very drunk and began to have a second thoughts about getting into the car with him. However, when she tried to say something about it, he just laughed and told her not to be so stupid. Speeding down the highway, the boy put his arm around her shoulders. He did not seem to be paying much attention to the road and his driving was reckless. She asked him to slow down, but he ignored her. Suddenly, she was blinded by the flash of headlights. The guy had accidentally swerved into oncoming traffic. She barely had a chance to scream before they crashed headlong into another car.

When the girl awoke, she found herself lying in a hospital bed. She was in tremendous pain and couldn't move her arms or legs. The nurse told her that she had been involved in a head-on collision, the girl asked if the guy who was driving the car had been seriously injured. The nurse told her, he had been killed on impact. When the girl asked about the occupants of the other car, the nurse said that they had also died in the accident. The young girl began crying. Her body was wracked by pain and her soul was torn by guilty. She knew that death was near. Grasping the nurse by the hand, she begged the woman to give a message to her parents.

"Just tell them I'm sorry!"

whispered the girl.

"I'm sorry for having disobeyed them and tell **I love them very much**. Can you make sure you give that message? "

The nurse did not reply. She just bowed her head and held the girl's hand. Within minutes, the girl was dead. A doctor who had been nearby came over and asked the nurse why she hadn't responded to the girl's final wish.

" I did not know what to say. "

sighed the nurse.

" I did not want to tell her that, the two people who were died in the other car were her parents who left their home to search for their daughter. "

D.N.Nimthara



A WEEK WITHOUT INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

A few decades ago, the internet and technology were a magical experience for us. But, with the socialization and the development of technology, now it is a very common and essential thing for all of us. It is so essential today that some people cannot live without the internet and their mobile phones. At a time when there is such a situation, can you imagine a week without internet and your mobile phone? I think it is so hard to even think of such a situation. So, a week without the internet and technology is impossible in the present situation.

Nowadays, the internet is the main source of getting information. It helps us with different situations. If we want to know about something, we can just Google and get almost all the details about it. When we enter Wikipedia, it is a new world of knowledge. Assume like, we want to find a location, what we have to do is, open the map on our mobile phone and find out all the details about that location. It is like having the whole world in one hand. Apart from that, if we get a reading material in a different language we don't know, we can translate it through the translator app on our device into our mother tongue. Also, the internet and computer are very helpful in our learning process. It makes education easier. So, in such ways, the internet and technology support us in gathering information.

The other thing is that the internet and technology are indispensable to the world of work. Currently, almost every business exists with the internet and technology. From this, almost all the transactions in large scale business activities take place through the internet. Also, nowadays online businesses are becoming more and more popular and it is making it more convenient for the customers. Not only businesses but also the banking sector has been modernized today with technology and many of the difficulties encountered over time have been avoided by this. Further, online banking takes a more prominent place and it makes banking easier. Furthermore, most of the government and private institutions deal with the new technology, which has made the work of each institution easier. These facts highlight the contribution of the internet and technology in the work of the world.

Additionally, in communication, the internet and technology have become indispensable for us. We all have WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc. on our smartphones. It allows us to connect with friends no matter how far away they are. We spend more time on chatting, sharing photographs, Instagramming, etc. with our friends and relatives. We can know about the latest news of our friends through the photos posted on Instagram and Facebook. When it comes to a long-distance relationship, video calls are now available and it makes a more comfortable way of communication. Also, Politicians and celebrities frequently use Twitter to convey their messages and views to the public. That is another official way they communicate with people. The other important thing is to use video technology to conduct official meetings. In that, a video conference facility is used and it is a better way to meet when they are unable to meet physically at a place. Another point is to conduct online classes via virtual learning methods. It is the best way to learn when we have to face distance learning mode because of pandemic situations like today. All of these facts indicate that it is difficult to communicate without the internet and technology today.

Moreover, the internet and technological tools give us entertainment. Many of us often spend our leisure with technological tools. So, we listen to music on the phone or watch it on television. We feel relaxed by engaging in those activities. In addition, when we open YouTube, there are lots of videos under different categories. We can relax by watching such things. Also, by playing online and offline games, we can take up our leisure time and get more pleasure. The above facts show that we can get entertainment through the internet and technology.

So, all of the above factors evidence how much we need the internet and technology today. Many activities of the day cannot be done without the internet and technology. We all want to move forward with technology, but not back to the stone age. Therefore, according to my point of view, at this moment of modernization with technology, it is not difficult to have a week without the internet and technology, it is impossible.

J.A.K.A.Jayasinghe

'Don't Hurry'

I wandered my garden yesterday evening

And I saw a bunch of rose flowers

Oh... No! there was a small butterfly

What a beautiful scenery?

I observed carefully with lovely eyes

And I can remember a butterfly's hidden beautiful story

" Mother lays her egg on a leaf

And egg becomes a baby caterpillar

It eats so many leaves to be a large caterpillar

Then climbs on a leaf

Curls it

And

Makes a little chrysalis

Falls a fast sleep

After the shell is open

Oh! It's really strange

A beautiful butterfly comes out from the shell "

What an amazing nature?

Every startup is very hard

But,

Don't worry

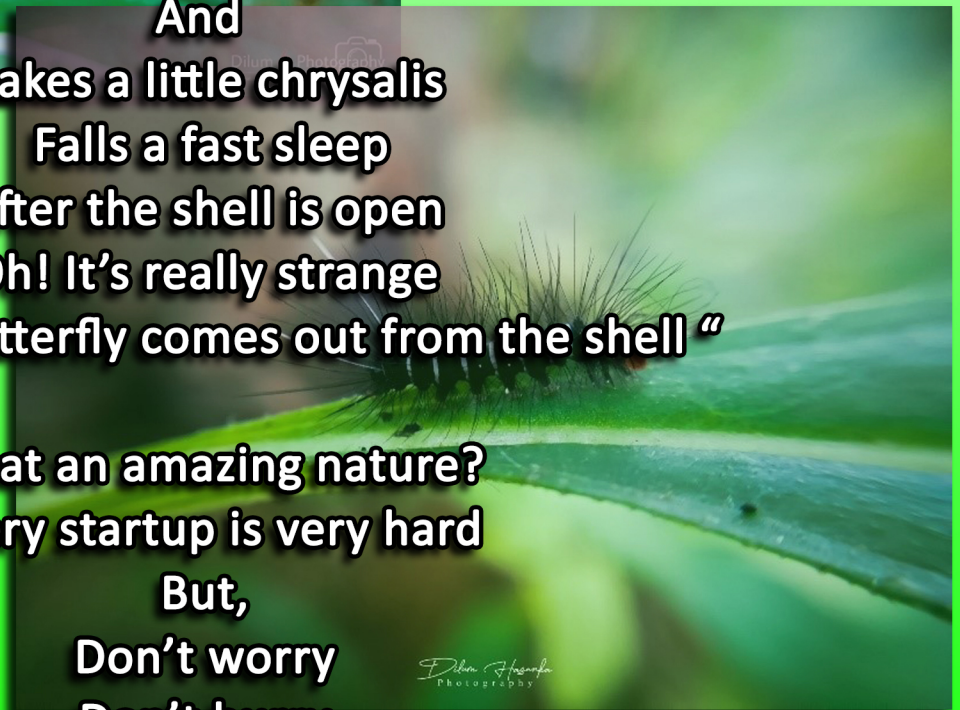
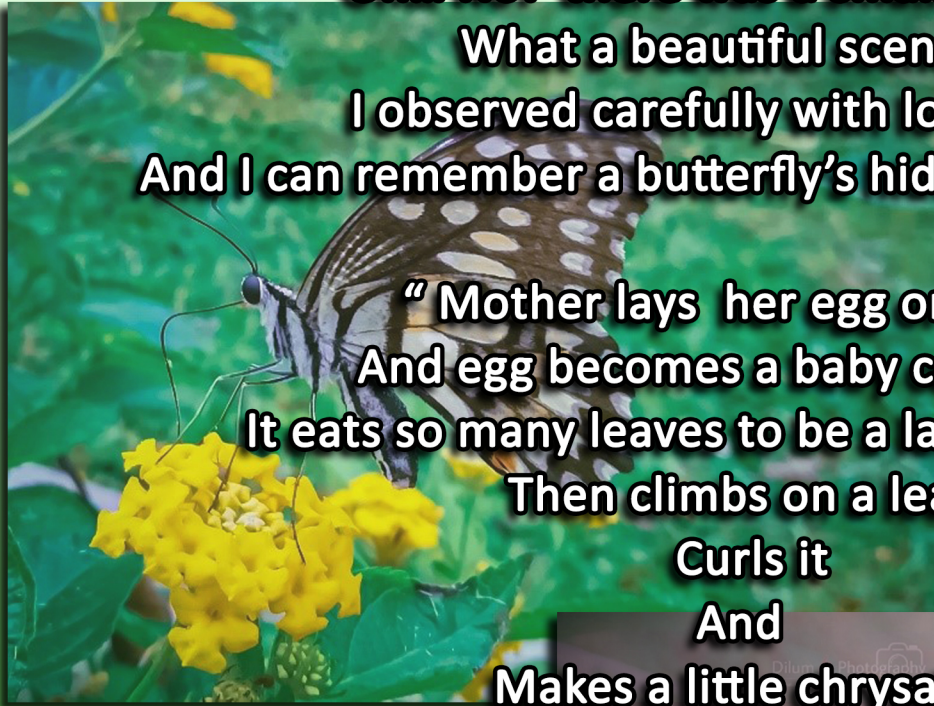
Don't hurry

Slow down

And

Enjoy all special moments

Just like a butterfly



Diana Hargrave
Photography

S.H.G.S.S.SHANTHASIRI

'A LONG JOURNEY IN A BALLON'

It was a rainy day and Ann got up late that morning. First She prepared her breakfast. For breakfast, she prepared bread with cheese. Then Ann washed her face and put on a new dress.

She looked out the window and ate bread. Children played in the muddy. Paper boats floated in the water.

Suddenly, Something unexpected happened, the miracle of God, the sky became overcast and the clouds scudded by, like huge smoky cotton balls.

Ann saw a large balloon floating in the sky and heard a strange sound through it. But there was no one there. She ran upstairs to the balcony and looked at it. Again She heard before voice through it. She felt like someone was calling to her from it. The balloon approached her.

Ann pulled into that big balloon. There was a beautiful, small princess in the balloon. She was told something to Ann, but Ann didn't understand it. The two of them floated farther in the sky. It was a very pleasant journey.

After floated a short distance a large hawk came and damaged their balloon. The balloon lost the balance and headed downhill. The princess and Ann shouted. At the same time, Ann woke up. It was a dream.

R.M.H.M.Bandara



"Motherhood" A Pretext for Women Exploitation



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As Nancy Chodorow notes: "Women's mothering is a central and defining feature of the social organization of gender and is implicated in the construction and reproduction of male dominance itself". Accordingly, the position of Motherhood is crowned as a superior position in every nook and corner especially in Sri Lanka which is predominated by the notion of "Patriarchal society". This can be regarded as one of the strategies that is being used by the society in order to give a false sense of importance to this position and this is a kind of enforced identity which was entitled by the people in the society itself. Thus, on one hand, the position of motherhood is a kind of a political tactic used by this patriarchal society in order to avoid the responsibilities while being in power and also to manifest a false kind of value to the motherhood position. If this so called "superior motherhood" is really "superior", why there are women who see mothering as debilitating and intrusive. Imagine a job that has no government holidays, no vacation, no intervals, no breaks, and so on. Undoubtedly there can be some jobs that fit these features. Yet, will you be able to find such kind of a job without a wage? Even though it is difficult to find such a job, the position of motherhood is an exact match for all the aforementioned criteria. But millions of people do not even identify mothering as laboring because what mother performs is quite a hidden and unnoticed task from the society though this labor is essential to the continuity of the society. If there's no one to reproduce, will society last? Hence as a remedy, the women have the ability to reproduce but on one hand, that means, it is more labor without wages. On the other hand, ensuring a safe place as a mother for the next generation worker in order to perform in this very workplace will not exist if the motherhood avoids its roles because mother fulfills a crucial task that is needed for the future.

Yet, this is a kind of exploitation that is going on within the society with respect to the women because this so-called Motherhood is an underlying exploitation that is going on continuously and yet there is no remedy to stop it. There are women who experience the fulfillment and happiness in mothering. They consider themselves as valuable because of having the thought that the motherhood is a superior position. They think that as a woman, every woman should be able to bear children and should have the ability to reproduce. As they are fertile enough to reproduce, they look at the women around them from the same perspective.

Thus, it is not just the men who have given a false sense of importance to this position. There are women who exploit the women on the basis of the motherhood position. If a woman is infertile or does not possess the ability of reproduction, they are being exploited in several situations mostly by their own mother-in-law. This is a clear representation of how this so-called "Motherhood" has become an element to exploit the woman by another woman. This is sarcastic because based on motherhood, the ones who can bear children and the ones who could not bear children both are discriminated through the "Motherhood" position itself.

Despite the fact that you are a mother, there are instances where mothers experience disgraceful treatments from society when they have a baby without getting legally married. This manifests how the women are condemned based on motherhood because though the society itself claims that the motherhood position is superior, they consider being a single mother as something inferior. It is ironic to see these kinds of differentiations regarding these so called "superior" motherhood positions. At such an incident, the woman is the one who is being treated unfairly by society and not the man who has abandoned her with a baby. Hence it is questionable because even though there is maternity, women have been exploited by the people around her just because of being a mother.

Therefore, it is clear whether you could afford the motherhood or not, as a woman you will always be exploited in the hands of the society despite gender. But still, there are women who could not understand this reality and exploits themselves while trying to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities to the fullest to the society in large.

However, if women really want to get away from this imposed inheritance, it won't be difficult to break these shackles that society has imposed on them. The greatest strength of women lies in their innate motherhood, in their creative and life-giving power. And, this power can help women to bring about far more significant changes in society than men who could not ever imagine. So as a woman, they should have the potential to identify the women discrimination and should open their voices against this situation for the betterment of the society.

No one questions the reality of this "superior motherhood" which was created by the men just for the women. Therefore, those who refuse to come out of the cocoon of their narrow minds will never be able to understand what is going on. You cannot explain what light is to those who know only the darkness of the world. Giving birth is the one thing a woman can claim exclusively as her own. With this power within her, she can influence the entire world. The principle of motherhood is as vast and powerful as the universe. Most people unaware of this hidden exploitation, so that they will keep thinking that the position of motherhood as the most superior status in the world, and they are bound to attain their responsibilities and duties no matter how hard they can be.

Apart from considering that maternity as a superior position, people give divinity to the mother. When we concern about the Sri Lankan culture, people tend to consider the mother as a god. On the other hand, people say that the mother is the god of the family. There are even songs that portray the divinity of the mother. "deweni Budun lesa lowama uwum kala" When we interpret this one sentence, it points out that how the motherhood or the maternity has taken a prominent place within the society. Yet, the same society exploits and discriminates against her while considering her as the god of the family. Therefore, it clearly brings out how the people within the society have given a false importance to the motherhood position and how much effort they have taken to cover the ongoing, repetitive women discrimination.

Women can perform most of the tasks just as men perhaps even better. Women are not inferior nor superior to men on the basis of intellectual power or abilities. Women have the willpower and creative energy to do any type of work. Hence from my point of view, motherhood is not a weapon to end male chauvinism or to ensure that women have equal rights with men. If we see the maternity or the motherhood position as a superior position, we should always acknowledge that it is not a superior position as much as men claim it to be, but it is a survival strategy of the human beings yet there are a lot of dark sides like hidden women discrimination and exploitation that is in line with this position of maternity.

'Scuba - The Savior Of The Ocean?'

Scuba divers are only paying respects to strangers in the aquatic world, and we should always know well that this sensitive structure; this array of life cycles can be injured with possible irreparable damage by the unconcern of actions. At present, it is very unimaginable that scubas should deliberately damage the underwater world that undermines the living progress of any of its exact residence and yet a great deal of annoyance can be acted through stupidity and a lack of conception about ocean life forms.

REEF-BUILDING CORALS

Trillions of minuscule animals called coral polyps are a coral reef that consists residence and the zonal life for all the conformation of aquatic life. Corals are brittle structures, which cleave at the slightest collision. In order to live with the applicable care for the environment whence one must support one's weights perfectly. One should take specific care during taking marine water photographs of shootings underwater footage. While taking a shot that diver's tendency pays less concern and attention to surrounding objects. Although a contact of a finger or glove with the surface of the coral can be wounded whether that is a rigid or a smooth coral and also that impact gives death to tiny creatures like polyps coral that produce up corals. (Amsler, 1996)

Memento

Di-water types (in Salt waters and Fresh waters), there are ever so complicated and figured life cycles in which every building block matches straightly atop another. If a single factor point lacks, then the operation of this structure of life cycles starts to conk out and break down entirely. Actually, the bad effects are functioned by showing the number of building blocks that are cleared. Countless episodes are shown us such as Sea shells many times brought as souvenirs by the tourists even there is much sought after. However, all the different forms of seashell play some significant roles. A few seashells struggle with other forms of life that they proliferate-endanger to the ecosystem. Great triton is a vital example for this. A predatory starfish called crown of thorns can gobble up seashells as much as six square meters of coral surface in 744 days. Therefore, these great tritons have undergone clean slaughter over the world. The crown of thorns starfishes is increasing at an uncountable rate. Now seashells have been eliminated by its natural enemy. The main reason of this function is a mass destruction of coral reefs of drastic proportions. Even these shells were cleared where they lie and are occupied by hermit crab with its terrifying rate of growth. That's why dead shells can be found on sea shore and surface on the reefs.

Sea turtles are referred to be one of the most threatened species in the world and they are protected by international laws despite that in the world every year 100,000 of sea turtles are slain brutally. Sea turtles pass off their lives for human personal accessories of all sorts such as meat, turtle wing soup. Likewise, turtle shell eyeglass frames and brooches, sunning creams and ornamental souvenirs are highly demanded among people. Every scuba diver should perform to protect these ocean animals to help the species persist. (Amsler, 1996)

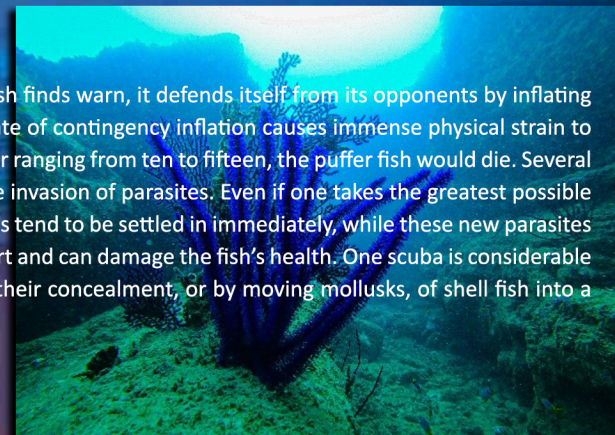
JOY WITH THE FISH

Capturing and seizing underwater animals are miserably a fairly clichetic habit. When this fish finds warn, it defends itself from its opponents by inflating itself with water, though it thus arranges it incapably for the fish to evade. However, this state of contingency inflation causes immense physical strain to the entire body. A total number of inflations have been decided by Marine biologists that after ranging from ten to fifteen, the puffer fish would die. Several fish have a very fine layer of mucous on their skin or on their scales that fulfill to impede the invasion of parasites. Even if one takes the greatest possible care, this preservation can be impaired by anyone stroking or seizing the fish. Awkward guests tend to be settled in immediately, while these new parasites may not be life-threatening to the aqua nature, actually they feel the suffering and discomfort and can damage the fish's health. One scuba is considerable to cause impact lesions on the animal's internal organs by attempting to drag them out of their concealment, or by moving mollusks, of shell fish into a better location for photography. (Amsler, 1996)

FEEDING THE ANIMALS IN THE OCEAN

Feeding the animals in the ocean is such an entertainment. It considers being an essentially one-sided haggling and so then it is an improper idea. In areas where people have been feeding the fish for years, behavioral disfigurement has appeared that is quite a calm environment. Group of eels and morays that were once quite temporal innocent have become rapacious predators. In these areas, it has appeared not uncommon for fish to attack and thrush scuba divers, causing some weighty bite blain close to big injury. Even in the majority of cases, the food that is given to these fish is radically distinct from the common diet. As consequences of fish-feeding, certain species of hump-head wrasses died after being fed dozens of eggs, amidst a great many soldier fish suffocated to death after gulping down chicken bones. Large mouth basses have been seen to rip little pieces of food tight out of the scuba diver's hand and gourmandize both food pieces and contents. The result of having such indigestible like stodgy foreign bodies in the fish's digestive tract can be easily imagined. If the final aim is to get close enough to these fish to observe them closely, then there is no need to rely upon food to do so. Rather, one should simply study the behavioral conduction of the different life forms, one should dive sedately and carefully, with the proper and correct distribution of ballast while breathing very slowly and moving painstakingly toward the creature in question. Scubas will soon find that in this way it is possible to search, photograph, and film every animal in one's vigilant environment. (Amsler, 1996)

J.P.P.Bimsara



‘The Education’

Education!

Oh! Wisest persons dreamed of your power!

English, Science, Mathematics,
Many other ‘logies’ and ‘tics’.

You are the greatest health for our wealth!

Aristotle, Socrates, Hippocrates, and Plato.

Many other teachers...

Followed and guided the world,

For those who were there, are there and will there be.

You are a recommendation

For a great Nation,

And a stimulation

For the people...

C.M.C.M. Chandrasekara

Significance of Similarity Concepts of Proverbs in Trilingual - Sinhalese, Tamil, and English



The ability of speaking is a blessed advantage which is a reward to humankind but deprived of other mortal creatures. Thus, communication is one of the fundamental requirements of the human race. It is the nature of the human mind in creating ideas, then having arranged them properly, and transmitting through words, conveying information with understandability is called 'Speaking'. While conversing, an utterance of a couple of proverbs by communicator would be a stimulate to a listener, and to avoid one's dullness and boringness. Proverbs comprise little stories or expressions. Thus, together these knowledgeable and experienced utterances render as a guide to usage are as authoritative as possible.

The scholars should not have to dream up that directing to the advice of proverbs which are not mere trustworthy sole ideality to solve every complication issues involved in human life. Thus, some proverbs seem to be contradicted by another proverb with an opposed message. Above all utterances, a proverb has a little interesting too. Similar thoughts can be obviously in Trilingual proverbs, though they have different historical conditions, different races with assorted complexion, reflecting the different social stratification of lifestyle, worshiping of distinct doctrines, living faraway distances, are not affected to concepts of their respective peoples, roughly equivalent. For instance, Sri Lankan Sinhalese, Indian Tamils, and Europeans have comparable impression can be depicted by selected proverbs respectively in various sources such as Religion, Nature, Governance, Human Feelings, Elements of Environment, etc.

Concept - when someone blames the quality of their equipment or other external facts when they perform a task poorly.

Sinhala - He that cannot dance claims the floor is uneven.

Tamil - She who is unable to reap, carrying fifty-eight sickles at her side.

English - A bad ballerina blames the hem of her skirt.

Concept - Proverbs tend to be about the animal-like nature and quality of different kinds of human beings of the complexity of human nature.

Sinhala - Snakes turn into poison.

Tamil - If a snake has coiled around your leg, it probably wants to bite you.

English - Men, of cruelty are birds of devils hatching.

Concept - Animal proverbs across many languages have some similarities but significant regional and linguistic variations.

Sinhala - A crocodile might be live in a small pot in the home.

Tamil - Though the water in a river is not more than ankle-deep one should walk carefully.

English - A secret - foe gives a sudden blow.

Concept - It is easy to blame someone who can't argue back.

Sinhala - Water often flows at a low level.

Tamil - If your opponent is a poor man, your rage will be savage.

English - A low hedge easily leaps over.

Concept-Governance, Law, loyalty, and honour are key values that are discussed in such problems.

Sinhala - If both the fence and the furrow eat up the crop, to whom shall (the owner) complain.

Tamil - If the village headman and watchman are in the league, they can steal till daybreak.

English - When the cat and the mouse agree the grocer is ruined.

Concept - Deal with a situation when it happens and not unnecessarily worry about it in advance.

Sinhala - You cannot make a horoscope that is not born yet.

Tamil - Should ghee (Clarified butter) be offered for sale, before a single buffalo is not.

English - Counting the chickens before they are hatched.

Concept - Covetousness.

Sinhala - If you take sweet cakes excessively they will taste bitter.

Tamil - If you constantly long for (and eat) sugarcane it will become bitter margosa.

English - If there is too much lemongrass in the curry, it will surely taste bitter.

Concept - Self - praise.

Sinhala - If all become kings and sit in the palanquin who will carry it?

Tamil - If all the stones in a basket are gods, which stone am I to worship?

English - When all men speak, no one hears.

Concept - Who promises much and does a little.

Sinhala - He who gives fair words feeds you with an empty spoon.

Tamil - The young fellow has to walk but he speaks (As if he had a palanquin to ride it).

English - The greatest talkers are the least doers.

Concepts - Perseverance.

Sinhala - If a person has stamina, things will be accomplished.

Tamil - If you eat it little by little you can devour even a palmyra tree.

English - Constant application overcomes the greatest difficulties.

In conclusion, the variety of sources concerning the perspective of folklore or scholars by emerging spontaneously by using significant regional and linguistic variation are shown with similarity in the range of beautiful proverbs.

L. Dilshani Ishanthi De Silva

According to the statistics, in the past 20 years global average annual growth rate of wood consumption was 2.2% and the deforestation rate has increased rapidly with the wood consumption. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, "The global net loss of forests between 2000 and 2010 was 13 million acres per year". Thus, deforestation has become a reason for most global ecological, climatic, and biological disasters. As a solution for the destruction of forests, the Japanese innovated a marvelous technique 600 years ago, called as "Daisugi technique". By this outstanding method, they have successfully reduced their deforestation rate since 14th century.

The extraordinary Daisugi technique was born in Kitayama, Japan as a solution for the seedling shortage and to create a sustainable harvest of timber from a single tree. Literally, the meaning of Daisugi is 'table cedar'. In this system, the cedar tree is pruned and maintained heavily in an unusual way that makes a giant bonsai. It produces numerous shoots of straight cedar branches growing upward. The result of the final product will appear like growing cedar trees on a smaller cedar tree as a huge inflorescence. Daisugi trees will allow the branches to be harvested ever 20 years which is shorter than normal cedar plants. The most incredible thing is, one base Daisugi can grow up to one hundred shoots at a time, which means people can get 100 from just one Daisugi. Therefore, they didn't have to cut down 100 trees and could protect innumerable trees for their future generations while fulfilling their lumber requirements.

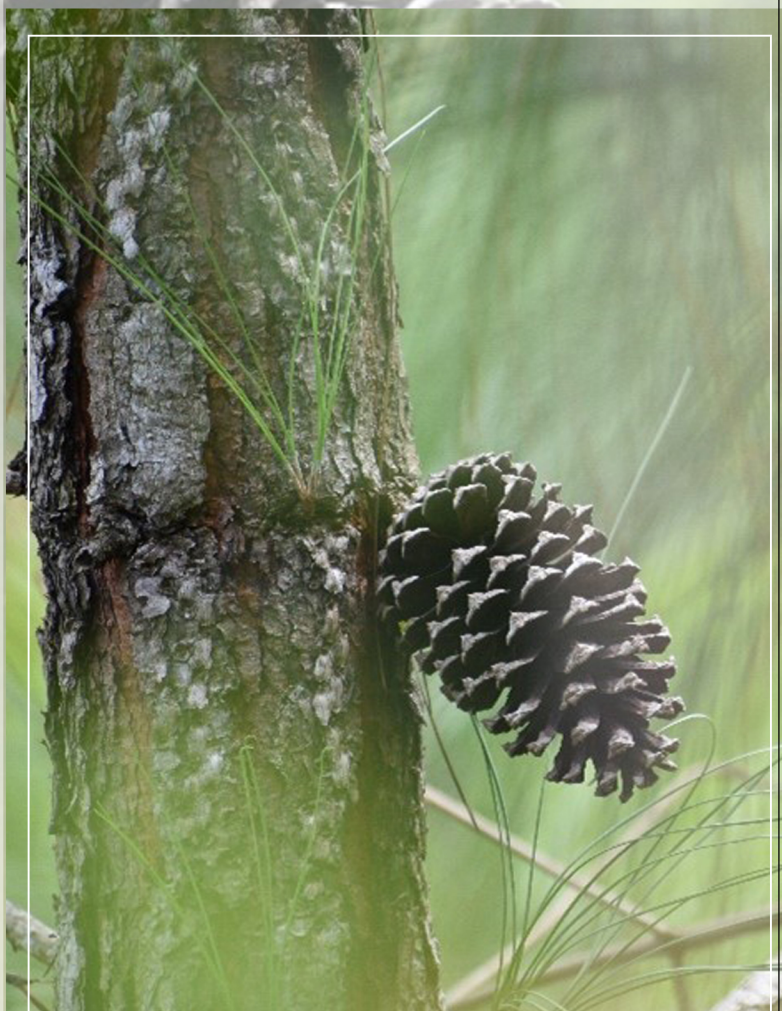
Furthermore, these Daisugi lumbars have exceptional and unique characteristics. They are 140% more flexible than normal cedar trees and twice strong and dense. Also, they don't have knots. Ancient Japanese used this lumber to build the noble samurais' houses due to more flexibility to be shaped and absolutely perfect choice for construction. Hence, with this Daisugi method they got enough lumber continually to produce all their lumber creations from the branches of those giant bonsais without the needs to cut down trees.

As a matter of fact, this is an astonishing forestry technique and incredible cultural practice which we should share, discuss and implement briskly at least within our country because, the deforestation is a widely expanded problem not only in Sri Lanka, but also all over the world. These days people of our country are discussing and sometimes accusing the politicians and functionaries against the deforestation within the country especially about the Wilpattu national park and Sinharaja rain forest. It is a disagreeable and unfortunate situation which is irreversible. One of the main purposes of cutting trees is getting lumber for the human development and constructions. If we practice successful strategies to procure wood without destroying trees we can preserve our forest density and hand is over to our future generations. The Japanese are already researching about this method, trying to improve this technique and finding novel approaches to protect their trees, because they love their environment.

So, we should also follow new technologies and knowledge to safeguard our environment while achieving our requirements. It is the sustainable usage of the nature resources. Otherwise, it is impossible to develop our country and world with a beautiful and secure environment.

'Have you ever got wood without cutting trees?'

S.M. Prasadi Poornima Bandara



Dependent Prepositions Determine the Perfection in Language Use

Prepositions occupy a privileged position in English as parts of speech in which they are a 'Closed Class'. In other words, they are a select group of words that don't accept new members to their group. This is in contrast to nouns, adjectives and verbs which welcome new additions to their respective groups over time. While prepositions are limited in number, they are important since they act as vital markers to the structure of a sentence: they do mark special relationships between persons, objects, and locations. For this reason, the second language learners of English (L2 learners) should think carefully about how they use prepositions with precision in their own sentence constructions. By the way, in English, there are many words which are used with particular prepositions because the choice of preposition depends on the word and meaning, and these prepositions we use are called Dependent Prepositions. For example, "we accuse someone of a crime, we don't accuse someone at a crime, by a crime or for a crime".

Additionally, Dependent Prepositions are the ones that are naturally and frequently used with specific Adjectives, Verbs and Nouns. For example: 1) She's good at cooking, but She's pretty bad at baking. 2) He talks about his achievements. 3) You have no excuse for your rude behaviour and harsh words. In the first example, the adjectives; 'good' and 'bad' are followed by the preposition 'at', in the second example, the verb; 'talks' is followed by the preposition 'about' and in the third example, the noun; 'excuse' is followed by the preposition 'for'. There aren't many general rules for learning dependent prepositions, so it can be a bit difficult for L2 learners to remember them. It also helps if you make a note of the preposition when you are learning a new word. If the L2 learners study the preposition at the same time as the noun or verb, and in context, it should help them remember it, so they could use it later with required precision.

Adjectives followed by Prepositions (Adjective + Preposition combinations) play a vital role in conveying ideas in English and L2 learners make so many mistakes in forming this combination accurately. Some of the commonly used Adjectives and their prepositions in language are; Ashamed of (They are very ashamed of their relationships): Accustomed to (She's not accustomed to manual labour): Afraid of (Some people are afraid of certain heights): Anxious about (The countrymen seem anxious about the upcoming general election): Astonished at (We were astonished at the assessment of the restoration): Aware of (Two of us are aware of his mistakes and will address them tomorrow): Capable of (The ship is not capable of sailing through the prevailing storm): Fed up with (I'm getting fed up with all these travel restrictions): Responsible of (I could have a word with the person who is responsible for the course): Keen on (Gayendra was always keen on online games).

Verbs followed by Prepositions (Verb + Preposition combinations) are also vital in expressing ideas in English and L2 learners are liable to commit so many mistakes in using this combination accurately. Some of the commonly used verbs and their prepositions in language are;

Apologize for (I do apologize for the late participation in the meeting.): Approve of (Majority of the people didn't approve of the export of the chemical fertilizers.): Arise from (Many health problems arise from the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus.): Arrive in/at (They arrived in Colombo around 7.30 p.m. / The Japanese Prime Minister will arrive at the Airport in a few minutes.): Attend to (It is compulsory to attend to the connection and device issues and data costs of the students in online teaching and learning platform.): Comment on (He always comments on the state of politics in the country.): Complain about (Some workmen have complained about low wages.): Comply with (People refuse to comply with the travel restrictions.): Conceal (something) from (She will conceal it from him.): Deal with/in (They don't want to deal with this problem at hand. / Our company deals in brand new computers and accessories.): Excel at/in (He excels at/in sports at school.): Forgive (somebody) for (Will you ever forgive me for my interference with your personal problem?).

In addition, Nouns followed by Prepositions (Noun + Preposition combinations) play a very important role in expressing ideas in English and L2 learners may also experience so much difficulty in using this combination with precision. Some of the commonly used nouns and their prepositions in language are;

Attitude towards (You lack good attitudes towards English interactive activities.): Connection between (Is there any connection between Mr. Damsithu and that gang of robbers?): Cruelty towards (He had cruelty towards animals at a very young age.): Decrease in (There has been a decrease in the number of infectious diseases.): Delay in (There will be a delay in the release of the results.): Demand for (Some people don't understand a great demand for English and Tamil.): Difficulty in-/with (I have some difficulty in breathing while exercising. / They get some difficulty with their little children.): Impact on (The Corona virus has created a great deal of impact on

the daily routine of the people around the world.): Reduction in (We will have a reduction in the price of most commodities.): Room for (There is still room for three more patients in the ward.): Solution to (Scientists have already sought a solution to the problem.).

Having very closely taken the afore-mentioned examples into consideration, we can state that there is no logical way of deciding which preposition goes with a particular noun, verb or adjective. Also, an adjective like 'Available' takes different prepositions depending on the meaning to express. For example; (01) Tickets are available from the box office. (02) Not enough data is available to scientists. (03) No figures are available for the number of goods sold. (04) There are plenty of jobs available in the area.

In fact, all these sentences are correct, yet in each case, the adjective 'available' goes with a different preposition. Therefore, we need to consider how we would deal with phrases such as 'the delay in', 'apologize for' and 'aware of' and the best way to learn words such as 'available' that goes with multiple prepositions. As in all these instances, the correct preposition cannot easily be guessed by the L2 learners, so the expression must be learned as a whole. Finally, Dependent Prepositions mostly used in our expressions and sentences are necessary for the most basic functions of the English language and most of the L2 learners do find that using them properly can become a little difficult. In fact, they're usually the last grammar aspect that they master as they are used in literally thousands of different ways. Therefore, trying very hard, the L2 learners have to be familiar with Dependent Prepositions in order not to imperfect in their writing and speech as well.

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Moonlight

*Relaxing moonlight with slight breeze
Only I can see twinkling patterns
I kept watching*

*Why am I feeling so light?
Is that my body which makes me feel so heavy?
Why am I feeling so calm?
I kept thinking*

*What is the thing I want in my life?
Isn't it the happiness?
What is happiness?
I kept searching*

*Is that the calmness of our body?
Is that the calmness of our thoughts?
Is that the calmness of our mind?
I stopped thinking*

*One day
I want to wake up watching sun rise
Taste a cup of tea listening to flying music*

H. T. T. D. Hansana

It was midnight. Shamalee was at the bottom of the staircase. She had no idea of how she came down stair. The place smelt like coffee flowers. It was a strong yet calming scent. The scent was so enchanting and had the power to attract someone to cling there. But her mind knew there was something wrong in this picture. It screamed at her head "Go to your room!" So, she started climbing up the stairs. As for a seven months pregnant lady, it wasn't an easy task. But she kept climbing.

And then, suddenly, she heard the most dreadful voice in her life. It was a voice that can give you goosebumps! It was most likely a scream which was filled with torture. Shamalee looked up to where the sound came. At the top of the staircase there was this mysterious white lady. She was wearing a white color long sleeved night dress. Her hair was all messy and the blue eyes of hers were sparkling with pure anger. The lady pointed her finger at Shamalee's tummy and groaned, "You! You stole everything from me!! Now you have to pay back!" And she laughed hysterically. Shamalee didn't know what she was talking about. But she felt a great fear. She cupped her tummy with her hands and murmured, "Please... leave me!" But the lady rushed towards her and when she reached, she choked Shamalee's neck with her icy cold hands. Shamalee couldn't do anything but scream, "No! No!! Please don't kill us!!!"

"Shamalee... wake up!" She opened her eyes. Ridma was looking down at her. She was laying on their bed, all sweaty. She touched her tummy and felt a gentle kick of her unborn. Ridma bent to kiss her. "It's ok baby... It's just a bad dream. Nothing wrong is gonna be happen..." he whispered while hugging her.

The year 1830 started as another monotonous year for Elizabeth McCarthy. She always thought her life was so boring. She wished for a change. But the only thing she got was Pete's casual relationships with other women, which were by the way weren't pleased her. Some of them were with his working buddies and some were with young ladies whom he met at train. And none of them were very serious. In fact, she loved him with all her heart. So, if they would have some luck, she was ready to have a child.

At the moment the front door of her house opened shout and Pete appeared. "My darling Lizzy! You will not believe what a fortune I had today!" He screamed while dancing around her. "What was that honey? You seem so happy" she asked. "Jack sent me a telegram today asking me to buy a nice coffee yard in Sri Lanka!" Jack was their neighbor. Two months ago he moved to this little Asian country with his family to try his luck as a coffee grower. "Isn't this the change you wanted for all your life?"

Elizabeth smiled. "Yes my love! When will we go there?"

They were on their car on their way to home after grocery shopping. Ridma turned down the radio and smiled at Shamalee. "I thought you don't like coffee" he said pointing his head to one bag. "Yes. I hated coffee. But now it is pretty much the only thing I like to drink." She replied. "Pregnancy cravings! But isn't it crazy? You are an owner of a tea state but now you can't drink tea!" he smiled.

"Well, this was a coffee yard before my great grandfather's time. But the entire plantation was destroyed because of a fungi infection and that's why they started to plant tea instead."

"Wow! I've never known. May be your ancestors want to carry over the family tradition." He said half laughing. "Don't be silly." She tossed at his head. He winked.

He stared at the ceiling. He had no rush to wake up this morning. Finally, he got his freedom. Now he has no bonds. He was waiting for her to bring his morning coffee. When she arrives, she would stay at the door and would say, "Mr. Peter, may I come in?" She never called him Pete as Lizzy used to say.

He closed his eyes again. Then he smelt it. Coffee flowers! He remembered their first morning at this house. He walked up by a fragile touch on his chest and when he opened eyes, he could feel the scent. A handful of white coffee flowers were on his chest and some were spilled on the bed. Lizzy was standing by his side laughing. "Oh! Pete, I love the scent of these flowers..."

He opened his eyes. There was a single tear on his eye and he couldn't stop it. He turned to the other side. There were a handful of coffee flowers on the pillow!

They came to this house two years ago right after their marriage. It was a part of Shamalee's dowry. The house was named as a cursed one as back in time some people were found dead mysteriously in this place. Shamalee believed it until she met her husband. Ridma Samaradiwakara was a man of modern era. He never believed such kind of stories. With his love, Shamalee began to see the beauty of this house. "Did your great great grandfather build this?" Ridma asked while they were cleaning an old room as their baby room. Shamalee sat on a chair. "No. He was the second owner. Back then this was owned by a British guy called McCarthy. One day they found him hung himself after his wife's death. So, my great great granddad bought the house with the coffee plantation." "And with the curse!" Ridma added laughing. "Oh! Shut up man" she said angrily. "I don't forget how frightened you were of this place because of some folk tales, my love" he said. She sighed. If he also could see these nightmares...

THE SCENT OF COFFEE FLOWERS'

She always thought of the house as a love at first sight. It was surrounded by coffee plantations and she could smell the sweetest coffee blooms. "Ah! This is heaven..." she thought. The first few months of their new life were amazing. It was the change in life that she always wanted. But happiness was in a hurry and sadness was Elizabeth's lifetime companion.

People don't change their natural behaviors just because they changed their residency. She should have known it. She sniffed Pete's affairs with labors of their estate. "Oh come on!" she thought. "They are not even British." But as usual, like a child who comes to his mother, he'd always return to her. She knew it.

But this time, it was different. He brought home this Tamil girl, Meenakshi saying she was their new house maid. But their eyes told another story. Meenakshi had a separate room in down stair. Only god knows how many nights Pete has spent there. But Meenakshi's tummy that was expelling day by day made Elizabeth realized that this time, Pete has gone far too long. Meenakshi was non official ruler of her house... Elizabeth became just another soul living under the very roofs that belonged to her.

Meenakshi made dinner for three of them every day. Elizabeth who was so pity, had no clue but she begun to get weaker day by day. Meenakshi didn't let Peter to show her to a doctor. "Mr. Peter, I'll look after her." She promised.

But her who knows what wild medicines never cured Elizabeth. After few days Elizabeth died.

Meenakshi was spending the golden time of her life. Who thought a labor girl like she could become an owner of their master's heart? Now she is the empress of this house. Her grandmother was right. British people are so fragile. She only had to give that poison for two weeks, now the biggest barrier to her success has gone.

Today he asked her to come to their room. Yes, it was Elizabeth and Peter's room. But, not anymore. She smiled. She started to climb up the staircase. But little she knew that her destiny was waiting for her at the top of the staircase.

When she reached there, she could smell the coffee flowers. She couldn't trust her own eyes. There was Elizabeth McCarthy! "You... You died!" Meenakshi lisped. "No! You killed me. You took everything from me. Now I came to do you the same." The ghost said.

And then Meenakshi felt Elizabeth's cold fingers around her neck and they got tighter. She couldn't breathe so she tried to get rid of Elizabeth. But she slipped and fell down from stairs. When she fell, her tummy hit the floor and she felt the bleeding.

Peter heard a loud sound. When he came to see, he found Meenakshi was dead by her own blood puddle.

Shamalee could see all these things as visions. At first she was frightened. But later on she felt sorry for Elizabeth. There should be a peace to her poor soul. She thought.

Then she opened her eyes. It was midnight again. She heard Ridma's snoring. And then she could smell it. Coffee flowers! This time, it was not a dream.

Shamalee went out of the room along the scent. She met Elizabeth. "I was waiting for so long", said Elizabeth. "I know the destiny hadn't been so easy for you", said Shamalee. "But to achieve the ultimate happiness you have to give up everything."

"I'm sorry. I never wanted to do any harm. But I couldn't help."

"It's ok. Just let it go..." Shamalee whispered.

The next morning, when Ridma woke up, he saw two handful of coffee flowers at their night stand. He took them by both his hands and went to the kitchen where Shamalee was.

"Honey, from where did you find those flowers?" He asked grabbing her hand softly.

"An old friend of mine gave them..." Shamalee replied smiling.

The End.

R. M. Ayodya H. Liyadipitiya

Talents

Talents can be defined as abilities to do something and the schools and universities can be introduced as great platforms to showcase the talents of the younger generation. Talents are highly and diversely affected by the technological advances nowadays. Another important aspect which has a great influence on talents is the education pattern of the younger generation as it helps immensely to identify the talents of them.

Technology is developing speedily in the current world. The younger generation has accustomed to use smartphones, computers, social media, online video games etc. As a result, students are not interested in doing something by using their skills and talents as they are used to release their stress through chatting with friends on social media and upload funny and unnecessary things etc. As an example, teenagers are used to play online video games for long time, and therefore, the brain cells of them get damaged and neuron cells get died. As a result, memory, creativity, humanity and also the sensitivity get destroyed eventually. Then, children become aggressive and even they do not care the advices of their parents. Accordingly, although technology is not a bad thing, the way that its users are using it is bad in the current society.

During this Covid 19 pandemic period, all of us get a chance to connect with each other through technology and as a result, people get familiar with technological advances quickly. The online platform is the best opportunity to perform talents of students because they do not get a chance to achieve them in the normal way at the universities and schools. Therefore, universities and schools can provide an online platform to showcase the skills of students. Online competitions can be organized to improve the skills associated with drawing, dancing, acting, singing, writing, etc.

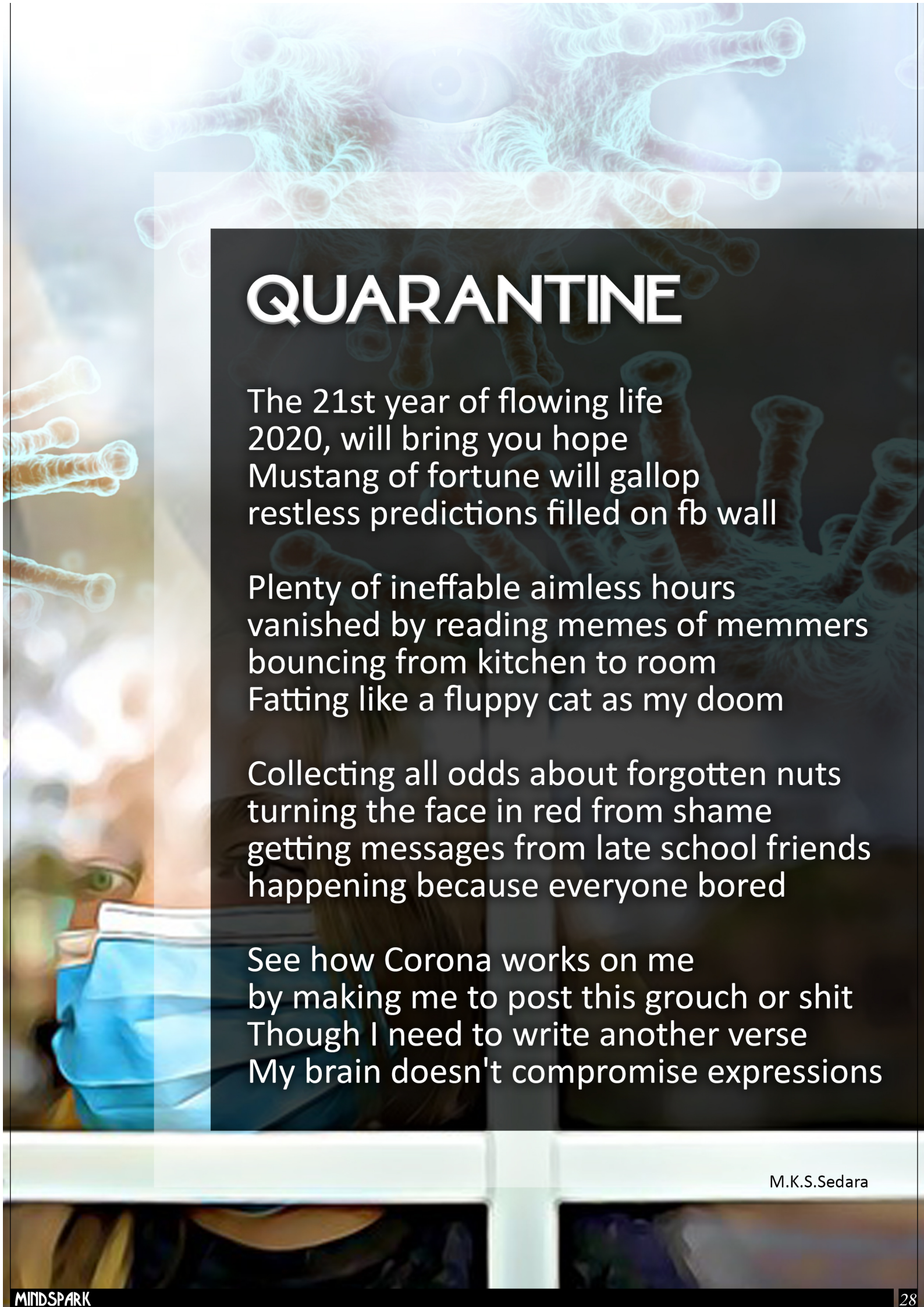
The education pattern in countries like Sri Lanka is somewhat bulkier and more stressful for students. Usually, students attend to tuition classes just after the school, and also, at the weekends too. As a result of that, teenagers do not have enough time to engage in their hobbies and also to come up with creative ideas. That is not a good way of learning. Students should have the ability and freedom to practice everything. But in Sri Lanka, parents are focusing only on examinations. Therefore, parents do not encourage their kids for extra-curricular activities. A country has a responsibility to create a talented younger generation. To achieve that purpose, the education system of the country matters a lot.

Education has no limits. When a baby turns into an elder little by little, he gathers so many life experiences when passing the various stages of life. It is just like learning so many new things. Talents can be improved by learning and, depending on different fields, the knowledge also get vary. Therefore, talents also are different to each other according to the field. Nowadays, most of the youngsters are multi-talented. Such children have a huge brain capacity to manage multiple abilities at the same time. It is defined as a born talent. Some of them are interested in learning a lot of things and they work hard to become talented persons. By looking at those things, it can be made a conclusion that, all people have any kind of ability to do something. So, one small idea or interest can make a talented guy.

Lack of necessary facilities affects a lot to raise the talents. Sri Lanka is still a developing country, so there is a difficulty to provide with equal facilities to all the schools and universities in the country. In rural areas, Schools have fewer facilities than of the schools of urban areas. Therefore, children cannot improve their talents without enough facilities for them. Most importantly facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools and auditoriums are essential for schools and universities to support students to improve their skills.

Another problem which is very common is, even though the schools and universities have enough facilities, students cannot afford for them as the expenses are too high. Students should pay for their sports kits, sports instruments, music instruments, costumes etc. Because of that reason, some students cannot participate in any extracurricular activity. Therefore, talents are hidden within themselves as they do not get a chance to come out. The government should implement a process to issue some scholarships or financial assistance for such talented students in schools and universities. Mass media institutions organize some reality shows for singing, dancing, debating and cooking and they are also very popular among school children. These kinds of programs are very helpful to improve the abilities of the younger generation. Some popular private sectors support these competitions by giving sponsorships. It is one of the best opportunities for students and youngsters in rural areas to find a way to improve their skills. Accordingly, talents influence on the economic condition of the families with talented students.

Sri Lankans are talented and intelligent. Therefore, they can use talents to achieve international level achievements. The younger generation is the most important sector of a community which contributes to the development of a country. There are some barriers as well as opportunities those influence on talents. As all of us have a responsibility to develop the country, let's use our talents to develop the nation.



QUARANTINE

The 21st year of flowing life
2020, will bring you hope
Mustang of fortune will gallop
restless predictions filled on fb wall

Plenty of ineffable aimless hours
vanished by reading memes of memmers
bouncing from kitchen to room
Fattening like a fluppy cat as my doom

Collecting all odds about forgotten nuts
turning the face in red from shame
getting messages from late school friends
happening because everyone bored

See how Corona works on me
by making me to post this grouch or shit
Though I need to write another verse
My brain doesn't compromise expressions

M.K.S.Sedara



life is like a box of chocolates FORREST GUMP

G.G.A. Sandamali

“life is like a box of chocolates you never know what you’re going to get.” This is a world-famous quote from the movie Forest Gump that made history. If I tell you about the movie, simply it is like a box of chocolates and you never know what you’re going to get. The movie is full of surprises some of them are bitter and some of them are sweet, like a roller-coaster ride, there are ups and downs.

This beautiful and inspiring movie was directed by Robert Zemeckis and written by Eric Roth. It was first released in 1994 and won 6 Oscar awards, another 44 wins, and 75 nominations. The main role is played by Tom Hanks one of the greatest actors of all time. Many believe that he is the only Hollywood actor to pull this off. Especially actors like Gary Sinise and actresses like Sally Field and Robin Wright add substance to this sentimental tearjerker.

The movie is based on Forrest Gump, a man with a low IQ who recalls his memories of his life from his childhood to adult life. The story reflects the balance of sentimentality and harshness of life perfectly. Forrest had experienced darkness and light in his life equally. But he never complained about his life. Whenever someone asked him are you stupid, he replies “stupid as a stupid does that’s what my mom said.” His mother plays a very important role in his life. She is a hardworking, loving, and committed mother who was determined to make her child’s life perfect. She insisted that although Forrest is a little slow and had a crooked back, he deserves everything that a normal child would have. She always had a way of explaining things to him so, he could understand them, and she always protected her little boy from people who tried to tell him he is different, disabled, or stupid.

When he first went to school all the other kids rejected him and they did not even let him sit near them on the school bus. But then something miraculous happened. A little girl says to him “you can sit here if you want”. And that girl whose name was Jenny was the most precious thing in Forrest’s life that he cherished till the very last moment. When he recollects his first meeting with Jenny he says “I do remember the first time I heard the sweetest voice in the wide world. I had never seen anything so beautiful in my life, she was like an angel.” Jenny was a beautiful little girl with a blond hair, who lived with her alcoholic and abusive father and she was emotionally broken from a young age. She protected Forrest from bullies and always hang out with him despite him being different. She was the only friend that Forrest had, and he looked after her and truly loved her.

Despite his sub-normal IQ, Gump lived a truly charming life that people who call themselves smart and intelligent never had. His innocent soul was always led to good things by his destiny. Entirely without trying Forest Gump taught Elvis Presley to dance, became a football star, met Jhon Kennedy, Served with honor in the Vietnam war, Meets Lyndon Johnson, spoke at an anti-war rally, defeated the Chinese national team in table tennis, met Richard Nixon, opened a profitable shrimping business, became an original investor in Apple Computer Company and also ran back and forth across the country for several years. I know what you’re thinking. It’s confusing, right? But all of this is true.

Apart from his mother and Jenny, Bubba and Lieutenant Dan played major roles in Forrest’s life. Forrest meets Bubba when he joins the army and he refers to him as “my best good friend”. Bubba wanted to start a shrimping business with Forrest when they get out of the army, but he never made it home. So, Forrest Gump, the most loyal friend kept his promise and start a shrimping business in the name of his ill-fated friend. And he helps Bubba’s family to overcome poverty too. Lieutenant Dan was a very wise and humble army man, who was Forrest and Bubba’s commanding officer in Vietnam. Forrest was very grateful to be able to serve for Lieutenant Dan who came from a great family of war heroes.

No matter how many things happened in Forrest’s life, his love for Jenny never changed. He only wished good things for her as she was traveling around the country making poor life decisions. He wrote her every day even during the war lying on muddy grounds at night in the pouring rain. He waited patiently until she came home and love him. He never complained or judged her bad life choices. And when she finally came back from her tiresome journey he welcomed her with open arms and no questions was asked.

Although his IQ is 75, he was wiser than most people out there. He saw the world through his childlike eyes and see things in a less confused and less complicated way. This movie proves that even if you are not the most intelligent person or the most good-looking person in the room if you do things with pure intentions and if you mean no harm to anybody, life always leads you to good places that you have never been. Forrest Gump is not just a movie, is an emotion.

It inspires you to be grateful for everything that you have and love your close ones dearly and cherish every moment. It teaches us not to give up on tough times and find our inner strength which can lead to greater things. Most importantly the greatest lesson you can get from the movie is to love your imperfections cause, they are the things that make you truly perfect. It tells us to stay the way we are even others call us weird or stupid cause the problem is not with you, it is with the worlds’ hearts. This movie will make you cry, laugh, rejoice, and sometimes angry. But the 2 hours and 22 minutes you spend to watch this movie will be worth it and it will change your perspective of life and it will make you a better person. Lastly, I will leave another quote from Forrest Gump here. “My mama always said you’ve got to put the past behind you before you can move on”.



“Falling in love

*Days, weeks and months go by slowly
I'm waiting for you to come back soon
I know that you cannot spend time with me
No matter how far you are
I will wait by the phone*

*You are committed to a heavy duty
You don't forget that you are
A boyfriend, a husband and a father and
You fulfill your responsibilities as a son
You protect us all like a god on earth
You save us day and night more than your life
Only your family knows you best
Some people only remember you
When they need your help
It doesn't matter; I'm with you all the time*

*I will kiss you every day you're home
I love the warmth I feel when I hug your chest
I will always be proud of you and I will respect you
I am so greedy for the love you give me
And I will protect it as my life.*

Every soldier protects the motherland more than his own life

*I will not hesitate to risk my life for you
Who says: long distance relationships do not prosper
Ask from any girlfriend about her soldier
When duty calls him, he must go
To bear it for me, give me a task to do each day
To fill the time when he is away*

***with
a
God
on
earth”***

I.S.K.Devindi

SALINE

AGRICULTURE

Population is increasing at an alarming rate. We have got over half-dozen billion people in the world at present and it is believed that this can reach eight billion soon. However, we have got two major issues which could badly affect drought and salinity. Simultaneously, we are losing the quantity of freshwater around the globe day by day, which may be a key necessity for conventional agriculture. Thus we have to contemplate several alternatives to extend food production across the world to satisfy the rising human desires.

Salinization is that the increase of salt concentration in soil, primarily due to the supply of water containing dissolved salts, which is often caused by flooding of the lands by water, or ocean water leaking through the soil from below. Consequences of climate changes, ocean levels are rising, which further increases the amount of seawater to come landlocked. Another methodology is, the microscopic salt particles carried by the wind to landlocked from the oceans. Furthermore, adding inorganic fertilizers, conjointly causes this soil salinity as they get deposited within the soil as time goes. Thus, this salinization isn't an incident that is restricted to coastal areas but landlocked too. In line with the US department of agriculture, worldwide twenty-five million acres of once agriculturally productive lands, are being lost per annum due to overly salted soils. If this continues, once productive lands will become deserts forever literally. People have long believed that salt-affected land was unusable but, fortuitously a tactile solution has been found, known as "Saline Agriculture". In a nutshell, through this, food is made on salt-affected soils, and salty or pure water is utilized for irrigation. Scientists in the USA have found a DNA sequence on a cabbage plant, that gives salt tolerance. There is a particular protein created by executing this sequence that keeps sodium ions or salts safely removed from the remainder of the plant's important functions. They amalgamated this sequence to tomato plants to provide the power to tolerate ocean water irrigation.

There are four main things to care for once saline agriculture is being executed. The first one is choosing a suitable crop cultivar as all the varieties can't withstand saline conditions. From the sensitive to the tolerant, there's an entire vary of various levels of tolerance to salinity, which implies that, for many salinity levels, an acceptable crop can be found. The highly tolerant species area is known as "halophytes". They are species that have a succulent look. Although in most diets of individuals around the world, halophytes don't seem to be quite common, the majority have tasted or at least conscious of glassworts, species within the *Salicornia* genus, or relatives thereof. The salinity tolerance of a crop is usually expressed in line with the model instructed by Maas and Hoffman in 1977. They claimed a way to express salinity tolerance of any plant species using two parameters, the threshold, and the slope. The threshold is that the salinity level which yields begin to become negatively affected. The slope is the degree with that yields are further decreasing as salinity goes up. So when selecting a crop cultivar, it is possible to select naturally born ones or genetically modified ones.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, conlrrigation can be done using freshwater or brackish water and should irrigate frequently and in adequate amounts, if not salts concentrate the soil when the amount of water decreases through evapotranspiration and accumulate in the top layers. For saltwater, solely sandy soils or loamy sandy soils are appropriate. Irrigating with saltwater on clay soils can cause structural issues with the soil. Among the methods of irrigation, drip irrigation is the best, because it is the most efficient way of water using. For flood irrigation, it is important to consider the drying out of the soil. Crops ought to be planted on those areas wherever the drying out is slowest

The third parameter is fertilization. Though the "Electrical Conductivity" in the saline soil is already high, fertilizers can be problematic as they can increase the osmotic stress of crops. It is important to be conscious of this and foliar fertilizers could also be a more robust solution to the current issue. In addition to that, salinity could cause specific deficits in crops, or higher demands certainly minerals, and consequently, these could need higher doses of application than in conventional agriculture.

The final one is soil management, which accompanies organic matter management within the soil, soil tillage, bed or ridge form and size, and the adding of soil additives. Salinized soil might need certain additives at the beginning of the season, like gypsum, to alleviate salt stress. Soil is wealthy in organic matter. So, manure and compost ought to be applied often if obtainable. Bedform is often necessary for irrigation methodology. Rich and healthy soil life are very important for better crop performance, particularly with saline conditions, that the use of microbial-based soil additives could facilitate boosting yields.

It ought to be noted that, when there are some general measures that will improve yields beneath saline conditions as I discussed above, optimum yields will solely be obtained once the measures taken are tailored to the precise, local conditions of the salt-affected area. Not the two areas are equivalent and so the saline agriculture may be regionally optimized.

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P.H.B. Rajapaksha

SOAP BALLOONS

Flickered balloons
Blowing in platoons
After the noon
Made the little one feel
Life dazzle just as a balloons

Time passed,
Lesi, tread
Not knowing a Reade
Would teach her the secret
Covered by the fancy of balloons

After the day
She never ever looked upon
The same way she used
About the soapy stuffs
They made her realize ...
They are the greatest
Secret bearers of life
That, one will never know
When 'it will pop out.....

V Anuradha wijesekara

From Old Saying

'Selected a topic having
Selection was written with most

verified
satisfied'

'Arranged them properly in rhyming
All are proverbs of witty

way
say'

'Looking towards the life with a new
Looking forward to in the magazine in

sight
Black & White'

'Fools rush in where angels fear to
An arrow shoot upright falls on the shooter's
Under want, famine; under snow
Say nothing, when you are

tread
head
bread
dead'

'Throw no gift again at the giver's
Stretching and yawning leadeth to
It is good to nip the briar in the
Desert and reward be ever for

head
bed
bud
odd'

'Over-covetous was never
The best is often the enemy of the
It is easily kindled half burnt
One cause is good until the other is

good
good
wood
understood'

'Early to bed and early to
Makes a man healthy wealthy and
Kings have many ears and many
You seek not water under cold

rise
wise
eyes
ice'

'Long may long
To throw dust in one's
We know not who lives or
But the king who never

lies
eyes
dies
dies'

'The heart's letter in read in the
It is easier to fall than
The eagle does not catch
A cat in gloves catches no

eyes
rise
flies
mice'

'Gold has its price; learning is beyond
Wisdom and learning are both in a measure of
Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be
The light is naught for sore

price
nice
wise
eyes'

'Lost honour cannot be regained like spilled
There is comfort where there is
You cannot cook rice well by dreaming of
A gluttonous rice-cake is similar to three bowls of plain rice'

rice
rice
rice

'What is worth doing is worth doing
There are no fans in
Fanned fires and forced love never did
Covetous spends more than the

well
hell
well
liberal'

'When children stand quiet they have done some
The known devil is better than unknown
It is a sin to lie against the
He knows one point more than the

ill
devil
devil
devil'

'Who understands ill, answers
I'll be him that thinketh
Great minds blow upon high
It is good to have friends even in

ill
ill
hill
hell'

'Killing the dog does not heal its
He that contemplates, hath a day without
The escaped mouse ever feels the taste of the
The silent dog is the first to

bite
night
bait
bite'

'Pepper is small but not its
Hungry dogs fight
The longer east, the shorter
The plain fashion is the

zest
best
west
best'

L. Dilshani Ishanthi De Silva





THE NECKTIE

S.C.Ranasinghe

Life is hard. Yes, it should be hard, but is it fair? Because we all spend that life every day; we all face problems and we find solutions for those problems. My life, I think it is challenging but not difficult; as same as at this moment - that I don't like to wake up in early; but I have to do that; and I have to live by my own. I turned around in my bed and shut the alarm that was ringing. It's freezing cold, today is perfect for a good sleep, but instead of sleeping, I have to wake up.

"Putha its already 5.00 a.m. don't you wake-up?"

That's my mama, the perfect alarm that never misses the job.

"I am already awoken mom... I will come... just give me five minutes."

Not only the weather but water is also cold today. So, I took a quick bath and went to the kitchen to meet my mother.

She is the only person in this world for me. I was in fifth grade when we lost our father and from that day onward, we both are alone in this world. She works so hard to take care of me. Every single day she wakes up, prepares something to eat and goes to work. Oh! I forget to tell that she is a nurse. After my father passed away, we got a big loan to build our house. So, my mom has to pay that debt every month and as a result, we do not have that much of money to live. But we live our life in the best way we can. After I got selected to university, everything got changed. I spent my days more and more in the university and my mom got stuck at hospital and home. I was worried about my mom as she was alone at home, but we both didn't have a solution for that.

"Here is your coffee ..."

I came back to this world by my mother's voice. That is typical; I always get distracted very easily.

"Thank you."

I stayed for a while after I took the coffee mug to my hand.

"At what time the interview starts?"

My mom asked while cutting vegetables.

"I have to be there at 9.00 a.m."

As soon as I said it, my mom turned to me.

"So what are you doing here? Go and get ready. It will take minimum two hours to get there."

"I know mom, but you are all alone in here."

"Hey! big guy, I can handle it. So, go and get ready. You need this job, don't you?"

"Yes, yes I really need it, but mom I don't know whether it will go to another loose end"

"Hey! don't be like that. You are a smart boy and well suited to everything"

Mom patted my head while saying that.

"But mom, you think so because you are my mom. No one else thinks like that"

"Believe me my boy. They will see it. So, go and get dressed now."

So, I got dressed; black color trousers; light orange yellow color shirt; and black shoes; finally the tie. I hated that stupid tie. How many times I tried to put it on? I never could do it properly. Finally, I had to ask my mom to do it for me and, like always, my mom was the one who put on my tie. After got dressed, I ate and went to get the bus. And lucky me - no buses yet. It's been half an hour on the road, but no buses yet.

Finally, the bus came and I got it. If that happens continuously, I would be late because I had to get another two buses.

.....
Really, I still don't get it about this life. We live this life day to day; we work; we eat; we sleep. No matter what others are saying, I only see this frame or loop. We stuck in there. We do only those things and we tell the whole world that we live our life well. Isn't there anything else?

Half of my life is over and only thing I did was studying. Now, I am looking for a job. Maybe in future, I will get married and then also I will stick in the same loop over and over again.

"Wellawaththa.... Wellawatha .. Wellawaththa tickets get down, hurry up, we are getting late..." Conductor of the bus was shouting and his voice brought me back to real world. I took my bag and got off the bus.

I barely made it on time to the interview and there were a huge number of candidates to the interview. But, I went there and sat down until my chance comes. While I was sitting there, I looked at everyone at there. Usually, I like to look at people; I like to watch how they react; how their facial expressions get change; how they interact with each other; everything like that makes me interested. So, I like it. I saw different types of people. Some had very ambitious looks. Some were nervous like me. Some were so cool like they had no expressions at all.

"Mr. Eshan, mr S.Eshan. It's your turn..."

Suddenly, my name was called. So, I took my file and went in the room that the interview was held,

"Good morning Mr. Eshan..."

"Good morning"

So, like that, my interview began...

Most of the parts went well. I thought I faced it well. Yes, I got nervous in first as usual, but it went well. So, I was dreaming about having that job in every answer I gave to the interview board.

"So that's it, thank you for your time Mr. Eshan. We will inform you latter."

As soon as I heard those words, all the hopes and dreams I built up collapsed just like a sinking ship.

So, it had happened again.

Failed or rejected. Don't know which was happened but it happened again.

I gently smiled and took my file and thanked them.

I knew at that point that they would not give me that job. I had a chance of only fifty percent to get it. I faced it well but, still no good answer...

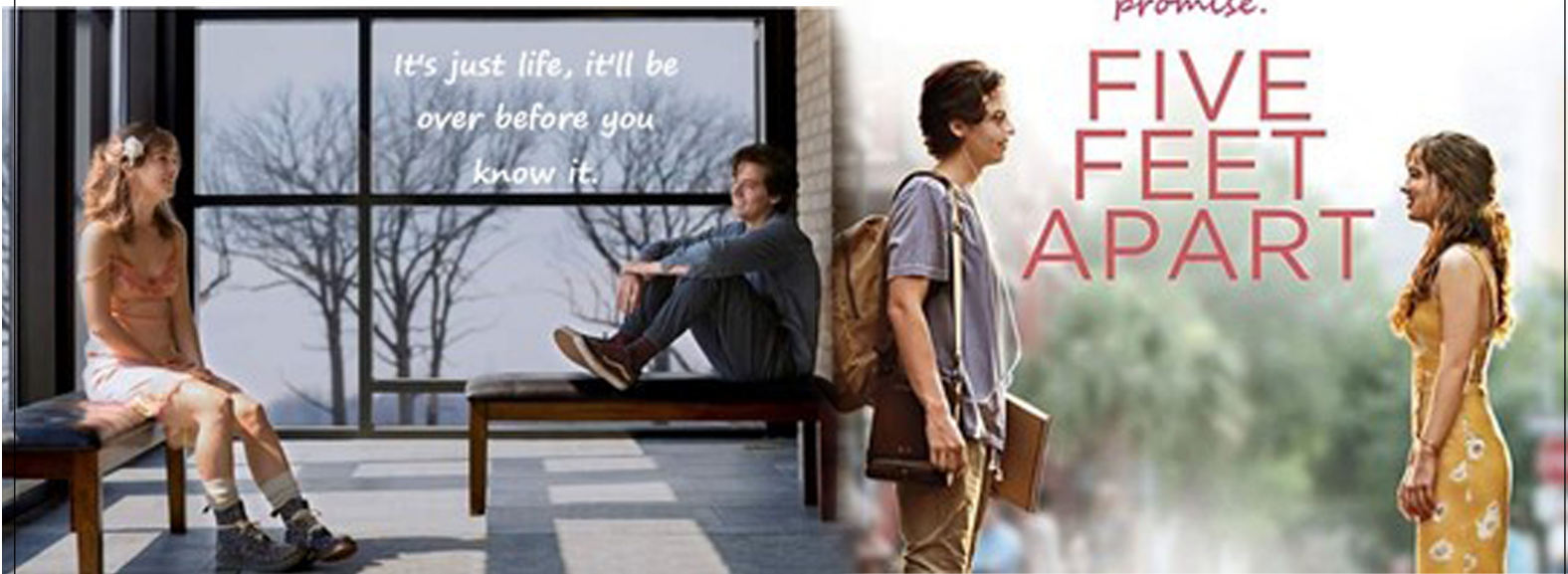
Suddenly, my feelings were chilled, like always happens. This is life and we have to face it. No matter what happened, I still have hopes and I will depend on those and move on. I don't know the future, but I will walk along it. I will wait for my future.

Again... When... I really don't know when that day will come. But, I will wait...

I tell myself: "Hey man! Come out of the structure and take off the tie that stuck around your neck". Yes, I will wait...

FIVE FEET APART

I'm not going far. I'll always be here. Just an inch away. I promise.



"Human touch, our first form of communication. Safety, Security, Comfort all in one gentle caress of a finger or at a brush of lips on a soft cheek. It connects us when we're happy, bolsters us in times of fear and excites us in times of passion and love. We need that touch from the one we love almost as much we need air to breathe."

This is a famous quote from the movie five feet apart and I guarantee you that it will make you cry. It is a heart-warming, emotional romantic movie directed by Justin Baldoni and written by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Laconis. The movie was released in 2019 and has won 3 awards and 7 nominations. Stella Grant, who is only a seventeen-year-old girl, spends most of her time in hospital because she is diagnosed with a rare and complicated disease of Cystic Fibrosis. Her life is full of routines and boundaries but all of that is put to test when she meets a handsome young boy named Will Newman at the hospital who is also suffering from the same illness. When a person is diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, life takes away so many things from them. They breathe borrowed air to say the least. Their tomorrow is not promised and cannot live like a normal person.

Stella Grant likes to be in control, although her totally out of control lungs have made her life miserable. She takes her treatments seriously and has organized them properly. After her only sister passed away from a tragic accident, she is determined to live and not give up on life in order to save her parents from the sadness. And she is waiting for a lung transplant. Will Newman is a boy who has already given up on his life. The only thing he wants is to get out of the hospital. He couldn't care less about his treatments, or a fancy new clinical drug trial. He is waiting to be eighteen and leave the hospital on his own.

Both of Stella and will's lives are revolved around the hospital due to endless medication to keep them alive and on top of that they fall in love. This is a couple who that never meant to be together. That's because both of them have Cystic Fibrosis, they cannot get close to each other more than six feet as they carry bacteria within their lungs that could be harmful and deadly to each other due to cross-infection. So, they can never get close enough even to shake hands and it is really painful and frustrating to them. Will is exactly what Stella needs to stay away from. If he so much breathes on Stella, she could lose her spot on the transplant list. The only way to stay alive is to stay apart. They share their love only through phone calls, messages, and letters that they pass through doors of hospital rooms. They are so desperate to be near each other and it made them question why life is so cruel to them. They do not feel like six feet is safety, it feels like a punishment.

But Stella is not ready to let unfair destiny takes away the only good thing in her life. Will was the only thing that made her forget about death and put a smile on her face. Normally, she is so good with rules and restrictions, until it comes to unbelievably charming Will. As their connection intensifies the temptation to throw the rules out of the window is also grown. So, they decide to steal just one foot from allowed six feet distance and be five feet apart from each other. This is a really emotional scene and it will make you sympathetic for them. So, did they find their happy ending like in every other dreamy romantic movie? Can there be love without touch? Finally, I will just leave a quote from the movie, "If you love something you have to learn to let it go".

G.G.A. Sandamali

Alive or just breathing
Chase the lonely feeling
Perplexed mind whispering
Vanishing & reappearing
Is she isolated?
Does she fail from love?
Does it make any sense?
Even she not knows
However she in her own space
Far away from ordinary people
Far away from fickle people,
Seems to be flipping coins
Sad eyes on happy face
Common issue in this generation
A heart of a wildflower
Is always in her prayers
It could be raised again
Even in a worst summer

FED UP

M.K.S.Sedara



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Ignition through words

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