

Vol.  
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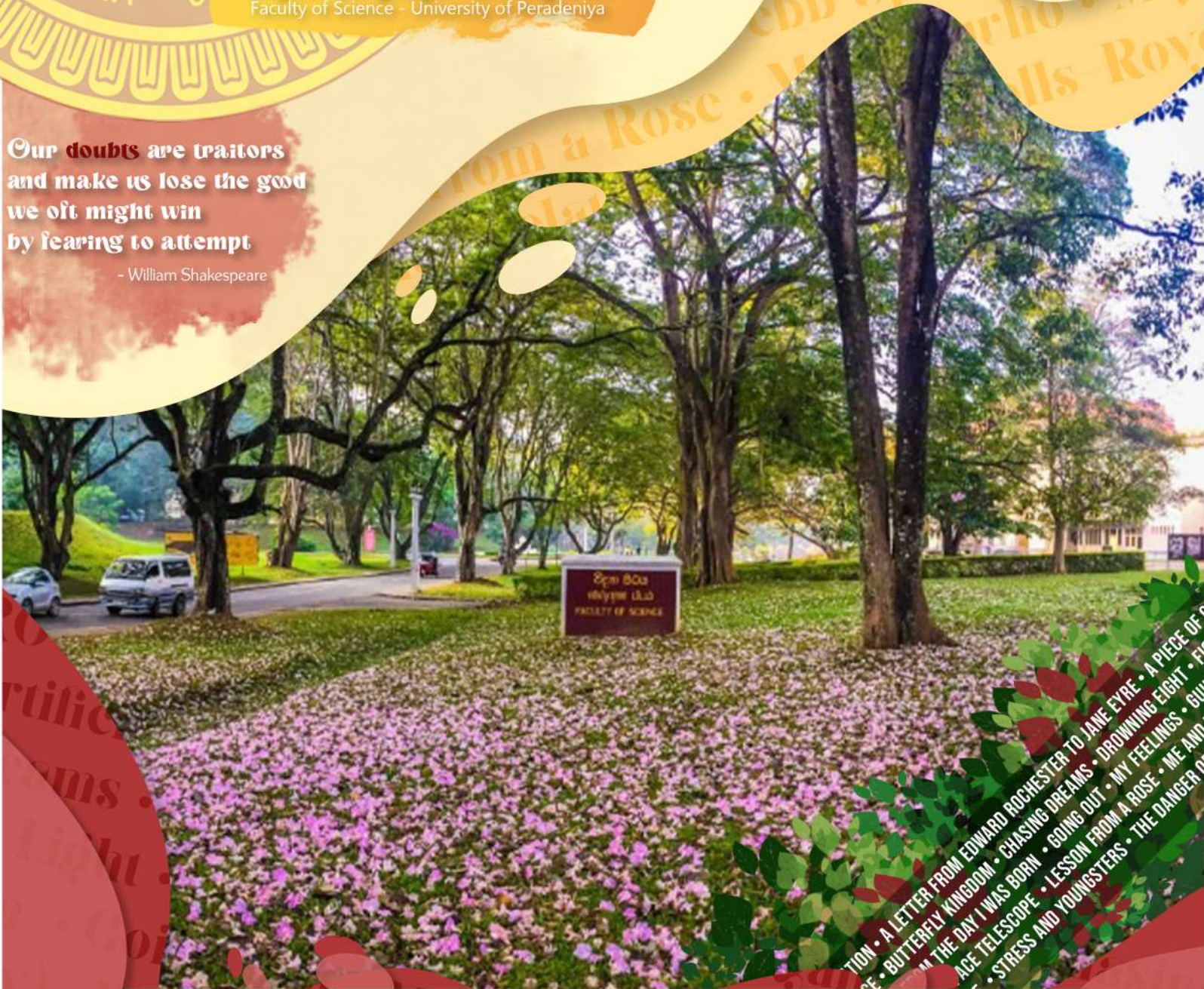
# LITERATI

Voice of Youth...

English Language Teaching Unit  
Faculty of Science - University of Peradeniya

Our doubts are traitors  
and make us lose the good  
we oft might win  
by fearing to attempt

- William Shakespeare



English Language Teaching Unit  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE - UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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# Acknowledgement

"Literati 2022", the E-Magazine launched by the Faculty of Science English Language Teaching Unit, these eighty pages would not exist without your support and guidance.

Throughout the process of creating this magazine, I have received a great deal of support and assistance. I would first like to thank the dean of the Faculty of Science, professor Sanath Rajapakse for giving us the opportunity and support to complete this magazine. I would also like to thank professor Champika Hettiarachchi, AHEAD, Initiative Coordinator of Activity II, for coming up with the idea for this project to develop and showcase the students' literary talents.

I also like to thank Ms Apsara Vidanapathirana, Coordinator of the English Language Teaching Unit, who was instrumental in the publication of this magazine.

I would like to express my special thanks to our mentor Mrs Kasun Galappaththy for the time and efforts she provided throughout the process. Your useful advice and suggestions were really helpful to me during the project's completion.

Also, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of the authors and photographers who participated. Without your persistent effort, this magazine wouldn't be a reality.

Finally, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all the members of the editorial board for their contributions to the completion of this magazine.

*Sahan Ranmuthu*  
*President, Editorial Board*

# Message from the Dean

It is with immense pleasure I write this message at the launch of the second volume of “Literati”, Voice of Youth E- Magazine 2022 by the English Language Teaching Unit of the Faculty of Science. It provides a platform for improving the communication skills of the students of the faculty. I greatly admire and appreciate the efforts of the staff of the ELTU, Faculty of Science in facilitating and helping our students to showcase their talents.

Empowerment of students for their all round development through education is our motto. Education means much more than merely acquiring knowledge and it has extended to improving soft skills such as teamwork, effective communication and resilience. These intangible skills are necessary in building character of our young generation. Activities such as this will definitely help to acquire such skills to face future challenges successfully. Steps taken by the University administration, contributions made by academic and non academic staff of the University and enthusiastic participation of the students in the past have immensely contributed to the success of programs of this nature.

As the Dean of the faculty, I feel honored to be a part of this precious moment. While wishing the event every success, I wish this will continue and flourish in the years to come.

*Prof. R. G. S. C. Rajapakse*  
Dean, Faculty of Science  
University of Peradeniya



# Message from the Coordinator

## English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU)

It is with immense pleasure that we, the ELTU Faculty of Science and the undergraduates, present to you the second issue of the Literati e-magazine.

The ELTU has realized the wealth of creativity hidden in the souls of our undergraduates and has been nurturing their young minds in various ways. Therefore, I regard the e-magazine which was proposed under the AHEAD-ELSE project, as a platform for our undergraduates to express their creative pursuit and hidden talents. The e -magazine is a compilation of immense effort put forward by our staff and students.

We have for you, from our students, a wide range of poetry, short stories, photographs, drawings and some informative and inspirational articles. While congratulating the writers, I extend my warm wishes and gratitude to the staff of the ELTU, editorial board and the committee for their dedication, commitment and valuable contribution without which this would not have been possible. I hope that the creative expressions shall promote better human values.

*Apsera Vidanapathirana*  
Senior Instructor  
Coordinator ELTU  
Faculty of Science  
University of Peradeniya





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Photograph by Chamuditha Karunarathna





Photograph by Chamuditha Karunarathna



# A dream of Hallucination

Leant beyond the gunwale of hope  
And reached the moon in blue  
I calmed the waves but they said 'nope'  
And my boat began to flew

Butterflies in red and blue said  
'Hello, how are you?'  
The boat fell down and the moon was dead  
I saw her don't know who

I rowed towards her sparkling eyes  
My oar was shuddering too  
The boat was sunk with no surprise  
And I woke up dreaming through  
~Randula Nilaweera~





*Photograph by* **Aloka Madhurabashini**





A LETTER FROM  
**EDWARD ROCHESTER**  
TO  
**JANE EYRE**

Jane Eyre, you are the love of my life. I, Edward Rochester loves you with my whole heart and soul. You came into my life like an angel. You filled my dark life with light. You are the spark that enlighten my life. Before meeting you, I didn't know what joy is. I had wealth but had no warmth within me. You became the warmth that melted my cold heart. You may be poor, little and plain-looking, but I thank god for making you that way. Otherwise you wouldn't have come to the Rochester household as a governess and we would not have met. Then, my life would have been in eternal darkness. Jane, neither I am handsome nor young. I am an old man who is twenty years older than you. Still I believe we are made for each other. We are compatible. It's a match made in heaven. Don't you think the same Jane?

I fell for you before you fell for me. Little conversations with you made me happy. Before your presence at the Rochester household, I rarely visited there. I had no attachment to that house. But with you in it, the house was no longer the same.

I stayed longer, so I could see you everyday. The day you saved me from the fire, I realized that you will be the savior of my life. You might ask me then why did I intend to marry Mary Ingram. Jane, I never intended and it was always you. I loved you dearly, yet lied to you. I couldn't make up my mind to tell you that dark secret of mine just because I was scared of losing you. And that fear became reality and I lost you at the aisle where I dreamt of making you my bride. When Mr. Mason revealed the truth, I held you tightly. Yet I knew things will never be the same. I wanted to give half of my wealth to you and let you go. But you, cruel woman ran away from me without a penny on hand. You have no idea how sad I was. My heart broke into pieces. I was no longer the same Rochester. With you gone, I became an empty person. I retreated to solitude. I blamed myself every single day. And I got my punishment.





my joy was back. My sorrow was gone. My missing half was back. You assured that you will not leave me again and will stay with me forever.

The next morning we were wandering through the woods, just like back in old days. I blamed you for leaving me, for running away from me. You told me your story then. You told me how you found your cousins, Mary, Diana, John Rivers and how you became rich. Whenever you mentioned the name, John Rivers I was burning with jealousy. I was doubting whether you have fallen in love with him. When I questioned about him and you, wicked witch tried to make me angry. When you said he is a fine handsome man in his twenties, I was reminded of my own weaknesses. I am a blind, old man whereas John Rivers has all that I lack. He suits you more than I do. I told you to go back to him. Then you uttered the words I was desperately waiting to hear. You assured me that you can never love the cold and despotic St. John. I couldn't wait any longer. I proposed you and you agreed to be my forever. Those are the sweetest words I have ever heard in my life. We got married with a quiet ceremony. It's the god who separated us and who brought us back together. Our love is eternal. We are bounded by eternity. Thank you Jane for coming to my life. We shall never be apart in this life again. I promise you that.

Oshani Basnayake

A fire broke in and I lost the vision of my both eyes while trying to save Bertha, my first wife. Bertha jumped off the roof and died. I felt like I was finally free. I had no hopes for life. You and my eyes were both gone. I moved to the farm house with Mary, John and Pilot. I sent Adele to a boarding school and other servants away. I wanted to live the rest of my life alone, repenting of my mistakes. Did I forget you? Never Jane. I wondered often about your whereabouts.

On one gloomy evening, you little witch appeared in my room like a miracle. You tried to deceive me, acting like Mary. But I recognized your voice at once. How could you think that I wouldn't recognize you? You and I are not two persons. We may have two bodies but we are entangled with our souls. I asked you for your hand. Your fingers were the same size. I felt like



*Kanishka nuwan*



**LITERATI**  
Voice of Youth...

Photograph by Kanishka Nuwan



# A Piece of Coal

Living room was empty and cold  
Half dimmed fire hearth was fighting alone  
With darkness, too busy to give any warmth  
The only warmth she had was her tears,  
That crawled down the cheeks.  
Her heart was numb with pain  
It was hard to even breathe  
She wanted to scream, she wanted to fight  
But with whom? With her own feelings?  
She still loved him, still wanted to believe him  
She scrunched up her body, stared at the fire  
Coal was glittering in crimson  
While burning themselves in merciless fire.  
Her alarm cried, saying it's almost dinner time  
She knew, He'll be here soon  
Though her soul has left, leaving her body alone  
She wiped her wet cheeks because,  
She had no choice, than to  
Be a piece of coal.

Chathuri Wijebahu





# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**A**s time passes by all we get to hear about these days is artificial intelligence or AI. Universities are launching degree programs of AI and all the attention is taken by this AI. What is Artificial intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence is building intelligent machines that are capable of performing tasks that human intelligence required with the help of computer science.

In this era of technology, people have found ways to simulate human intelligence in machines. So, they have built machines that perform the exact routines of a man.

## The four types of AI

- Reactive Machines
- Limited Memory
- Theory of Mind
- Self-Awareness

## The three major fields of AI:

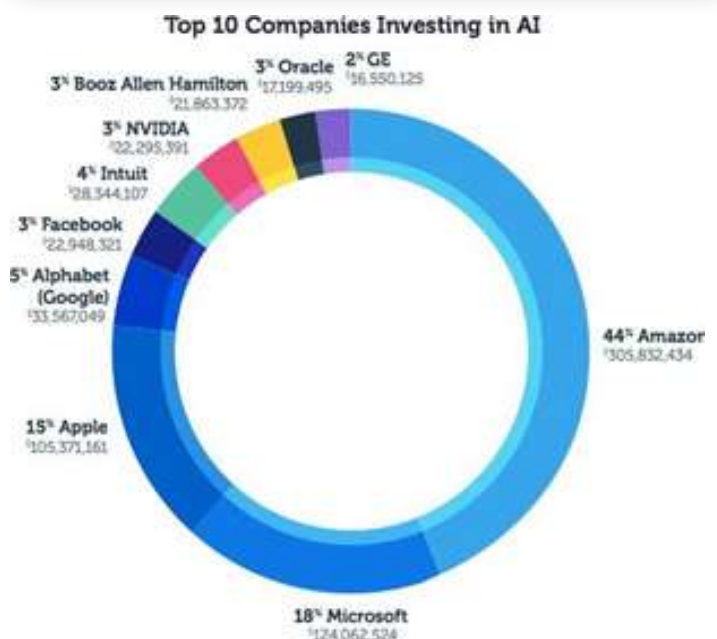
- Business & enterprises
- Agriculture
- Government

## Business and Enterprises

Talking about the impact of AI on Business, we can categorize the usage of AI step by step. From the beginning are making decisions. AI is used to implement platforms that ease the analysis of past and present data of any project to reach the best possible conclusion. For example, in a business, we can get a clear-cut idea of the consumer and supply or how to ace personalized and targeted marketing.

## Application of AI

- Understanding customers
- Providing reliable customer service
- Fraud detection
- Confidentiality of data
- Fully automated factories



Embracing the use of AI in future business has noted an efficient progress. For example, the massive online platform Alibaba uses AI to predict products that customers may want to purchase. Secondly, Microsoft uses AI to power BI and Azure machine learning platform, while Amazon automated factories and the Amazon Alexa digital assistant.

## Agriculture



As the population increases, day by day, existing agricultural methods are not enough to provide the demands of around 7.5 billion people. Redefining farming with AI won't only enable farmers to improve efficiencies, but they will also improve the quantity and quality. The first usage of AI in predicting the appropriate timing of crops will be an excellent one. AI helps make the right decisions to sow, analyzing soil health and fertilizer situations. During the growing, AI helps to detect weed plants and also use to implement chemical spraying robots. During harvesting, these machines are capable of bulk harvesting with more speed.

## Government

The impracticality of manually processing large amounts of data, such as military data or data in the government sectors, is solved by AI systems in the modern day. AI systems can process and store big data fast and safely.

A government uses AI for intelligent policy-making. A democratic government that prioritizes voting residents uses AI to educate the public about the required decisions and to get the residents' consent regarding the policies. AI connects people with the authorities.

The power of a country.

AI also helps to improve the nautical terrain charting vital to the **Department of Defense (DOD)**. AI integrates security against other E- attacking.



As shown in the diagram, AI has many applications in sectors such as Finance, Education, Transport, and Health-care.

In education, AI plays a significant role in implementing the 'smart classroom' concept so that children get ideas faster. And also, there will be E-platforms for learning on their own.

In robotics, AI plays a key role. Coding artificial brains and many other chips to make robots look like people while having the same routines as humans. Artificial intelligence is the heart of technological life.

Nilusha Revon





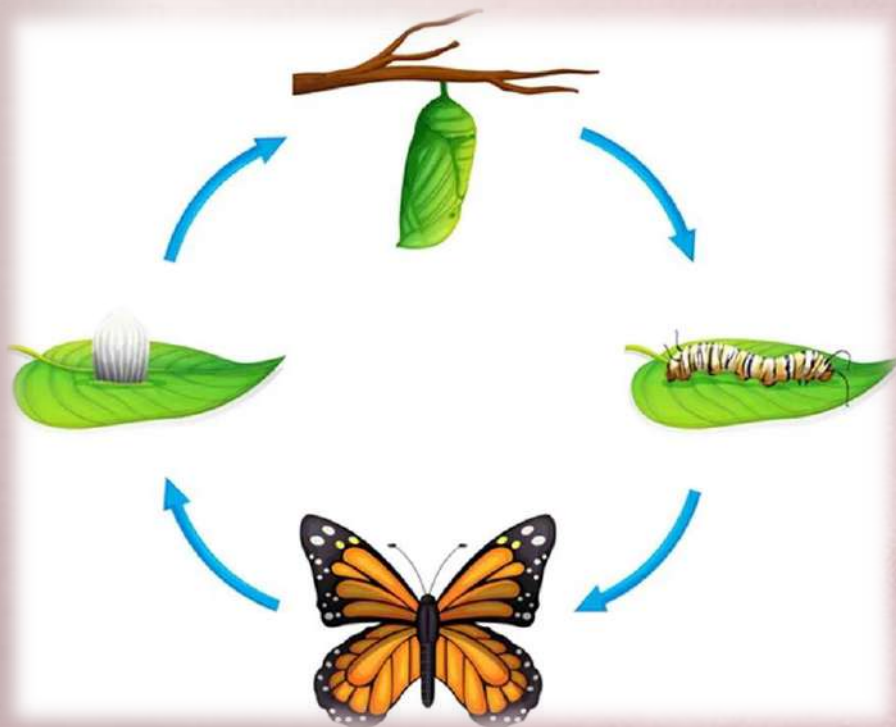



# BUTTERFLY KINGDOM

In the kingdom of Animalia, the butterfly is the most well-known insect. The butterfly is one of the most common and familiar insects to humans. There are almost 20,000 species of butterflies in the world. Butterflies are insects from the order Lepidoptera, which also include moths. They are the flying insects with large scaly wings and they have six jointed legs and three body parts: head, thorax, and the abdomen like all other insects. The wings of the butterflies are attached to the thorax and also they have a pair of antennae, compound eyes and an exoskeleton. Butterfly scientific name is Rhopalocera.



The life cycle of a butterfly can be discussed in four stages in detail. These are the egg, the larvae (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis) and the adult butterfly. The four generations are actually four different butterflies going through these four stages during one year, until it is time to start over again with stage one and generation one. The first stage of the butterfly is the egg from where a butterfly starts its life. The different types of the eggs are small, round, oval and cylindrical. The shapes of the egg depends on the type of butterfly. The larvae is the next stage. It is also named caterpillar. The main thing that caterpillar do is eat. Larvae stored this food for the future and used it to get an adult. The third stage of the butterfly is the pupa. It is one of the coolest stage of butterfly life. Caterpillars stop eating after being grow. Then it's transformed into a pupa. The fourth stage is the butterfly known as an adult butterfly. It is the final stage of the butterfly life cycle.





There are about 17,500 species of butterflies in the world, and around 750 species in the United States..

### **Giant Blue Morph**

Virtually every list of colourful butterflies includes some variant of the blue morph. They are one of the most spectacularly coloured butterfly species. You might be surprised to see that the undersides of their wings are a dull brown colour with eye-like markings.

### **Queen Alexandra's Birdwing**

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, the largest butterfly in the world with a wingspan of 30cm at least 10 times the size of common butterflies was discovered in Papua New Guinea in 1906. More than a century later, one of the world's rarest species has become the most endangered.







Sri Lanka is home to 245 species of butterflies with 23 of these being endemic to the island.

### The Sri Lanka Birdwing

The Sri Lanka Birdwing is Sri Lanka's national butterfly and the largest endemic butterfly, is found in large numbers in the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, while a majority of endemic butterfly species are found in the wet zone forests.

Wing colours in butterflies appear in two types, pigment and structural, frequently combined in one individual. Pigment colours are familiar in paints, dyes, and inks, and are defined as specific substances with definite chemical composition. Structural colours are instead produced in a physical manner, similar to a rainbow. Morph butterflies are the usual example of butterflies with structural colour.

Vision. The vision of butterflies appears to be excellent, especially within short distances. They are able to fly with precision in areas of many obstacles.



*People! don't think I'm your  
hater.....*

*I'm a butterfly called Simon  
I'd like to fly through the horizon  
Cause it doesn't need a license  
So be silent and listen to the Simon*

*I'm a freelancer making flowers  
Because people want to be lovers  
Flowers give us powers  
So don't scratch the flowers*

*I'm so young and live no longer  
People live longer but they aren't  
stronger*

*I'm always free and sing like Bieber  
People! don't think I'm your hater*

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# Chasing Dreams: *through the eyes of a 22 years old girl*

Let me begin like this. I'm a 22 years old ambitious, rebellious, strong-willed girl whose head and mind are packed with tons and tons of dreams that I want to accomplish in my still-writing life. This life is precious and of course very short. You won't get plenty of chances to wander here and there. So why spend that precious yet short life in a meaningless, worthless way?



Set a list of dreams you want to achieve in your life. Take one at a time. Work hard until you succeed and move to the next on your list. It doesn't mean you have to work hard like crazy until you are fed up with it. It is up to you to decide what is best for you and how you are going to go with it.

Some might want to make their life fast-forward, while others prefer to make it slowly. What is important is that you don't lose your direction. And of course, don't forget to enjoy your life and what you do. The more you lose your passion, the more likely you will eventually lose your direction. You must indeed lead a simple and happy life. But what I strongly believe is, one should have dreams in life, otherwise life becomes meaningless and frustrating. Chasing dreams and achieving them gives another level of happiness. The road is of course not easy yet the rewards are well worth it. Neither a monotonous life nor an ordinary life will satisfy me. So, I do believe in miracles. People might say that if you are born in the gutter then you belong to the gutter. Show them it is wrong. Show them what important is, not the social class you are born in but the social status you are going to own one day. Never dream for less, dream big and make the impossible possible. Yes, I will extra spice up this life with lots of different flavors.



**"Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live"**

**--Norman Cousins--**

**--Oshani Navodya--**





Photographs by  
*Aloka Madhurabashini*

of Youth...




Voice of Youth



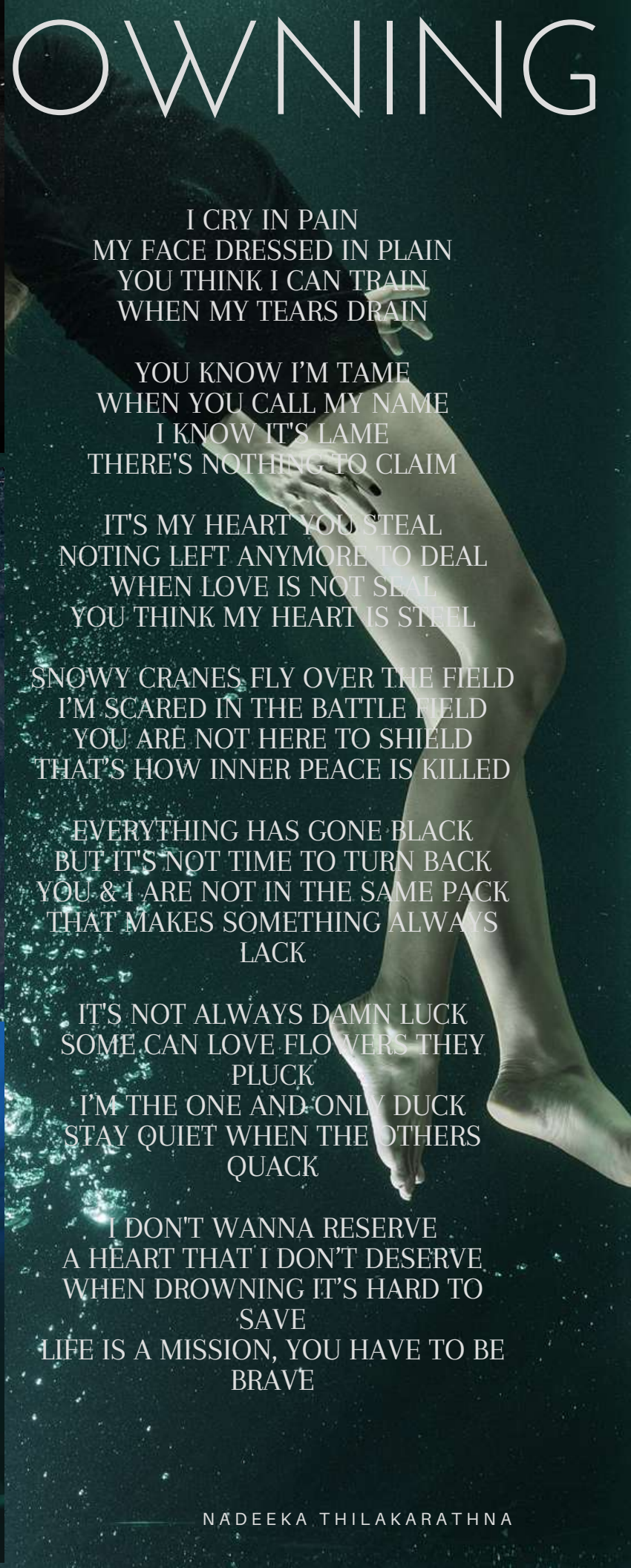




# DROWNING




I CRY IN PAIN  
MY FACE DRESSED IN PLAIN  
YOU THINK I CAN TRAIN  
WHEN MY TEARS DRAIN



YOU KNOW I'M TAME  
WHEN YOU CALL MY NAME  
I KNOW IT'S LAME  
THERE'S NOTHING TO CLAIM

IT'S MY HEART YOU STEAL  
NOTHING LEFT ANYMORE TO DEAL  
WHEN LOVE IS NOT SEAL  
YOU THINK MY HEART IS STEEL

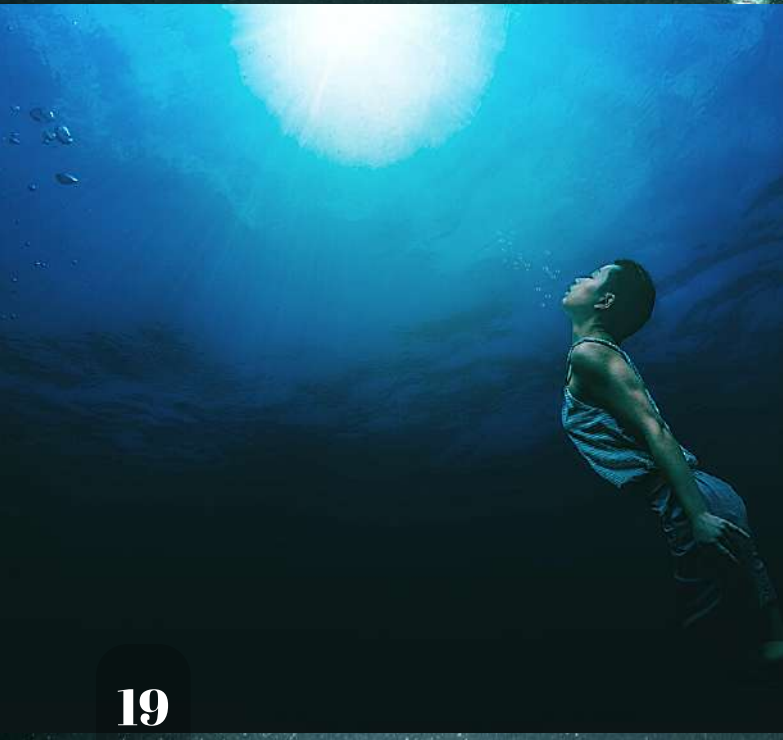


SNOWY CRANES FLY OVER THE FIELD  
I'M SCARED IN THE BATTLE FIELD  
YOU ARE NOT HERE TO SHIELD  
THAT'S HOW INNER PEACE IS KILLED

EVERYTHING HAS GONE BLACK  
BUT IT'S NOT TIME TO TURN BACK  
YOU & I ARE NOT IN THE SAME PACK  
THAT MAKES SOMETHING ALWAYS  
LACK

IT'S NOT ALWAYS DAMN LUCK  
SOME CAN LOVE FLOWERS THEY  
PLUCK

I'M THE ONE AND ONLY DUCK  
STAY QUIET WHEN THE OTHERS  
QUACK



I DON'T WANNA RESERVE  
A HEART THAT I DON'T DESERVE  
WHEN DROWNING IT'S HARD TO  
SAVE  
LIFE IS A MISSION, YOU HAVE TO BE  
BRAVE





*Photograph by* **Aloka Madhurabashini**



Art by  
**Dewmini Senarathna**



# EIGHT

"Seven" I whispered with harshness.

"Enough!!" my muscles screamed with agony as the steel bar I was tugging at reached my chest. It was one of those workout machines. There was a pulley hanging right over my head. A cable was running through it, one hung in front of me and the other hung over my head with a bar attached to it. I had to pull that bar down five more times before I could rest. "I'm going to die", I thought, as I slowly let the bar go up for the eighth pull-down. The weights on the end lowered in front of me, giving me a tease,

"you can't lift us again, child".

I began pulling it down. The damn weights didn't move. I tugged the bar. My face contorted and eyes closed as I amplified my effort. The whole world was black and sweaty. A little groan escaped my mouth. The damn weights didn't move.

Suddenly, I felt a soft touch on my hands. "Easy down! you can do it", a gentle voice followed.

The weights moved up. The bar came down. Surprised, I opened my eyes to find a man gently laying his fingers on

my hands while speaking to me in the language of encouragement.

He definitely was not pushing it down, he only laid his fingers on mine. I was pulling down the weights with my own force. A force that man coerced out of me by picking the right set of words.

"Eight", I breathed out as the bar finally reached my chest. The damn weights moved, but only by the force of words.

by Ammar Faleel





# FIGHT AGAINST THE DYING OF THE LIGHT

**R**age against the dying of the light  
Even if you know well that the sun will set  
Do not let it go down without a fight  
Fight, fight till the dark closes shut.

Rage against the dying of the light  
Set ablaze yourself for the fight.

Perhaps when it's dark and night,  
You will see around you a light.  
By a flame, the fires in its height  
Set ablaze by the fighter's fight.

So, Rage and Fight against the dying of the light  
Even if you know well that the sun will set.

by Ammar Faleel





# *Freedom isn't granted* .....Anymore

War has begun, war for peace  
Still only I can see the poor ones,

" Isn't it your country? "  
Asking from living in upstate,  
Do not weep in home  
Shake hands with us.

" Put that down ", someone short screamed  
to tall, who is aiming rocks towards police

" We are protestors ..... not terrorists "

Yet,  
Freedom isn't granted.....

Those triggers witness struggle  
among uniform and humanity  
firing bristle guns  
Praying never injure anyone

All I hear is cheering  
No, wait! It isn't cheering but something else,  
Mourning of injured  
by bullets  
Freedom isn't granted.....

Glimpsing the headlines,  
At least single corpse records each day,  
Still can't pack-up  
take a pause.....sighs.....head forward  
War for peace  
Freedom isn't granted.....Anymore





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Voice of Youth...





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Voice of Youth...

*Carl L. Drake*



Art by Omantha Dlssanayake





Art by Omantha Dissanayake

24 January, 2000

# *note..*

*From the day I was born...*

There was a shadow  
Which... taught me, fed me,  
Protected me, guided me...

Acceptance, tolerance...  
Bravery, compassion...  
Sympathy, Empathy...  
Iron lady taught me a lot!

She owned the highest salaried job  
Being in a fulltime motherhood  
Pure love is her payment  
Nothing accepted in return

No flower is as sweet as her smile!  
No velvet is as soft as her lap!  
No prayer is as powerful as her words!  
No magic is as marvelous as her world!

I love you mom to the moon and back,  
You are my premier role model...

*My first and forever best friend.*

-Upeksha Senarath





# G O I N G O U T .



The sky is beautiful if the stars are shining  
A poem is also nice if the lyrics are  
matching  
My heart will love if you come back  
You were with me the day before  
You went today with loving quietness  
My heart burning always  
Only the memory is sweet in the end  
Fate has crossed to create new dreams  
▪ Loved you as much as my life  
I was shocked when I saw your closed eyes  
I cried uncontrollable for my love  
On the first day I saw you  
A loving feeling bloomed in my heart  
The flower blossomed and fell on the floor  
How did you leave me alone?  
Death was thought to be certain to the  
war  
Disappointed to see everything that I lost  
Finally my mind turned on the monastic  
life...

Theja Dulanjalee (s/20/045)

Thilini Jayasuriya (s/20/399)

# Guilt-ridden

"Tick... click, click... tick, tick, tick... click..."

A set of fingers were dancing on an old keyboard, rather non-rhythmically, at an unusual speed. The owner of these busy fingers, however, seemed like a pro-gamer nearing the victory. With tired, yet bright excited eyes and a tiny victorious smile, he was staring back and forth the computer screen and his handwritten report, almost like a hungry predator.

He went to the front table to grab his coffee, and after gulping it down within seconds, he started to reach the door handle. It was then he noticed that his vision has started to blur in an unusual way, confusing and panicking him. Slowly, he started to grab something to hold himself steady, but nothing was there within his hands' length. He felt poor, like a lost child; nothing known to be seen, nobody known around to call for. It was almost like as if someone is crushing him forcefully from every direction, inside out, making him vulnerable. Then, with a final powerful force



"Sir, your coffee is here!" A quiet female voice echoed through the door, after a loud knock.

"Ah, please put it on the front table." The busy man replied, not taking his eyes off the computer.

"Sure, sir!" The servant girl replied, and the request was fulfilled. After her departure, the atmosphere returned to 'normal'.

"Ah, the files!" The man jumped up from the seat, with the sudden recall of his research evidence documents at the laboratory, few rooms away. "I should've brought them here earlier."

that jump started from his inner veins, he started to feel unbalanced and knocked off.

"Never thought it would be this easy." A familiar female voice rang through his ears, when he started to feel conscious. After some blinking, he noticed that he was still on the office floor, near the door, numb and unable to move. A few feet away, on his armchair, the owner of the female voice was sitting triumphantly, chuckling to herself.

"Wha..What do you need?" He muttered, trying to get up from the floor, unsuccessfully.

"The truth!" She said, throwing a small bottle up and catching it. "It's useless, Tom! The poison is more powerful than you think."



You've only got twenty four hours, without this antidote."

The rage started to boil him more than the poison within him, but it could not overpower his numbness.

Even so, he tried to get up, but failed again, for the greatest pleasure of Anne.

"I've told you everything!" Tom mumbled in pain. "And that's THE TRUTH!"

"Nah! I need it with more details." Anne replied. "And what will make you spit it out, this?"

She got up, went near the fireplace and to Tom's greatest horror, started waving his research evidence documents over the fireplace. "You didn't have time to save it in the computer, right? Oh! Poor fellow..."

She pouted and laughed.

Tears started to fill in Tom's eyes, as he felt like his entire future is going to blow away in that fireplace,

anytime soon. The destiny of the effort, passion and commitment of two long, exhausting years was in her hands, and it made him miserable to the brim. He sighed.

"Your expressions speak more than words."

Anne said with a mild pity, fully understanding her former lover's mind.

"Give me the antidote." Tom said, returning the same sentiments. "I know you can't kill me."

"Not physically, but mentally." Anne said, throwing the bottle at him. "Remember that your future is in my hands, so be careful to not to lie."

The bottle of antidote flew over at Tom, and before he could get his hands on it, the little thing shattered just inches from his fingertips, letting him feel the heat of the fluid that seeped out. To his surprise, his nose sensed the smell of coffee coming out of it.

"Are you okay, Sir?" screamed the servant girl who came running inside the room after hearing the sound of the shattered coffee mug. Tom blinked his eyes, and saw himself lying beside the front table, near the ruins of the freshly prepared coffee and the mug. He was sweating profusely, and shivering uncontrollably,

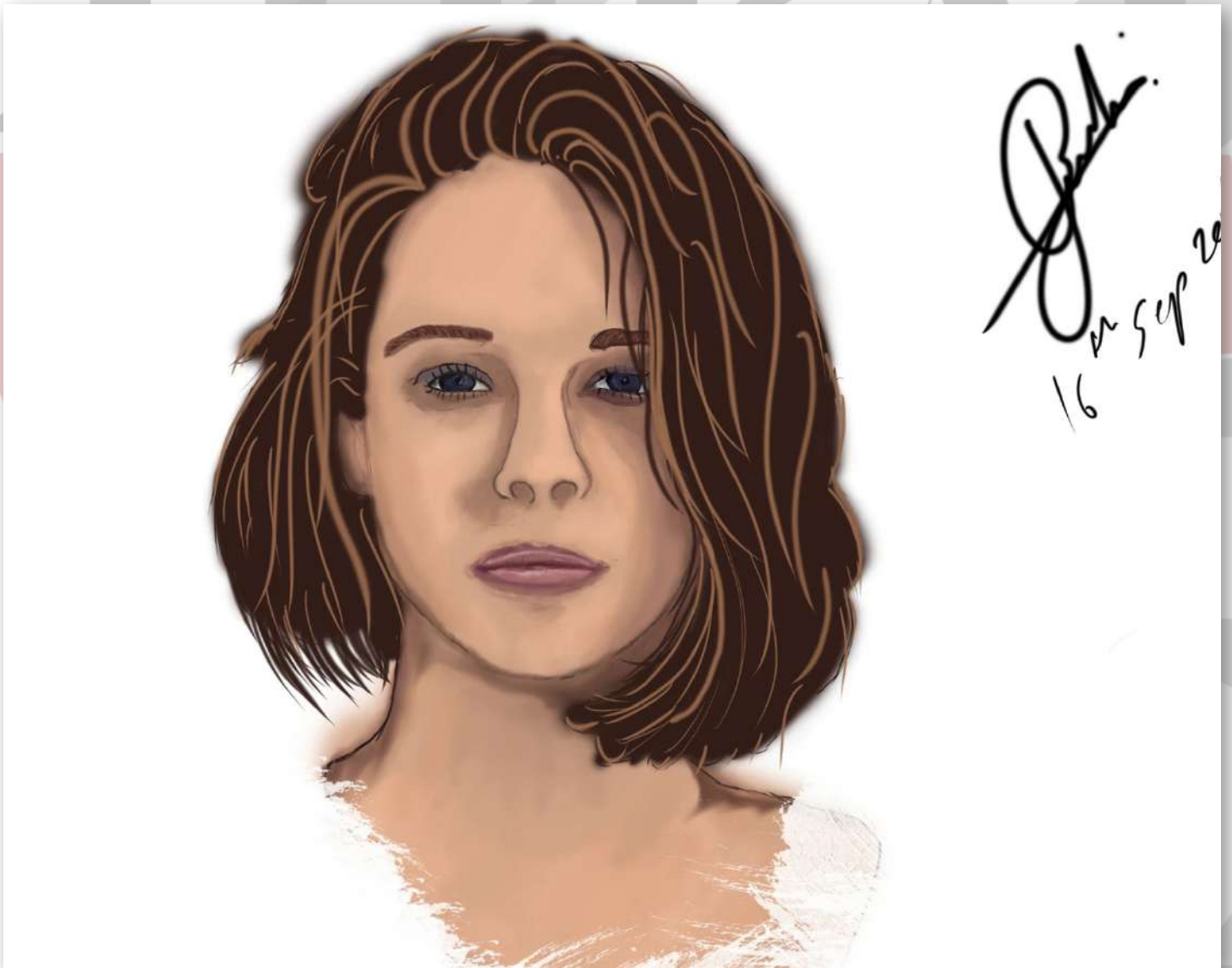
yet somehow managed to climb onto the nearby sofa.

"Please clean this!" he mumbled to the stunned servant girl, and helped himself to some medicine to calm his nerves. Things had been like that for some years, ever since he started busying himself with work to forget his painful separation from his beloved Anne. He had been feeling guilty for his inattentiveness towards her during the early stages of their relationship due to his career as a researcher, and her life was taken away in a car crash when she was coming to meet him to clear the misunderstanding of two-timing.

Shaking his head so as to shoo away his heavy mind, he carefully arranged Anne's photograph on his table, while cursing his colleague for taking him out to watch a horror movie last night.

Ahinsa Wanninayake





Art by Omantha Dlssanayake



# *I'm Not Alone!!!*

*Guardian angel, I don't believe in those  
But I had her with me along.  
When I drowned, she became the waves  
Cuddled my soul and brought me up.*

*When my wings withered, she turned the wind  
Through thunderstorms she guided me to heaven.  
When others say I'm extra, she said they are basic.  
When no one took my side, she held my hand tight.*

*She knew my tears, said they were pearls of struggles  
She knew who I am and loved the way I am.  
She was my shadow, through every thick and thin.*

*Together in the battle I fought,  
Thousands of voices said I failed, but  
She said "you did great"*

*Looking at her eyes I smiled.  
"Thank you and I love you" I murmured.  
Through the mirror she glared  
I could hear her voice in my heart,  
Asking, "what took you so long to realize that?"*

*Chathuri Wijebahu  
S/20/188*





# WEBB

## SPACE TELESCOPE

*The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a space telescope designed primarily to conduct infrared astronomy. Infrared astronomy is a sub-area that specializes in the observation and analysis of astronomical objects using infrared radiation (IR). It is the largest optical telescope in space. The greatly improved infrared resolution and sensitivity of it allow it to view too old and distant objects. As a result, it can gather information on the earliest stages of the universe, star formation, and whether planets beyond our solar system are habitable.*





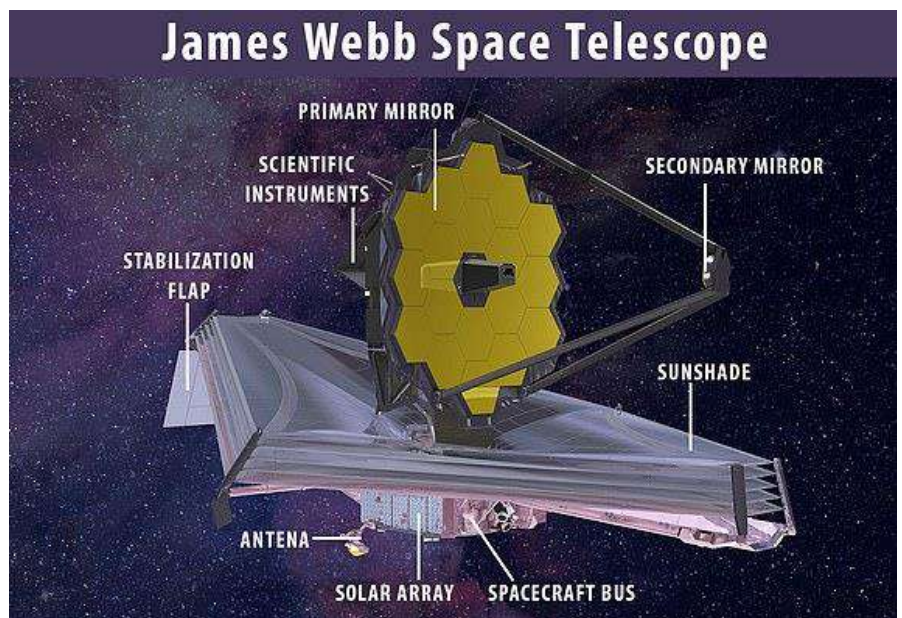
NASA led JWSTs' development in collaboration with European and Canadian space agencies. The telescope is named after James Webb who was the administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968 during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programmer. JWST was launched in December 2021 on an Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana, and arrived at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange Point in January 2022. The telescope's nominal mission time is 5 years, with a goal of 10 years. In 1990, NASA launched the Hubble Space Telescope which gave scientists a window into deep space. The JWST launch seeks to succeed the Hubble, showing a different side of space. As was done for Hubble, a crewed mission to repair or upgrade JWST in space would not currently be possible.

the Webs' cameras and science instruments whereas the spacecraft bus contains most of the spacecraft steering.

- **Primary mirror:** *Capture infrared light.*
- **Secondary mirror:** *Reflects gathered light from the primary mirror into the science instruments.*
- **Multilayer sunshield:** *Shield the Observatory from the light and the heat of the sun and earth. Separates the Observatory into a warm sun-facing side and a cold anti-sun side.*
- **Earth facing antenna:** *Sends science data back to the earth and receives commands from NASA.*
- **Spacecraft bus:** *Provides the support functions for the operation of the Observatory.*
- **Star trackers:** *Use star patterns to target observatory.*
- **Solar power array:** *Convert sunlight into electricity to power the observatory.*
- **Trim flap:** *Helps stabilize the satellite.*

### *Main Components Of JWST*

JWST has a mass that is about half of Hubble Space Telescopes' mass. JWST's primary mirror consists of 18 hexagonal mirror segments made of gold-plated beryllium which creates a 6.5-meter diameter mirror and this is covered by a thin layer of glass. The science instrument module (ISIM) houses all of

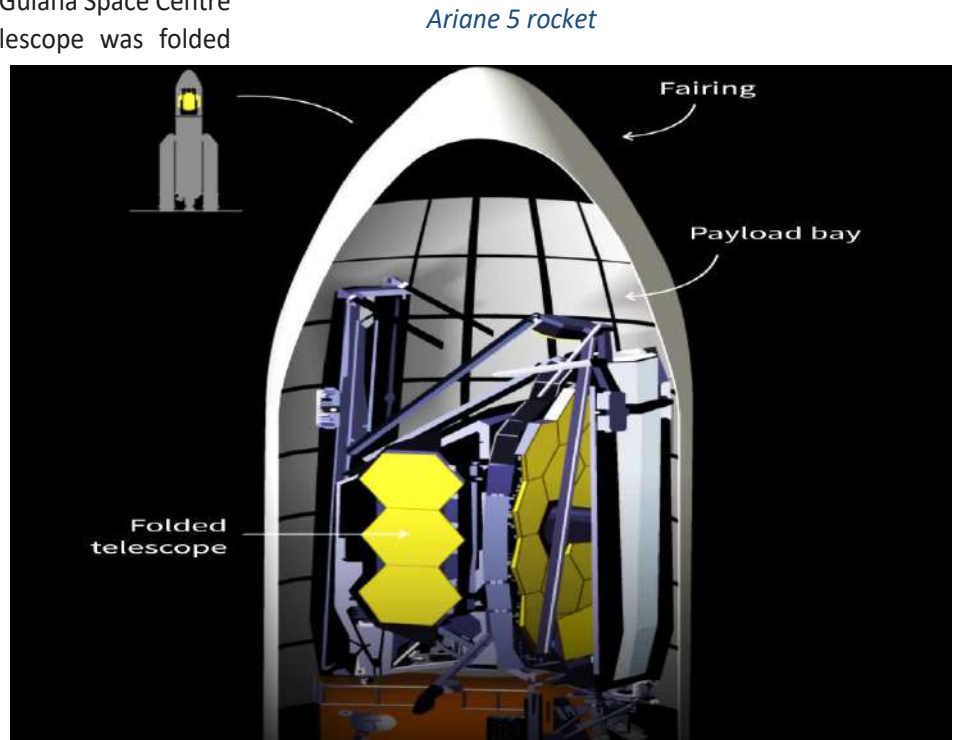


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### *The Launch Of JWST*

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The launch took place as scheduled at 12.20 UTC on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 on an Ariane 5 rocket that lifted off from Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana. The telescope was folded tightly inside the payload bay of the Ariane 5 rocket. Once it was separated from the launch vehicle, it began its' journey toward the orbit point. After being released from the rocket, Webb gradually unfurled as it travels to its destination beyond the moon, executing one of the most complex deployment sequences ever attempted.



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### *How JWST Functions*

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Webb's primary mirror intercepts red and infrared light traveling through space and reflects it onto a smaller secondary mirror. The secondary mirror then directs the light into the scientific instruments where it is recorded. Since the telescope will be observing very faint infrared signals, it is needed to be a shield from any bright or hot sources such as the sun.

There is a huge temperature difference between the hot and the cold sides of the telescope, separated by a sun shield.



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## Mission Goals

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**The James Webb Space Telescope has four key goals**

- **Search for light from the first stars and galaxies that formed in the universe after the Big Bang.**

*Webb will be a powerful time machine with infrared vision that will peer back over 13.5 billion years to see the stars and galaxies forming out of the darkness of the early universe. After the Big bang, it took time before started forming the first source of light, ending the cosmic dark ages. Exactly what the universe's first light looked like and when these first stars formed is not known yet. Webb was designed to help us to answer.*

- **Study galaxy formation and evolution.**

*Galaxies show how the matter in the universe is organized on large scales. To understand the nature and history of the universe, scientists' study how matter is organized and how that organization has changed throughout cosmic time. JWST's unprecedented infrared sensitivity will help astronomers to compare the faintest, earliest galaxies to today's grand spirals and ellipticals helping us to understand how galaxies assemble over the years.*

- **Study star formation and planet formation.**

*There are stars that the Hubble can't see inside those pillars of dust. That is because the visible light emitted by those stars is obscured by dust. Webb's' infrared radiation will allow us to study stars as they are forming in their dusty cocoons. It will be able to image disks of heated material around these young stars, which can indicate the beginning of planetary systems.*

- **Study exoplanets (hypothetical type of planets that has liquid water and may support life) and the origin of life.**

*Webb will tell us more about the atmospheres of exoplanets, and perhaps even find the building blocks of life in the universe. In addition to other planetary systems, Webb will also study objects within our Solar System.*

*First full-color images of JWST were released on July 12, 2022, from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center*



*The edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region*

*Stephan's Quintets  
largest image to date*



*This combined image of the Carina Nebula reveals previously invisible areas of star birth*

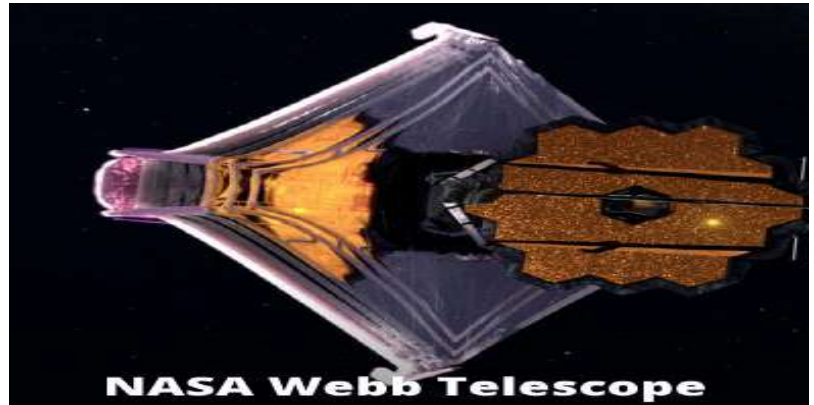


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### *James Webb vs Hubble telescope*

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Webb is the scientific successor to Hubble. Its scientific goals were motivated by results from Hubble. Hubble's science pushed us to look to longer wavelengths to 'go beyond what Hubble has already done. In particular, more distant objects are more highly red shifted and their light is pushed from the UV thus making observation of these distant objects requires an infrared telescope which is the James Webb.



- ❖ *Webb will primarily look at the Universe in the infrared while Hubble studies it primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths.*
- ❖ *Webb has a much bigger mirror than Hubble.*
- ❖ *With the larger light collecting area, Webb can peer farther back into time than Hubble.*
- ❖ *Hubble is in a very close orbit around the earth, while Webb will be 1.5 million kilometers away at the second Lagrange (L2) point.*
- ❖ *Webb is not serviceable and astronauts would not be able to perform tasks such as swapping instruments, as with the Hubble.*



--Oshani Navodya--

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# *Lesson from a Rose*

Oh! Dear flower,  
please don't fall off  
I said to the beauty  
looking sad and old.  
I've watched you since  
you were a bud.  
You grew up filling  
my heart with love.

Dearest child,  
answered the rose,  
it's time I go  
for it's nature's will.  
Everything that exists  
must undergo change  
for 'change' is what  
that doesn't change!

Janani Uththara Ranasinghe  
Batch 20



# Me and Who?

Ice creams on rainy days, and forehead kisses under blue sky  
The Morning breeze, a sunset at the sea and a midnight drive  
Small jives on the way, laughter so loud cause we ain't shy  
Not much in common, you're coffee I'm tea, yet here we thrive

Born to break the rules, let's do the things we shouldn't do  
If it isn't your day, week, month or year, I'll be there for you  
Roses are red, violets are blue but tulips are beautiful too  
So much in my head, yet no one to tell cause still it's  
‘me and who?’

~ Chamudi De Silva ~



# MY FEELINGS...

WHILE SITTING IN FRONT OF  
YOU...

I FORGET MYSELF,  
THE THOUGHT THAT I HAVE  
NO  
ONE

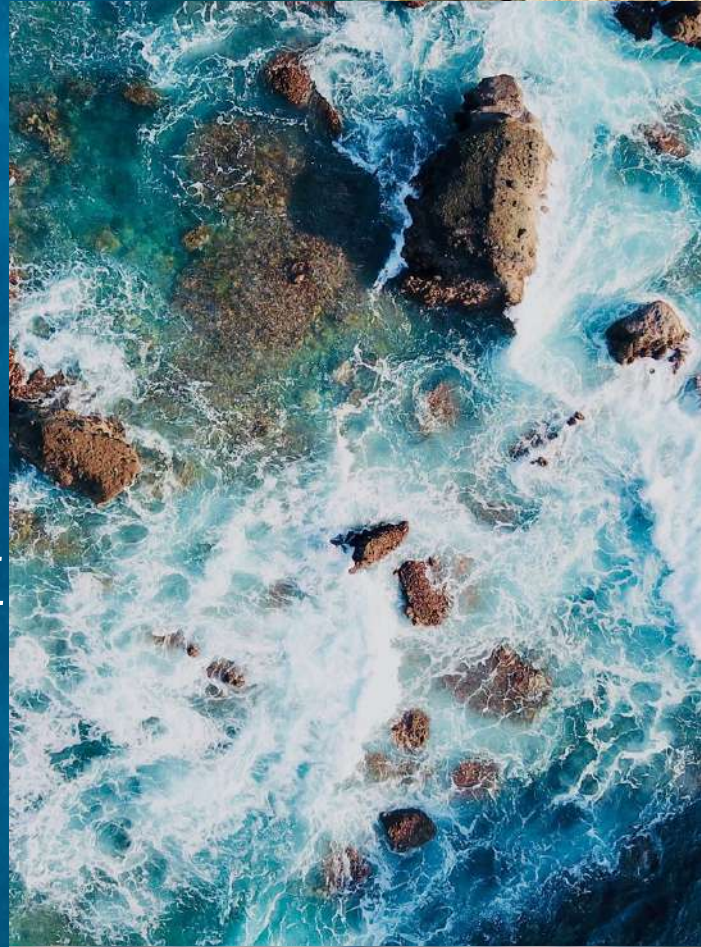
FLIES AWAY AND  
THE THOUGHT THAT YOU ARE  
WITH ME ARISES,  
WHY IS THAT?

IT IS THE COOLNESS YOU  
GIVE

TO THE EYES  
WITH YOUR BEAUTY,  
THE WARMTH THAT YOU GIVE  
ME

WITH YOUR BREEZE.  
YOU ARE THE  
LIFELESS  
WHO GIVES COMFORT  
TO MY LIFE.

*M.W.F.SAMEERA*







*Kanishka nuwan*

**LITERATI**  
Voice of Youth...

Photograph by Kanishko Nuwan





**LITERATI**  
Voice of Youth...

Photograph by Kanishka Nuwan

Nethrawanee

*Kanishka nuwan*





**LITERATI**  
Voice of Youth...

Photograph by Kanishka Nuwan

*Kanishka nuwan*



# PANDEMIC

## The World After Corona



Disclaimer: This is a work of fiction featuring a post-apocalyptic world. The story is purely featuring the events that came to my imagination. The story is just an alternate version of events that happened in the real world. If this hurts anyone or any group of people, then I am apologising for the inconvenience caused by this.

### Chapter 01: Glimpses of Past

“Hello guys, I’m Ramya & that’s my brother Raj” she indicates a young small boy who was searching for something in a bleak house. “I, Raj, my father & my mother lived in this house happily for a long period of time. Well not for a very long period. About 5 or 6 years. Never mind, that is not the point here. Everything changed in 3 years. In the very



beginning of the year 2020, 'COVID - 19' virus outbreak happened across the globe. Almost every nation around the globe faced drastic effects due to this outbreak.

My country Sri Lanka was also affected by it. We successfully controlled the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of Virus around May. We thought we would win. People went to work, children went to school, all the people were engaged in their daily activities without any panic. Everything changed when the Virus started to spread again due to the visit of some foreigners. This time people were careless & our government thought they could control it like the first time. But the virus outbreak gradually started to spread across the country.

This time our government struggled to impose curfew immediately. They instructed people to maintain social distance & they also implemented certain laws to control the disease. But the people were reckless. Infections started to increase gradually & deaths also rose. It was then we realised we all made a mistake. But it is too late. The infection affected all the districts of my country.

The government imposed a country wise curfew again in April 2021. But it is too late. Numerous people were affected by the infection this time. The government took all the necessary steps to identify the infected people. Several law officers, doctors & medical assistants were also infected in this process. Within a few months, the whole country turned into chaos. Deaths rose. People were forced to stay in their homes. Those who were uninfected thought they were safe. But actually, they were not.

Within a few months, their household stocks were finished. The government distributed things via vehicles. They instructed the people to stay indoors. They tried their best. But the economy started to fall. Then people started to move illegally outside to buy food & other necessary things. The government arrested the people who broke lockdown rules. But everything was corrupted when 50% of people were infected by the virus due to their movement in streets. The people with low income were not able to purchase goods secretly.

They were starving. Then, their nature changed. They started to raid the shops. They started to break into the rich people's houses & steal. They started to kill each other for food. You wonder what the government was doing in this chaos. All the laws & government system failed when people started to die in their houses from infection & starvation.



Then, people moved freely in streets & stole. Then, they started to kill. Moreover, infection started to increase. People were starting to die in the streets. Killing increased. Some people formed small gangs & started to kill other people & store the goods in their hideouts. They raided the homes & kill the weak ones. They fought with other gangs for domination.

Humanity is long gone within a year. Only the strong ones can survive in this world. On the other hand, infection also spread across the society. Several gang members were also infected during their raid. Different gang members tried to kill other gangs. Weak ones stayed in their home. They were killed when their houses were raided or when they went outside to find food. 95% of our country's population was reduced by infection & violence.

Most of the gangs disappeared. Gang members started to kill each other within their own gang for survival. They started to live solo or as 3 or 4 people in their hideout. There is no government, no laws, no electricity, no money system & also no humanity in this new world. Only the pure darkness rules here. These incidents not only happened in our country but also in all the nations of our world. The whole world returned to the dark age.



The nature of the virus also changed according to the different climatic conditions. The virus started to survive even in extreme conditions for a few days. The whole environment became unsafe to travel. But this virus never affected other animals, so the streets were filled with animals. Some domestic animals like cats & dogs changed in to wild. Survivors

have no idea how they are going to survive in this apocalyptic world.

Luckily, my house has a secret room. My father & mother filled it with food when the chaos started. They went outside once a month to collect food & things. We already had enough food for a year. But they were unsure how long this is going to last, so they also went outside to collect things. I don't know what they did there. But they always told my brother and I 'The world has changed. Here, you prey or become a prey.'

One day, they went outside & never returned. My brother and I were left alone. We hid here for months. We were lucky because raiders never found this room. We never lit candles at night because they may find our place. We slept in the dark. We carefully moved around the house & to our well to get water during daytime. We managed until now. But now our food is finished. Now, we must go outside to find food.

I may return here or may not. I am recording this to remind you how our world turned into a horrible place. I know one day everything will change & our world will become a better place. If anyone finds this tape, please keep it safe. Because to build a better future, we must study our past & learn from our mistakes. I am going. Bye bye. A report by Ramya from.... I think November or December of 2023. Sorry guys! I lost count. Bye!" She turned the recording off & removed the tape from it. She labelled it as "A report from 2023 "& put it on a table.



She took the recording camera & inserted a new tape into it. She yelled at Raj "Hurry Raj! We have to go outside & try to return here before night." Raj is holding a knife in this hand. "Why are you holding a freaking knife? We are not gonna kill anyone" said Ramya. "Just for protection" replied Raj. Ramya packed some of the remaining food in her backpack for lunch. She also took a

crowbar and told Raj "Just for Protection" in an annoying tone.

Raj smiled at her & he started to take some useful things like torch, some empty bags etc. "What the hell are you doing? We are running late" yelled Ramya. "I am coming" said Raj. "Why are you leaving your precious camera & tapes here?" Raj asked. "There's nothing to record outside. Only chaos and destruction there and I don't want to lose my precious baby in there" said Ramya by softly touching her camera. "Whatever" Raj replied in an annoying tone.

Ramya went near the door and Raj secretly packed some more things in his bag. Ramya shouted "Come here quickly." Raj approached her. Ramya & Raj held each other's hands & they opened the door. "We have a big journey ahead" said Raj. Ramya kept silent. They two started to step outside the house.



## Chapter 02: The Journey

Ramya and Raj felt their vision is blurry because they only saw the sunlight from their house window until today. Raj said, "My eyes, what the hell sis?" "Don't worry, it'll become normal after a few minutes. Just be patient" replied Ramya. After a few minutes of silence, Ramya asked, "My eyes became normal. What about yours?" "Can we just stay here. I'm scared sis" said Raj. "Don't worry. Everything is gonna be fine. Let's go" said Ramya. They both started to walk along the path.

All the places around them were full of mess. The path was filled with dried leaves, bushes, and garbage. "Where are we going?" asked Raj. "If we go to the food store around 2 km away from here, then we can find some food there. Be careful! Don't touch anything unnecessary" said Ramya. "Do you still remember the route? Why don't we go to the shops in this road?" said Raj. "Don't underestimate the memory power of your sis" said Ramya.

"Why can't we just check these buildings?" asked Raj in anger. "Because I want to avoid unnecessary risks of infection. Let's check that damn food store. If we don't find anything there, then we can check these places." Replied Ramya. Raj saw something on the side of the road and said, "What the heck!" "What! Language Raj" said Ramya annoyingly. "Look over there sis!" said Raj and he pointed the direction to Ramya.

Ramya saw a dog eating something. "What is it eating?" said Ramya and both took few steps in that direction to get a clear view. "Is ... is it eating a dead man?" asked Raj with panic. "I think we should go. I think that man may have died due to the infection. If that dog bites us, we are dead." said Ramya and she grabbed the hand of Raj and tried to leave with him.

The dog heard the noise, and it found Ramya and Raj. It started to bark and move towards them. Ramya saw the dog and said "Run! run to that building and get to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor using the steps" Both of them started to run towards the building and dog started



to bark and chase them. Ramya and Raj managed to get to the building before the dog catches them and they started to climb the steps.

Both reached the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Raj said "Oh my god! It's coming. Hurry! Do something" Ramya found some chairs in the corner of the floor. She took the chair and told to Raj "Hurry you idiot! Take another one." Raj also took another chair. Both threw chairs at the dog which is climbing the steps. The chairs hit the dog and the dog was injured and it collapsed on the side of the stairs with low moaning. "Crap I think we killed it" said Raj. "No, it's just injured. Let's get the hell out of here" said Ramya.

Both started to walk towards the food store. After an hour, they reached the food store. "Finally," said Raj with lousy breath. They saw the door is partially open. Ramya put gloves in the hand and said, "Let's go, just follow me and don't you dare to do anything stupid." Ramya opened the door with excitement, and she turned on the torchlight and pointed it there.



Ramya stayed silent due to shock. "What the hell are you doing sis?" said Raj and he approached Ramya and looked inside. The food store looked messy. They also saw the goods in the food city are gone. Moreover, they saw blood on the floor and wall. They saw some rotten corpses as well. "Oh my god! what an idiot I am. I should have guessed this." Said Ramya and she put her hands on her head and turned away. Raj stood still due to the terror he saw in the food store.

"We should go" said Ramya and she grabbed the hand of Raj and started to walk away. "What are we gonna do now?" asked Raj with a scared face. "Let's check out some small shops. I hope we'll find something" said Ramya with a sad face. Both started to check out the buildings near them. Luckily, they found some bottles of water, packets of biscuits and food there. Then, they went into a small building.

Ramya opened the door and said, "Looks like we are not going to find anything useful here" and she turned back. "Hey sis, did you hear something?" asked Raj. Ramya heard a little faint voice "Help... help... please" She opened the door again and she found an old man leaning in the wall. He looked like he is starving. "We should help him" said Raj and he tried to move towards him. Ramya stopped him and said "Don't go near him. He may be infected. Let's go." "But we can't let him die here with starvation. His supplies must have finished" said Raj.



Ramya held his hands and said, "That's not our problem." Raj pushed her hands from his shoulder. "Ok, fine I'll do something" said Ramya. Then, she took some food packets and bottled water and rolled them near to him. Old man took them and showed thank you by his hands. "Let's go" said Ramya. Raj asked, "How is he alive this far?" "I think someone is helping him. I'm quite sure they'll return soon to help him" replied Ramya.

Both checked out some more buildings and started to move back to their shelter. "I think this is enough for a month" said Raj happily. On their way home, Raj saw a figure in the distance. He told Ramya "Look there's someone coming this way" Ramya said "Let us hide somewhere because we can't trust anyone" Both of them turned back to run in the other direction. But they were shocked when they saw a woman standing behind them with a knife.

She took her walkie talkie and said "Honey! come straight to the drop point where you left me." Ramya and Raj tried to run away but that lady is fast. She caught Raj and held a knife in his neck. She told Ramya to kneel. Ramya knelt. "I think today is our lucky day. Your bag must be full of good stuff." Said that woman. Ramya stayed silent. "Honey! Come here quickly. Why are you taking so long to get here?" she talked to the walkie talkie.



Then, she looked at Ramya and said "What are you doing here alone kids? Don't you know this world is full of robbers like us?" and she laughed like a maniac. She continued, "Where do you live? Do you live alone? Maybe you can become servants for us because my house is a mess now. If you clean it daily, then I'll try to feed you once or twice a day." Ramya looked at her and said, "Please let us go." Then, she heard footsteps approaching them. "Well... well... What do we have here?" said a man as he walked towards them.

### Chapter 03: We don't kill people, only save them

The man came in front of Ramya. He said "Look we don't want to kill you, just give your bag & run." "Take it, please don't hurt him" said Ramya & she threw the bag to him. At the other end, Raj tried to break away from the woman. He kicked her leg, causing the woman to accidentally stab him in the stomach. "Raj!" Ramya shouted with fear. Raj fell

on the ground & moaned with pain. She dropped the knife & said “I don’t want to kill him.” in a crying voice.

That man ran towards her & held her. He said “Hey, look at me, it’s okay. We are gonna get through this together.” At the other end, Ramya took the crowbar & ran towards them. She tried to hit the man with the crowbar & that man tried to dodge it. But crowbar hit in his shoulder & he fell on the ground. Then, she inserted it through the woman’s eye & killed her. That man was shocked. He shouted “Honey!”

Then suddenly, his face turned into red. He stood up & took his axe and said “Bitch, I’m



going to cut your legs and hands while you are alive & I’m going to feed them & this dying asshole to the dogs in front of your eyes. Then, I’m going to leave you in this street to die in pain.” He swung an axe at Ramya & she tried to jump away from it.

In this process, Ramya fell on the ground & she tried to stand. But she was unable to stand because her right leg was injured while jumping away from the axe. That man came near her and lifted his axe to cut her. Suddenly, a bullet hit the wooden part of the axe & the axe fell on the ground. A young man came towards them by holding a gun and said “Easy man! no one is going to die today. Not on my Watch.”

Ramya & the man realised that this young man is an officer of law due to the way of talking & by his skills in using the gun. The man stared at him in anger & said “Hey asshole! This bitch killed my Leela. I’m going to kill her. If you meddle in my business, I will definitely kill you.” “Easy man, we can sort this out together in a nonviolent way. We can punish her for the crime. Look man, I come from a place. In there we have a jail. We can put her in the cell. But I’m not going to allow you to kill her because every life is precious.”

That man took a knife from his pocket & threw it at this young man. The young man dodged it simply. The angry man forcibly hit the leg of Ramya & said “Lay here bitch! First, I’m going to kill that asshole & then I am coming for you.” Ramya shouted in pain. The angry man took another knife from his pocket & moved towards the officer. “Come on man, we don’t have to do this” said the officer & he put his gun in the back & got ready to attack him.



The angry man swung a knife at him. He dodged it simply & he hit the angry man's hands & the knife fell on the ground. "Look man, we can solve this peacefully." said the officer. But angry man tried to hit him with his hands. Officer again dodged it & he sucker-punched the angry man. The angry man fell on the ground & his right hand hit a stone.

He moaned in pain. At the other end, Ramya crawled towards his bleeding brother. "Look man, I'm sorry" said the officer. Officer tried to help that man. But man threw the sand at the officer's eye & he moved away from the officer & took his knife lying in the ground using his left hand. The officer was unable to see clearly. He took his gun from this back & said "Look, I don't want to kill you. But if I hear your footsteps towards me, I will definitely shoot you."

"You don't have the guts to do it, boy" said the angry man. Then, he started to run towards the officer to stab him. Suddenly, he felt something hits his leg & he fell on the ground. "He doesn't have the guts, but I do" said a young woman in an army uniform & she shot him in the head. Officer cleared his eyes & looked at that woman in anger & said "What the hell, Number 21? We aren't supposed to kill people. We come here to save them." "Hey arsehole! You are supposed to thank me. If I didn't shoot him, you'd be dead by now." Replied Number 21 in anger.

## Chapter 04: A brand new person

Then about 10 people came near them & one of them asked "Maya, what happened here?" "Don't call me that. Why did the chief give us nick names? We left behind our past when we started this" said Number 21 annoyingly. "Sorry girl" said that man. "Look at me! my little brother..." Ramya cried by holding Raj in her arm. Raj said in a weak voice "I'm sorry sis! I can't be with you anymore."

"You are going to be okay. Somebody please help him" Some men moved towards them. Number 21 said "Stop! We don't know whether she's infected or not. Number 03 helped her. Because you fought with a man and he's dead, we can't check him now to know if he's infected or not. So, you are going to be quarantined for a month." "What the hell? Are you out of your mind? You killed him & I am going to be quarantined. "This is your fault" said the officer in anger. "Did you forget rule no: 2 of our group 'Don't engage in unnecessary fights.' You have amnesia" said Number 21 in an annoyed voice.

Number 03 moved towards Ramya and he looked at her with a sad face. Ramya held her brother's hands and said "Please stay with me brother" with tears. Raj smiled at her

and said “Live for me sis. You should be strong whatever happens. Live for me. You left something in our home, and I took it for you. It’s in my bag. It’s my last present to you.”

He gradually started to close his eyes. Ramya saw him with tears. Raj smiled at her one last time and his eyes were completely closed. Ramya hugged his dead brother and shouted in pain “No... No! Please come back.” Number 03 moved towards her and said, “Let him go and please come with us.” Ramya didn’t answer him. She just continued to cry while hugging her brother.

Number 03 held Ramya and said “Look, everyone here lost someone, and they keep living in pain. Your brother wanted you to live. You have to live in order to honour him. So please come with us.” Ramya looked at him and said, “I want to bury him” Number 21 said “Look, we don’t have time for this, and we don’t know whether he’s infected or not. So, get in the god damn truck with others we have found today” and she showed a big truck.

“Hey, I’ll stay here and help her. Anyway, I can’t come with you because I may be infected too. So, leave a car for me” said Number 03. “Are you out of your mind? There are numerous dead people like these. I can’t leave you alone” said Number 23. “Don’t worry. I’ll be fine because I have my baby girl.” Said Number 03, showing his shotgun.

“So, what are we going to do with the dead body of these couples?” asked Ramya. “Well, we’ll burn them.” Said one of the people from the group. “They are also humans. They also need a proper burials” said Ramya. “We don’t have enough time.” said Number 21 and she continued “We are only allowing Number 03 to help you to bury your brother because this idiot wanted to help you. Don’t expect any stupid help from us to bury them because you think they also deserve a proper burial. Hey guys bring the petrol and get on with these bodies.” Ramya looked down in silence.

Then, some men came with petrol and poured only few drops in the corpse’s clothes, they burnt those bodies, and some man dug a grave. Number 21 said “Hey girl! Move your brother to the grave we dug under that tree and give him your burial.” and she turned to Number 03 “Return before the night.” and after a pause she said “Don’t die. If you die, I will kill you in your next life.” She turned and walked towards her vehicle with a smile. Ramya saw the old man she and her brother met earlier in a container next to Number 21’s vehicle.

The old man recognised her, and he mumbled something in the ear of the young girl who’s about the age of Ramya. The girl got down from the vehicle and said something



to the person who was going to drive the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle wore the protective clothes which doctors use during surgery and had covered his full face with a mask in order to avoid infection caused by transporting newly found people to the settlement.

That girl's leg was bandaged, and the injury seemed pretty bad. Then, the girl walked slowly to Ramya and said "Hello, I'm Nisha. My grandfather said you and your brother helped him when I went outside to find food. Thank you very much for helping him." Ramya said "It's okay. But he looked like he's been starving for few days."

"Actually, I was injured in a shop while finding some goods. I was stuck in that shop until these people found me. Then, I told them about my grandfather, and they helped him too. Where's your brother? I wanna thank him as well." Ramya looked at her with a sad face and said, "He's no longer with us." Nisha said "I'm sorry for your loss. What happened to him?" "He was accidentally stabbed, and he died by bleeding" said Ramya.



"Why are you taking so much time? Come quickly!" shouted the driver of the vehicle. "Sorry, I gotta go. I hope your brother is in a better place than this damn world" said Nisha and she walked towards the vehicle. They started their vehicle, and they rode towards their home. Then, Number 03 and Ramya moved Raj to the tree. Ramya looked at her brother sadly and she put him in the grave with the help of Number 03.

Then, they covered it with soil. Number 03 gave a cross made with the two wooden planks and said, "Now a days we put it in the grave of our loved one to identify them like Christians did before all these problems." He also gave a nail to Ramya to write her brother's name in the Cross. She printed his name and she put it in his grave. She said, "Rest in peace brother." and she walked towards the vehicle with Number 23. She opened her brother's bag, and she found her camera and tapes. She looked at them with tears.

She opened the camera and put a new tape in there. She asked, "Where are we going?" "That's a surprise and you are gonna open your mouth wide when you see that place" said Number 03. "Then, why are we waiting?" said Ramya and she got into the vehicle. Then, Number 03 started the vehicle.

Ramya turned on the camera and said “Today... I lost my brother and I’m incredibly sad and broken. But he’ll live forever in my memories, and I will live long enough to see a better world through my eyes because that’s what my brother wanted. Now I’m going to a place with people. I don’t know what the place is because this one wouldn’t say it to me, and he wants it to be a surprise.” and she turned the camera towards Number 03. “Hey, take it away from my face.” Said Number 03.

She continued and said “I don’t know whether these people are good or bad. But they are better people than those on the road. They helped me and I heard that they also helped some others as well. I hope my life is going to be a new one after this. I’ll meet you as a brand-new person in my next video. Until now goodbye friends!” “Don’t you want to record the view of these places in the roadside?” asked Number 03. “I only want to show hope to the people.” said Ramya.

## Chapter 5: The place which is the light of humanity

They are traveling on the road. Both sides of the road are filled with trees, bushes & plants. All the places are abandoned. They see some dead corpses of man & animal in the road as well. Moreover, all the places are filled with bushes and plants. In a nutshell, all the places are like a damn forest. “Did you lose someone you loved before your brother?” asked Number 03. “Yes” answered Ramya in a sad tone.

“Was it your boyfriend?” asked Number 03. Ramya looked at him with an awkward look. “So, it was not your boyfriend. Who was it?” chuckled Number 03. Ramya kept silent, turned her face, and looked outside through the window. After few minutes “Oh! Come on. You are boring as hell. Just say something. Title help you to get away from the grief you are facing.” said Number 03.

“One day my mum and dad went to find food outside our shelter, and they never returned” said Ramya. “Ah! finally she talks and I’m sorry for your loss” said Number 03. “Why did you help me by breaking your rules of not engaging in an unnecessary fight?” asked Ramya. “Because you are pretty, and I won’t allow a pretty girl to die before my eyes. I thought you’d be impressed by my fighting. I’m ...” “Didn’t the others tell you that you speak too much” interrupted Ramya.

“Oh! Come on, I’m having a moment. I’m about to tell you my name and I haven’t used my name for a long time.” Said Number 03. “Telling your name to me means you are breaking another rule of your settlement and I hate a person who breaks rules” said Ramya. “Things I do for love.” said number 03 in the tone of Jaime Lannister from Game of Thrones. “You are terrible at speaking to girls.” said Ramya and she turned away and



smiled lightly. I am just messing around. Number 21 will kill me if she hears I said those things to you, so forget about the things I said earlier.

“Just close your eyes for 3 minutes. We are reaching our settlement. If you open your eyes suddenly then only, you will feel excitement.” said number 03. “I’ll close my eyes if you stop talking.” said Ramya. “Ok, princess!” said number 03 and indicated his mouth is zipped through sign language. Ramya smiled and closed her eyes. After few minutes, number 03 said “You can open your eyes now.”

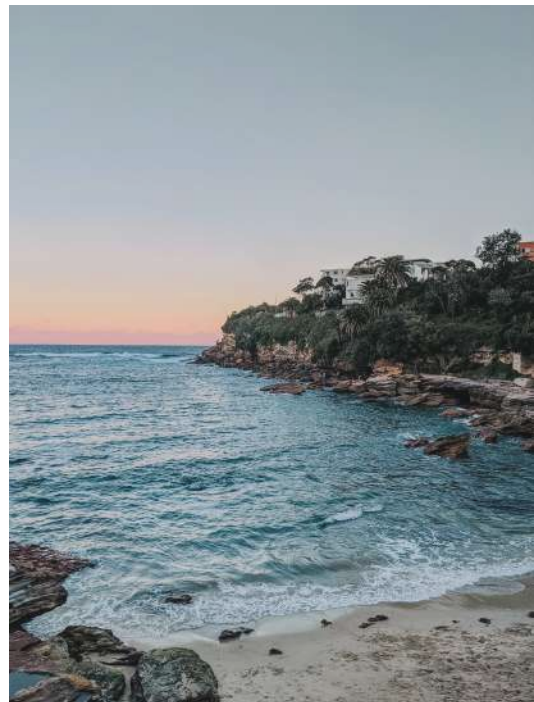
“Can you do me a favour? please pick my camera and record this.” said Ramya. “You are such a pain in my ass. Ok I will record.” said Number 03 and picked the camera. He turned on the camera and started recording. Then, he said, “Open your eyes princess!” Ramya opened her eyes and said “Holy shit! How did you turn this place into a settlement?” The place Ramya seeing through her eyes is the entrance of Dutch Fortress in Jaffna.

“Ok, I’ll stop recording” said Number 03 and gave the camera back to Ramya “You repaired this place perfectly and turned it into a settlement. How did you get water here?” asked Ramya. “Some geniuses from our settlement built a model to filter sea water from the sea.” said Number 03 and indicated the direction of the sea to her. “And you are not one of those geniuses. Am I right?” said Ramya with a smile. “You are being rude to the guy who saved you.” said Number 03.

One of the people came to the vehicle and said, “Chief ordered you to park the vehicle in the parking section of quarantine section and be there for a month with new people.” “Ok, I’ll do it.”

said number 03 sounding annoyed. The man went back to his guarding point. “Can I stand here and film this place for a minute?” asked Ramya. “Ok, you can stay and don’t walk away from here. You see a sniper in there? It will snipe at you if you try to move. I’ll park the vehicle and get you.” said Number 03.

Ramya got off the vehicle and Number 03 drove the vehicle to the park. Ramya saw the people who are talking to each other in the distance. She also saw four children playing,



some men pruning the plants, three women carrying water in pots and so many daily activities are being performed by people just like in the world before the outbreak.

Ramya was amazed and turned on her camera and said “My mother once said the world is a cruel place and people will do anything for wealth and power. I didn’t believe her. Then, our world turned into hell. People started to kill and do every cruel thing to survive. Then, I started to believe what my mother said is completely true. Humans are the worst animals in the world. But now I realise I’m wrong. If there’s darkness, then there’s also light in the world. Not all people are cruel. I’m in a settlement now” and she turned the camera and pointed it in some places in the settlement.

“I don’t know whether these people are good or bad. But they built a place for people, and they started to find the survivors and they started to help them. They found me when I lost my brother and they brought me here. They became the light that showed me the correct path when there was darkness in my life. This settlement is the symbol that states we humans are the strongest beings in the world. We won’t fall down easily when there’s trouble. We will rise from our ashes like the phoenix does.”

“Come on stop that and follow me. You can shoot the entire settlement if you want after quarantine” interrupted Number 03. “That is the idiot who saved my life. He is kind and funny... and he’s committed as well. I feel sorry for his girl who has to listen to him daily” chuckled Ramya and continued “That is all about him. So, I will meet you again in another video. I am Ramya from the place which is the light for humanity.”

She turned off the camera and walked towards number 03 and asked, “What will happen if we are infected?” Number 03 said “They’ll give us some supply and send us to streets to spend our last days.” “Don’t worry I’m hundred percent sure I am not infected. So, you won’t die now in a peaceful way.” said Ramya. “Ouch, that hurts.” said Number 03. They both talked to each other with laughter as they walked towards the quarantine camp.

N. Vithushan



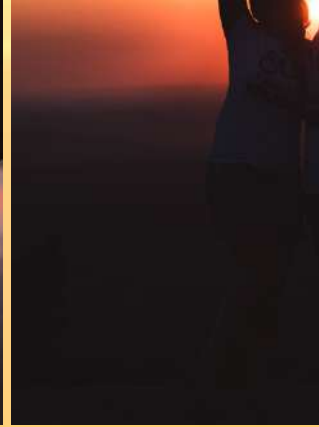


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Voice of Youth...

**PHOTOGRAPH BY:  
SAHIYA NASAR**

Photograph by Sahiya Nasar





# *Relationship Rain*

*We all come to this world  
Without knowing anyone,  
Like a small water drop,  
But...*

*Little by little,  
We make bonds...*

*Parents,  
Siblings,  
Neighbors,  
Teachers,  
Friends*

*are coming,  
We smile and  
We cry,*

*Life goes on  
Like small rain,  
Simple and light,  
So and so...*

*We meet a soulmate,  
Sometime ....  
Could experience the  
First cry of a little one,  
Now...*

*Life is heavier  
than before,  
Like a heavy rain,  
Again we smile and  
We cry,*

*Can't say,  
When it would stop,  
I stop this here,  
Think...*

*How heavy is your rain?*



*Siyumi Amarasena*





Photograph by M. W. F. Sameera

M. W. F. Sameera 

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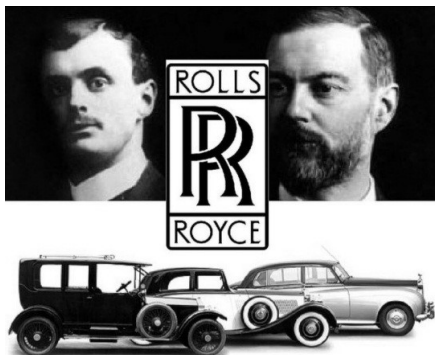




# Rolls-Royce

**R**olls-Royce is a large, expensive and comfortable motor car of very high quality which is made by a company in UK. It is sometimes simply called Rolls. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited is a British luxury automobile maker.

Charles Rolls and Henry Royce were the founders of Rolls-Royce cars. After Rolls' death, Henry Royce and Claude Johnson took the company forward. They kept introducing new car models. Rolls-Royce brand has been in use since 1906. After many years, in 1998, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited was created as a wholly owned subsidiary of BMW. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited has been manufacturing Rolls-Royce branded cars since 2003. Torsten Müller-Ötvös is the current chief executive of the company.



**Charles Rolls & Henry Royce**

A marketing survey in 1987 showed that Coca-Cola was the only more widely known brand than Rolls-Royce. The BBC called Rolls-Royce "probably one of the most recognized icons in the world" and that "the name Rolls-Royce entered the English language as a superlative". Rolls-Royce is a Bonga car and it is very special compared to other branded cars. The notable style, incredible quality and famed hood ornament make the Rolls-Royce recognizable to almost anyone. These vehicle gems are popular among the Hollywood elite and collectors.

Rolls-Royce is widely recognized as a coachbuilder of ultra-luxurious cars for ultra-wealthy folks. The quality differentiates the Rolls-Royce from other cars. It is not just the quality of the materials that are used, but of the workmanship itself. The thing about Rolls-Royce is that the cars are not produced en masse on some assembly line. They do not use computers to put everything together and then hope for the best.



The current Rolls-Royce passenger car line up comprises the Wraith coupe, Ghost sedan, Dawn convertible and Phantom sedan. Rolls-Royce phantom is available in 17 different colours such as belladonna purple, dark emerald, English white, black, grey, red, silver etc. Most of the Rolls-Royce cars have advanced features. Night vision, satellite aided transmission, privacy suit, powered footrests, starlight headliner, interior gallery, multiple refrigerator boxes and total seclusions are the coolest and advanced features found in the 2021 Rolls-Royce phantom hot cars.



Most of the Rolls-Royce branded cars are very expensive. The Rolls-Royce boat tail is a mid-sized luxury coach built by Rolls-Royce motor cars. It is the world's most expensive street legal new car which costs \$28 million. The flagship Rolls-Royce phantom starts at close to \$460,000 while the extended wheel-base model starts at roughly \$550,000. The prices depend on the kind of features and upgrades. The lowest priced Rolls-Royce car in India is Wraith priced 5 crores.

The U.S is the largest market for Rolls-Royce accounting approximately 30% of their sales., China is the second largest market. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited delivered approximately 5,586 automobiles in 2021.

*-Sahiya Nasar*







STRESS

AND

YOUNGSTERS



**S**tress means how we react when we feel under pressure or threatened. It usually happens when we are in a situation where we don't feel we can manage or control it.

There are two types of stress that can affect the youngsters. The first one is positive stress, also known as eustress. And the other one is negative stress, also known as distress. Positive stress can help one to be energized and motivated, and is also helpful for the youngsters to achieve their targets and goals within a short period of time than they expect. But negative stress leads to mental and physical problems, lack of motivation, and creates bad feelings like anger, anxiety and nervousness.

There are several factors that can increase the stress levels in youngsters. We can divide those into some categories namely, life situations, environmental factors, biological changes, thinking patterns of the youngsters, and their personal behavior. Life situations are where the youngsters may become stressed due to their family matters, bad environment at school (friends and teachers), breakups or because of their examinations. When they have to live in an unsafe neighborhood or when they have to face natural disasters or wars and terrorists' threats, these too can cause stress. Youngsters also have to deal with body-changes in the young age, they might suffer from illnesses or they may have some disability. So, these could also be reasons for stress. In addition to those reasons, youngsters' thinking patterns and personal behavior can also cause stress if they are not satisfied with their appearance, if they

have low self-esteem, or when they have to work according to a tight schedule. Or, they may have addictions like smoking, doing drugs or consuming alcohol.

Youngsters can reduce stress levels by themselves but as a society, we have a responsibility to help them get rid of stress. To achieve this, we can find the ones who are suffering from negative stress and try to listen to them and let them share their feelings with us, and help them cope with stress by making strong bonds with them,. We can also direct them to a psychiatrist as they are specialized in offering advice on how to get rid of stress. We can engage youngsters in religious activities to help them heal themselves from stress and also organize projects or programs to wean them from addictions to drugs, smoking or alcohol.

I too feel stressed when i have exams, because of the economic crisis of my country and family matters. So, in such situations, i try to heal myself by taking a deep breath, listening to calming music like the sound of waterfalls, rain, etc. Talking with my family, staying outdoors with nature, spending more time with my hobbies and taking a break from my work also helps. So, why i shared my own remedies for getting rid of stress is because i want to keep you guys far away from stress. I think all of us as youngsters have to say goodbye to stress and let's break up with it forever.

*Sajini Gunawardana*  
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# LITERATI



Art by Omantha Dissanayake

Voice of Youth...



Art by  
**Upeksha Senarath**





# THE DANGER OF PRAISE AND POSITIVE LABELS

## LISTEN TO A WITNESS!

A random guy can ask, "Hey, did you get it wrong? How can a positive label affect badly for a person? How can they gain faith in their potential without getting praised? How to convey to them that they can go for it?" Most teachers and parents argue that it is necessary to praise children's abilities to foster their confidence and achievement. You know, it makes a lot of sense. Especially to me because I was a positive-labeled and highly praised student during my A/L period. I held the 1st rank in my Applied math class on numerous occasions and some big numbers in term tests also, and that generated huge praise and a label called "Meeter-ee". But that lasted for only a small part of my A/L journey. Eventually, the story never ended happily for me. This article will describe why. To support my analysis, I've included a study done by DR. CAROL S. DWECK and her team which she stated in her book; "Mindset".

DR CAROL and her team conducted a study with hundreds of students, mostly early adolescents. They first gave each student a set of ten easy problems from a nonverbal IQ test. The students mostly did pretty well, and when they finished, the researchers praised them.

Praising was done in two ways by putting them into two groups.

### Group 1:

"Praising students for their ability" (Ability students) - They got praise like this: "Wow, you got eight right. That's a really good score. You must be smart at this". These students were made to feel like they were naturally gifted and they were in a talented position.

### Group 2:

"Praising students for their effort" (Effort students) - They got praise like this: "Wow, you got eight right. That's a really good score. You must have worked hard". They were not made to feel that they had some special gift: they were praised for doing what it takes to succeed.

Both groups were exactly equal at the beginning. But right after the praise, they began to differ. The praise received for their ability pushed students right into a fixed mindset. They rejected new tasks right after the test which they could learn from. They didn't want to do anything challenging that could expose their flaws and call into question their talent. In contrast, when students were praised for effort, 90% wanted the challenging new task they could learn from.

Then students were given some hard new problems. Overall, both groups didn't do well this time. But the thought processes of the two groups were different. The "ability students" (group 1) thought they were not smart after all due to their low marks on that difficult test. Right after this, they started to collapse mentally breakdown occurred right after this. The "effort students" (group 2) simply thought the difficulty meant "apply more effort or try new strategies". They didn't see it as a failure and they didn't think it reflected their intellect.

What about the students' enjoyment of the problems? After the success, everyone loved the problems, but after the complex problems, the "ability students" said it wasn't fun anymore. (because it can't be fun because your special talent is in jeopardy!). The effort-praised students still loved the problems, and many of them said that the hard problems were the most fun.

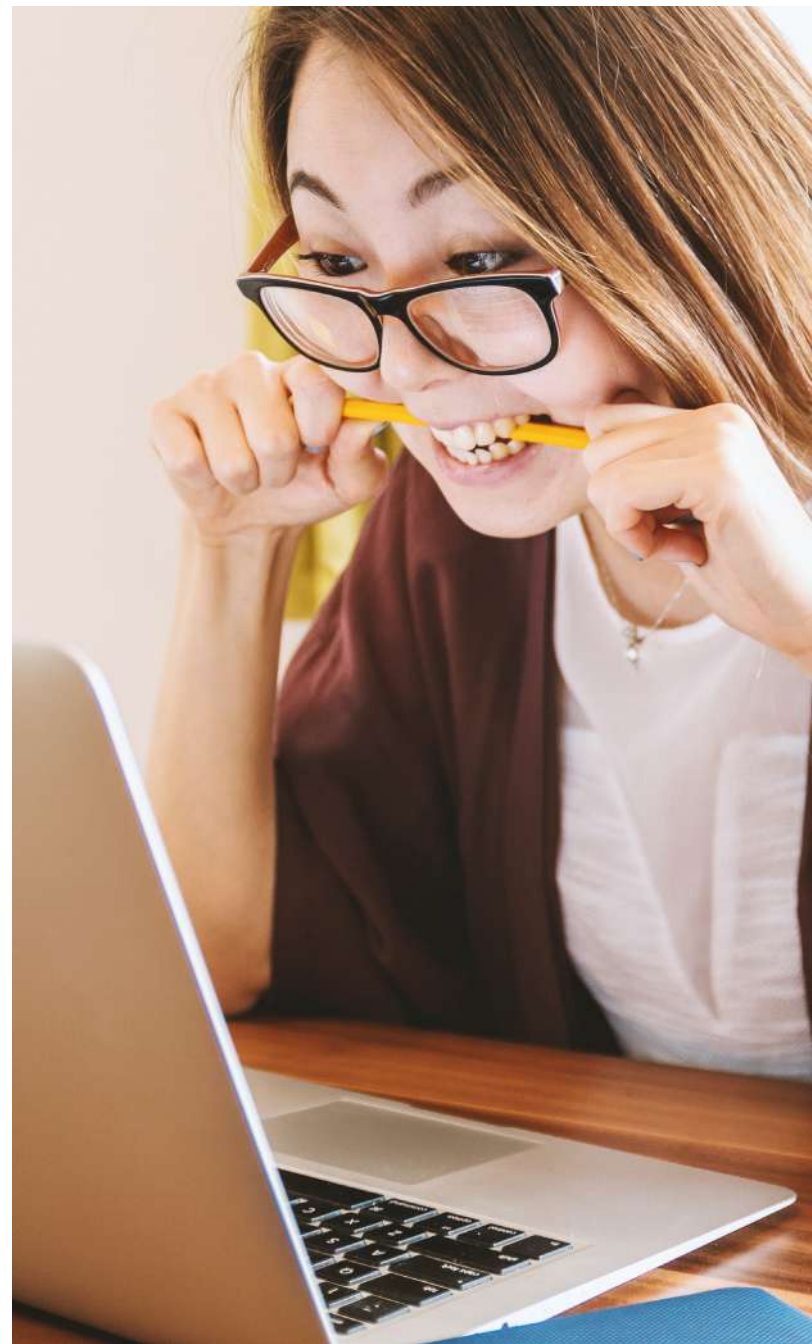
Then researchers looked at the students' performance. After the experience with difficulty, the performance of the ability-praised students dropped, even though they were unable to give a comeback when they were given easier problems after that. They had lost their faith in their ability; they were doing worse than they started. The "effort students" showed better performance. They had used the hard problems to sharpen their skills so that when they returned to the easier ones, they were way ahead. Then there was the final part of the study. According to DR CAROL, that part was more striking and depressing at the same time. Students were given a page to write out their thoughts, but also left a space for them to write the scores they had received on the problems. Below are her words after this:

***"Would you believe that almost 40% of the ability-praised students lied about their scores? And always in one direction. The conclusion was, in the fixed mindset, imperfections are shameful especially if you're talented, so they lied them away. What's so alarming is that we took ordinary children and made them into liars, simply by telling them they were smart."*** In my case, due to the praise for my ability, it's clear fact that I was pushed into a fixed mindset. Sometimes I didn't issue my answer sheet in the paper class and brought it home because I felt I didn't do well because I knew marks with names will be displayed on the notice board. So, I pretended I didn't do that test. There were a lot of things I did that I can tell I was in a fixed mindset till the end of A/L exam. Some of my friends

thought I would get an island rank because they didn't witness my hidden part. They thought I was the same "meeteree" they witnessed at the beginning. And after the results came, I faced a lot of embarrassment in front of my teachers, peers, and even my family because I couldn't describe to them the reason for my downfall. I didn't even know the reason for my downfall till I read this book! It was a miracle I passed the exam and got selected for the University of Peradeniya. Perhaps it was because of the efforts and hard work I exerted while learning before getting praised.

This is the danger of "positive labels". There are alternatives and further explanations regarding the mindset stated in the book.

*W.H. Janith Induwara*

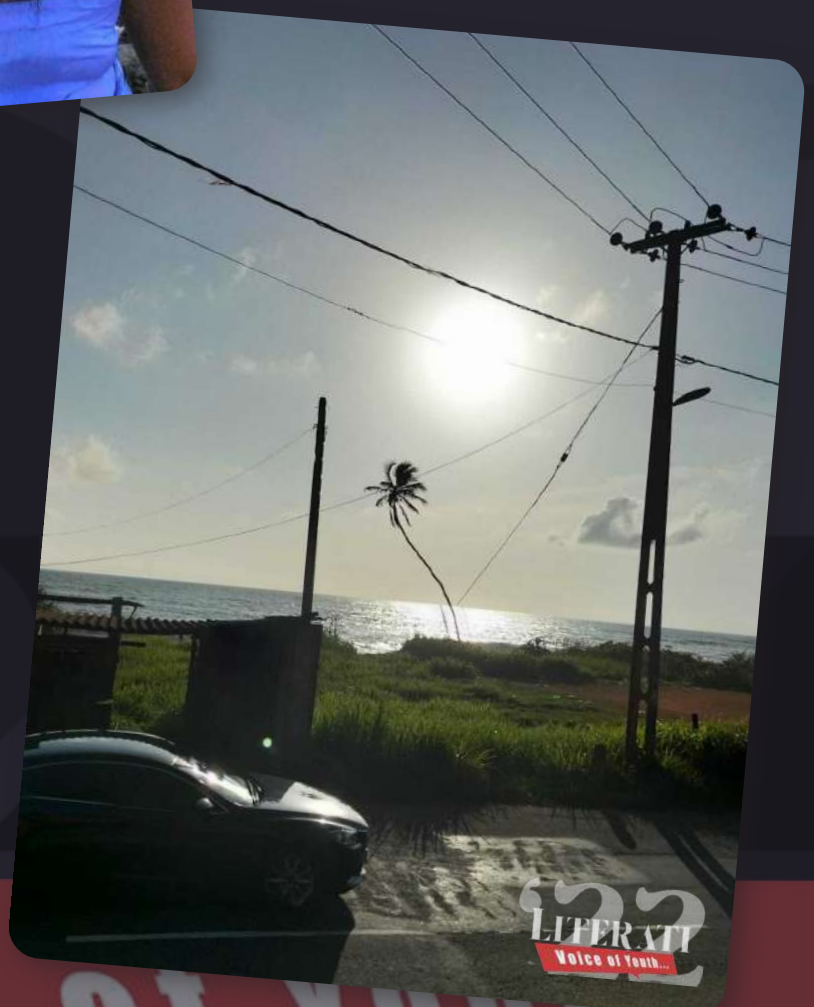






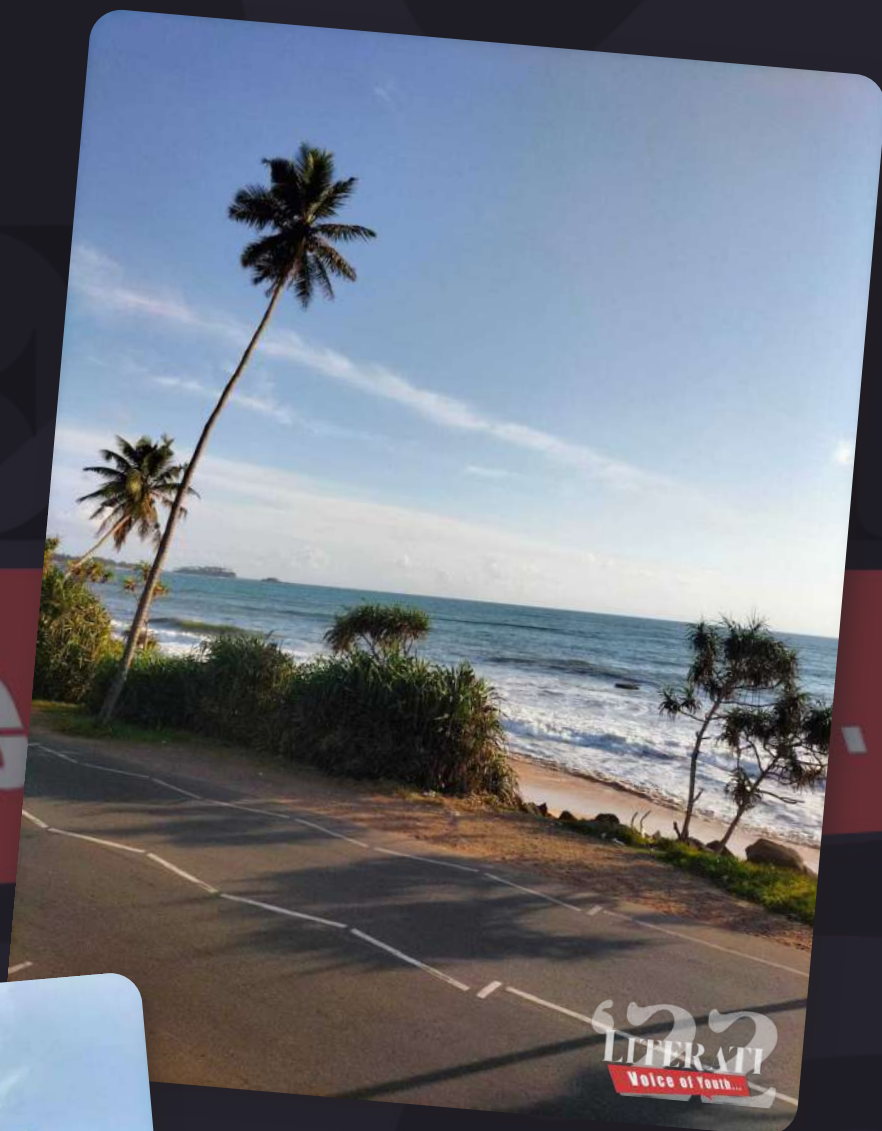
Photographs by  
**Gagani Senanayake**

f Youth...



Voice of Youth...

Voice



Voice of Youth...





# The Floating Sun

Have you ever looked a monster in the eye? I did tonight.

The darkness was encroaching when Lahiruni got onto her bus. Ignorant of how much her words would mean within 15 minutes, she said, “Take care”, with the little twinkle in her eye that we’ve grown accustomed to. Sometimes, even when people wear masks, you know they are smiling.

I and Amhar made our way to the next bus.

The crows seemed to be louder than ever. A bad omen?

No! Since when did I care about omens? I chuckled to myself.

“DANGEROUS place to be in” yelled Amhar, trying to be heard over the noise of the crows. This place WAS Dangerous, but only by the threat of a crow’s business landing on our heads. I nodded, chuckled once more and we kept walking. With each step, the darkness and the cry of the crows grew stronger.

Soon it was time to say bye to Amhar. He gave the farewell hug typical of us. It’s surprising how cosy this man’s hugs are, given how bony he is.

Now, I was all by myself. Was I scared? No.

Kandy. The clock tower stands guard over the buses that charge in and out. The titanic trees, black silhouettes carved out of the painted sky, smile down on the many pedestrians who hurried across the streets. The quietly lit roads were loud and busy with all the vehicles you can imagine, except for boats and ships. It is an artist’s collage of old architecture and new shops. Kandy. Home. I knew it all too well to be scared.

I decided to take the road that takes me through the train track.

When I approached it, I saw that the train track was strange. It was shining brightly, unusually well-lit. And it looked eerily like a staircase.

A well-lit staircase in the middle of the dark evening. "A staircase to heaven", I thought.

When I looked a little closer I realized that the light on the sleepers and their shadows made an alternating pattern. At a glance, it seemed like a staircase.

The crows were still crying loudly.

I hopped onto the track. There, to my right, was a little sun hovering over the track, but steadily approaching me. What's happening? My heart raced.

Then I heard a scream behind the little sun, like

a murderer's maniac scream before charging at the victim. The crows quietened momentarily. And then I heard the chug chug.

I realized what the scream was, the train's horn.

Less than fifty meters away from me, there was a train. It kept on its way and had no regard for the boy in its way. Like a heartless monster, it charged on. Ruthless. Relentless. Steady and Straight at me, it was charging.

What a way to end a great day I wondered as I stood transfixed on the staircase to heaven.

That monster never stops its charge. Never.

by Ammar Faleel







# The Play of the Heavens

*I told you that the clouds are doing a performance tonight!!*

*There are small packets of clouds, changing from one shape to another, moving like skilled Kandyan dancers racing across the sky as if it's Perahera on steroids. The wind and the trees play the music. The moon weaving in and out of the clouds, the lights master of the stage. The bigger clouds, slower than the dancers, are actors in the play.*

*The play of the heavens has more mystery and beauty than all the plays of the world put together.*

*by Ammar Faleel*





*Have you seen those breathtaking sights?*

*Those sceneries where there is a mosaic of mountains  
The closer ones green, turning bluer and bluer as they go further.  
Further away and above the sky stages a show seeking to steal our sights away  
from the greens.*

*And much closer to us, little boxes of buildings like flowers on a green lawn  
And the green lawn itself is an orchestra of its own - So many different flora fill-  
ing the expanse with a million shades of greens and a thousand textures of trees  
and plants.*

*All the leafy friends stood there like a platoon of dancers waiting for the music  
to pick up.*

*And when the wind does pick up*

*The best of dances play out on the stage beneath.*

*Those views, so beautiful that you just want to stay there. Views so rich that  
even when the scene is still, it seems to talk to you.*

*Views, so breathtaking that the often tiring and tedious trek that left you out of  
breath, is sure worth it and you feel like you just want to stay there.*

*And you stay there taking in the beauty of the expanse in front of you and lis-  
tening to the still scene talking to you.*

*Do you know of such other sight?*

*Yes you do because  
You are such a sight!  
that feast my eyes!*

*by Ammar Faleel*





**H**

**Heartening**

**A**

**Amusing**

**P**

**Peaceful**

**P**

**Perky**

**I**

**Impressive**

**N**

**Nifty**

**E**

**Ecstasy**

**S**

**Salutiferous**

**S**

**Shine**

**Upeksha Senarath**

*An illustration by Upeksha Senarath*

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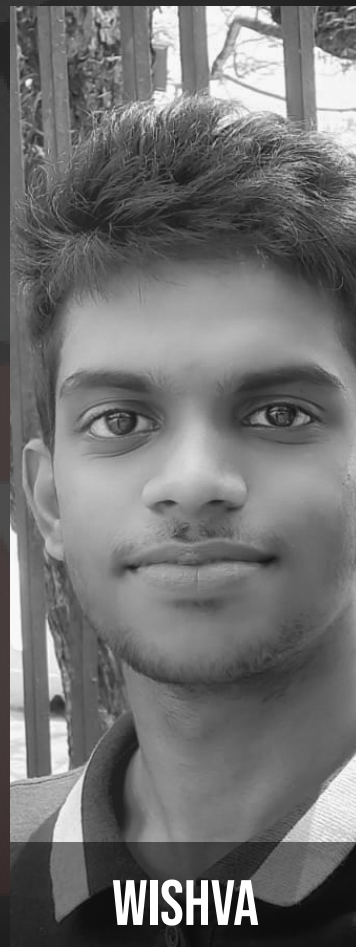


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Voice of Youth...

English Language Teaching Unit  
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Art by Omantha Dissanayake

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Faculty of Science - University of Peradeniya

