

Waves, Waves and Waves

Sivgnanam Jeyasankar

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Third Eye

The aims and objectives of the **Third Eye English Forum** and the **Third Eye Little Magazine** are to establish a creative writing tradition in English for the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

Third Eye Local Knowledge and Skill Activists Group is engaged in the initiation and establishment of self sustainable societies in order to create a world free of violence and oppressions.

We the affiliates of the Third Eye use cultural activism as means to achieve our aims and objectives and in addition we publish booklets and a magazine in Tamil 'Moondravathu Kann' (Third Eye).

Third Eye is a self supported group of affiliates.

Waves, Waves and Waves

Dedicated to:

C. Velupillai

&

T. Kirupakaran

By:

SIVAGNANAM JEYASANKAR



**THIRD EYE PUBLICATIONS
BATTICALOA - 2006**

Vice Chancellor's Message

Mr. Jeyasankar, working as a theatre artist at this institution has written this book, "Waves, Waves and Waves" to accommodate his collection of poems. It includes a historical summary of events pertaining to invisible threats to the environment and the remnants left behind in societies by the colonial masters, especially in the third world countries.

The collection of poems address the invisible threats and dangers in the society and the evolutionary change that gradually takes place in mankind. The book also addresses the issues of environmental ethics. The author asks many basic questions; what are our attitudes towards people and animals Does gender make a difference? Is nature frightening, comforting, over whelming? What is considered sacred? What is considered familiar or exotic? Are we doing the right things towards our mother nature?

It steers evenhandedly through the minefield of political debate about the current hegemony of environment and related issues and will appeal to anyone with an interest in environmental and social issues, whatever their views on the subject.

Finally I wish to quote the writings of Joseph Meeker. who correctly points out that human beings are the earth's only literary creatures.... "If the creation of literature is an important characteristic of the human species, it should be examined carefully and honestly to discover its influence upon human behavior and the natural environment - to determine what role, if any, it plays in the welfare and survival of mankind and what insight it offers into human relationships with other species and the world around us".

I congratulate the effort made by this young energetic lecturer of this university to publish this valuable collection of poems.

Professor S. Raveendranath
Vice Chancellor
Eastern University,
Sri Lanka.

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FOREWORD

Why would a person from a small island in the geopolitical periphery write in the English language?

Why would he choose to sacrifice the millions of people he can communicate to in the local language?

The simple reason is a burning desire to communicate to the rest of the world the thoughts and feelings of himself and his community. Another reason could be the detachment the second language gives from the immediacy of painful personal experience. Yet another reason is the indirectness and obliqueness to mask radical ideas and present them in harmless ways.

This book of poems narrates experiences we should all experience. We see people and soldiers caught in the ethnic conflict, aid agencies and the homeless facing the tsunami, teachers and students grappling with intellectual dependency.

The poet records voices. The rest of the world should hear voices of insight from people, deception from local media, condescension from foreign charities terror from militia and authorities.

Suresh Canagarajah

Professor, English

City University of New York.

April 30th 2006.

PREFACE

I'm Jeyasankar, I was born in Kondavil, a village in Jaffna in the Northern Province and I'm working in Batticaloa in the Eastern Province for the last ten years. I'm happy with my first collection of poems "Waves, Waves and Waves" in English.

Even though I'm not a master craftsman of "My Masters' Language" in the conventional sense, I feel happy that I'm in a position to utilize my skill in "My Masters' Language" to expose the troubles manufactured by "My Neo Masters'" to establish themselves as "Masters" forever through different ways and means.

As a person living and working as a theatre activist in an environment of disaster and destruction made by men and nature, I was forced to think loud and react quick to the dangers of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

People are normally aware of visible threats and disasters like war, cyclone and tsunami but being designed to accept willingly the invisible threats and dangers including education and games as programs of development.

As a teacher and as a theatre activist I'm more concerned about the invisible threats and dangers.

My poetry collection "Waves, Waves and Waves" is a spark among the sparks world over, in the process of exposing the invisible threats and dangers in order to create a world for all the species on Mother Earth.

Finally I'm most grateful to my montessori teacher and my lower school English teacher who made me love the most influential language, despite the dreaded ways of teaching in the classrooms, for the students from the village of this country.

Sivagnanam Jeyasankar
June 2006

It's Not a Riddle or History and Westory

*"Let them send the satellites and we will produce
nurses and develop tourism"*

- Voice of a Master's Neo Ambassador -

I'm a teacher
Of a "Higher Institution"
And teaching subjects
Not to the "simpletons"
But to the "cream"
Of our society"

The class was full
The subject was "Sri Lankan Studies"
And the medium of instruction
Wow!
In English

I am proud and very proud
To be a "genuine intellectual"
That I had mastered
My Masters' language
And teach the subjects
In my Masters' Language

The undergrads are fresh
And from all the streams
Were grouped in a mix
According to the mastery
Of the Masters' Language
Seniors, super seniors
The staff, the "nonacademic"
And even the minor employees
Call them "freshers"

One day but not accidentally
I asked the undergrads
Even though I'm an "Intellectual"
I asked the undergrads
Not an intelligent
But a normal question

Why is there not
A person of our country
Or from the "Third World Countries"
Or the blacks or brown or even yellows
Or women, except Madam Marie Curie,
Half the portion of the population
Was not in the columns
Of the inventors and inventions
Or the discoverers and discoveries
Of the science or social sciences books?

Undergrads are brave enough to respond
In the same Masters' Language
And said, said without any hesitation

"We didn't have facilities"
"They are the people for invention and discoveries"
"Let them invent and discover and we will use them"
"We are lazy people no?"
Oh its enough it's enough
My brave bunch of "the cream of the society"

Like a committed scientist
I had experimented and asked
The same old question
From the undergrads in different classes
And came out with the very same
Brave old answers of slave celebrations

-25.10.2005-

**Unlearned Lessons
or
History Repeats Itself**

In times of disaster
Nature tries to teach lessons
Again and again
To mankind
But it will not come
Under their study
Of history or defense

It will come under
The 3Rs
Relief, rehabilitate
And reconstruct

Because history is
Wars of the Brave sons
Of the mother earth

In times of disaster
Nature tries to teach lessons
Again and again
To mankind
But it will not come
Under their study
Of history or defense

It will come under
The 3Rs
Relief, rehabilitate
And reconstruct

Because defense is
Making safety measures
To defend the enemy
Who are also brave sons
Of the mother earth

-25.10.2005-

**Born to Slavery or Conquering
with Scholarships**

It's interesting to think
Or not to think
How academic exercises
Especially research programs
Are being manipulated
For manufacturing knowledge

It's interesting to think
Or not to think
How academic exercises
Especially research programs
Are being manipulated
As Academic colonization
For the strengthening of
Intellectual imperialism

Building the dominant fort
Of intellectual imperialism
On the slavery island of mental space
Or on the mental space of the civilized world
Is a simple and sweet exercise
It's a simple and sweet exercise

With money in cards
And on arrival visa at hand
Becoming the new masters
Of our lands of the civilized,
Is a simple and sweet exercise
It's a simple and sweet exercise

With money and with the mind
The exercise of appropriating
The neck tied modern illiterates
Is being called as academic programs
Of the reputed centers of the masters' world
Instead of ships of the visible colony
And it's being celebrated as scholarships

-05.10.2005-

We are the “Kings of your Nations” Your Majesty!

Why are the democratically crowned modern kings
Jumping and bumping for the flourishing of tourism?
And the tie knotting and tail wagging
Victims of modern education
Drawing and redrawing of plans
According to the demands
And orders of their Majesty
Who reins the new world order

Why do our democratically crowned modern kings
On their old Masters' attires
Roam the world and beg diplomatically?

We are not only the country of house maids
As known to your region
We are far beyond that
So many choices
So many varieties and options
But you have to browse the websites
For very special features

Children of our nation are very friendly
But we are the strong propagators of child abuse
We are totally against child recruitment for terrorism
But I would like to remind you all again
Children of our nation are very friendly
They are very nice to chat with

We the kings of your modern nations
Have visions and missions

But some dropout fools...
Nesting aged old ideas in their minds
And thinking of evolution in reverse...

With our modern education
That was stuffed into us
At your institutions
Made us think differently
And designed as liberals in every aspect
To get rid of state dominance
In each and every sphere of life

Sooner or later as in other tourists capitals
The options for tourists will expand
Beyond our people's imaginations
Young stress healers in thumbnail pictures
And alive on the sidewalks
Will help you to choose easily
To ease yourself cheaply

It's a strange mixture of varieties and options
Lust, sex and luminescent colors
War, thrill and actions
And destruction for reconstruction
Adding to that great mixture of options
Nature added its gorgeous powers
To make it as a live wonder of the world

Oh! The Great Majesty!!
We are the kings of your nations
Kings of Modern Nation Kingdoms
Grateful to thee

January 2006

The Monster's Nuclear Arms or The Unlearned Big Men

Prologue

Got the boon to raze the world
I'm the king of kings unrivalled
Is there anyone to challenge me?
(No, no, no... Never)
I'm the leader blessed ever to be.
(Yes, yes, yes.....)*

The celebrated
Monster's nuclear arms
Are motionless
Not only in the hands
Of natural disasters
But also in the hands
Of branded terrorists

And it is even dangerous
In the time of disasters

If it is natural or man made
It is dangerous
To its own worshipers
And to the innocent civilians
To whom the monsters
Are glorified as protectors

The hands that rose to show
The power of military might
Over the heads of the roaring
Innocent jubilant civilians
Stretch forward feebly
To the communities of the world
To get them to rise
From the rumbles
Of the nature's shake

The big men did not learn
From the man made disasters
Even after the two big wars
And after the two big bombs
And after the chain of
Lilliputians' wars
The world over

The monster's nuclear arms
Are not the protection shields
As mentioned by the Big Men
Not the symbol of dignity
As mentioned by the Big Men
And certainly not the element of peace
As mentioned by the Big Men

Epilogue

March forward will we
March forward will we
Getting rid of nuclear arms
March forward will we
Devoid of power hunger
March forward will we
For all lives to live in peace
March forward will we
For the whole world to flourish
March forward will we.*

The Prologue and Epilogue are songs from a Tamil play “Naveena Pamasuran” (“Ashen Touch”) which deals with nuclear issues. The songs are in Tamil by M. Nilanthan and S. Jeyasankar respectively. It’s a translation of Mr. T. Kirupakaran.

Becoming a Man or Delayed Evolution

My dearest friend
A senior citizen
Was a conventional husband
And a traditional father
Always commenting on this and that
While sipping the tea home made
Now becoming a man
In the fullest sense
Where a woman can live
A happy home life

He is making tea now
Without milk and sugar
For his diabetic thirst
And made another one too
With milk and sugar
That’s for me
For his dearest friend

-10.10.2005 -

He can boil an egg now
To make his dinner taste
And even tip me to add
Salt to boiling water
To make the shell easy
To break for dinner or lunch

My dearest friend
A senior citizen
Was a conventional husband
And a traditional father
Now becoming a man
In the fullest sense
Where women can live
A happy home life

The Mobile People

I'm not talking of people
Who are not talking among themselves
While walking in pairs

Or
I'm not talking of people
Who are not talking among themselves
While staying together

But
I'm thinking of the dangers
That engulfs the communities
In a different form of epidemic
May I call it an e. epidemic?

This will alienate the human species
Not only from the environment
But also from themselves too

But here
I'm talking of a different kind
A different kind of mobile people

-13.08.2005-

As a Thamil in Sri Lanka
 With a readily packed hand baggage
 I had the experience of mobile life
 Because of the Army
 Because of differently barking dogs
 Because of unidentified gunmen
 Because of rumors
 Because of dreams
 As a Thamil in Sri Lanka
 With a readily packed hand baggage
 I had the experience of mobile life

But this is entirely a different story
 There are no differently barking dogs
 Even though haunted by dreams and rumors
 But this is entirely a different story

Like the darkness moves into the night
 Without making signals of warning
 Dogs are vanishing from the scenes

Oh! What a great tragedy!
 The experienced mobile people
 Are in turmoil now
 Not because of the helplessness
 In the hands of nature
 But because of the restlessness
 In the hands of neo invaders
 Who came with their own prescriptions
 And pills to relieve us
 And with differently designed
 Dissection tool kits and microscopes
 And surely with pots of gold
 In order to reconstruct us again
 According to them in this neo global order

- 08.08.2005 -

Why are they Manufacturing This and That?

Why are they manufacturing buses?

To treat you as a citizen
 And help you to travel easily.

Why are they manufacturing trains?

To treat you as a citizen
 And help you to travel easily too.

Why are they manufacturing cars?

To treat you as a citizen
 And help you to travel comfortably.

Why are they manufacturing water cannons?

To treat you as a mob
 And stop you democratically

Why are they manufacturing battle tanks?

To treat you as an enemy
 And blast you into pieces

-11.08.2005-

Guns, Condoms and Stress!

Guns, Condoms and Stress!
Please give your ears to them
They are demanding vagina of women

Alert! Alert!! Alert!!!

A health alert!
Health alert for soldiers!!

Doctors sounded the alert!

Soldiers engaged in anti-insurgency operations
Struck by HIV
The virus causes AIDS!

Oh! What kind of war they are engaged in?!
And what kind of insurgency
They are encountering?

It's not the time for questioning
It's a time for reacting to a genuine cause
Keep silent and give your ears to them

We're invariably stressed out
And monotony sets in
Working in isolated and hostile terrain
For a long period

Oh! It's terrible! Extremely terrible!

So the easy way to relax is to go for casual sex

ya... but where?

"In most cases soldiers mingling with locals
And then going for unprotected sex
To fight stress and fatigue"

But it's too bad a...

Definitely Yes!
The awareness level is very low among the soldiers
And they are ignorant too

Awareness campaign with a host of celebrities
Including an actress and a bunch of politicians

As part of the drive
Soldiers were being given condoms.

Oh! What kind of war they are engaged in?!
And what kind of insurgency
They are encountering?

Treasure Island

It's not the time for questioning
It's a time for reacting to a genuine cause
Keep silent and give your ears to them

It's not a problem to give my ears to them
But the problem is their demand!
They are demanding the vagina of women!!!
They are demanding the vagina of womanhood!!!

Now, they were given condoms too!!!

They are officially equipped with guns and condoms
They are officially equipped with guns and condoms
They are officially equipped with guns and condoms

- Note not a footnote: Based on a news item and not on imagination. People think that art and literature are mere imaginations when reality seems to be beyond imaginations.

Forests of materials
Opened to anyone
With dollars in hands
Wealth of resources
To make dollars by the handful;

Disaster made avenues
For research and experiments;
An open field for practices.

The Country becomes
An Open University
But not for the natives
Who were caged into a
Disney world of
Academic Institutions
Making people suitable for
World Bank demanded
Wonder land of
Blue collared neo slaves

How to live as subjects
And to be specimens
Under the microscope
Forever in different forms?

At least for a change
Shall we resist?
Or be happy
With eternal slavery?

-17.02.2005-

- 28.04.2005-

Hey Friends!

Hey Friends!
Why the changes in Mind Chemistry?

Hey Friends!!!!
It's not a dream
It's not imagination
And it's definitely not a rumor
It's fact!!!!
Because it's appeared in the news paper!
Words in print!!
Not from word of mouth
By the ordinary people

Hey Friends!!!!
Its words in print
And scientifically proved
By specially trained people
So, it's truth
In the modern sense!

The English Daily captured it
On the front page.
Sri Lanka to lose another Chinese gift?

It was a tall and huge building
With all modern facilities
Designed according to a total Chinese architectural model
But it was disapproved
Because a Chinese model cannot be accepted
For a national building

Even our architects did not accept it
Because the building did not suit
Our traditional architectural styles

It's rejection due to the absence of a national identity in it.

Oh, my dear patriotic and nationalist friends
We will celebrate the power of National Identity
And will raise the national flags
To establish the country's sovereignty

But our common sense asks within ourselves,
Authorities are being brave enough
To lose the "gifts"
To safe guard the national Identity
But, why do they behave differently
When dealing with economic issues?

Accepting and implementing the programs
And models of World Bank and IMF
And the new ally the WTO
Are universally recognized as
Negative social elements
And elements of domination

What scientific backgrounds
And especially trained qualities
Made the authorities behave differently?

Why the changes in Mind Chemistry?

Hey Friends!
Why the changes in Mind Chemistry?

- 02.05.2005 -

• (Based on a news item that appeared in Daily Mirror, Monday, April 11.2005)

Post Cannibalism

Arise into the scene
The death technicians
With tools in hand
And bags on shoulder

Celebrated the disaster
To make a heaven
In the real world

Even at risk to their lives
The armed enemies
Saved the lives
Of their enemies' kith
And the innocent fisher folk
Saved the lives of the
Harassers' day before

The death technicians
Of our neighborhood
Raped the neighbors' sisters
Even mothers and daughters
When they were alive
Or death fresh
And robed in the nude

Arise into the scene
The death technicians
With tools in hand
And bags on shoulder
And celebrated the disaster
To make heaven in the real world

Economic Identity...What?! Noooo!!

Cultural Identity... Yes!
National Identity... Yes!
Economic Identity... What?! Noooo!!

Is there any connection
Between Culture and Economy
Or
Between Economy and Culture

What about Marxist talks of
Super structure and base structure

Oh, let's forget it
Don't you know
All that nonsense collapsed
With the Soviet Union and its blocks

Oh, what brave thinking?
By the way,
Do you know?
Sri Lanka is going to lose another gift?

It's a gift from the Chinese government
Like that earlier one, the BMICH*.

Authorities rejected it
Not because of the suspicious gift of Greece
But because of
"The architectural design of
The National Performance Arts Centre

-25.10.2005-

doesn't suit the traditional styles"
Chinese model cannot be accepted
For a national building
And the Authorities added
Even our architects did not accept it

Oh, what great arguments!

Long live Cultural Identity
Long live National Identity

Oh, what about Economic Identity?

Sri Lanka hasn't an Economic tradition?
The economic models of the World Bank
Suit our Socio-cultural traditions?

Architects of the country
Running for the World Bank models
Because of its appropriateness
to the socio-cultural traditions of the country?

Cultural Identity... Yes!
National Identity... Yes!
Economic Identity What?! Noooo!!

BMICH: Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference
Hall.
News Resource: Daily Mirror, Monday, April, 11, 2005.

Comedy of Errors

Oh! The almighty power of nature!
We beseech you!
Please do not send your dangerous messages
Of cyclone, flood and even Tsunami
On a holiday or on Sundays
Especially on Poya days!
Because our honorable minister of Science
And Technology
Raises a thought provoking
Un-scientific question of the century
To a bunch of questioning journalists,
"It was a Poya day.
Do you work on a holiday?"

And he accused technologically
It's the error of the previous government
Of not filling the vacancies
And even "issuing circular.....
Not to fill these vacancies"

Oh! The almighty power of nature!
We beseech you again!
And again!!
Please do not send your dangerous messages
Of cyclone, flood and even Tsunami
On a holiday or on Sundays
Especially on Poya days!

• (Reflection on a news item which appeared on the front page of the
Daily Mirror 13.01.2005)

- 28.05.2005 -

Unidentified Homeless People

People were talking about us
When we were displaced
Because of War,
And to a certain extent
We were relieved

People were talking about us
When we were displaced
Because of the Tsunami,
And to a certain extent
We were relieved

Nobody is talking about us
When we are being displaced
Not because of War or Tsunami
But because of rehabilitators
And we weren't relieved

We lost our houses
Without differences
Or discriminations
To the power of war

We lost our houses
Without differences
Or discriminations
To the power of water

When our owners of the houses
Have decided to shift
From their storied mansions
To their miniatures
We lost our rented houses
To the power of dollars and pounds

We are the displaced
And homeless people
No one will call us refugees

We are the displaced
And homeless people
No one will call us displaced
Or internally displaced

We are the displaced
And homeless people
No one will call us street people
Or people in the street

We are the unidentified
Homeless people
Or people without homes

-18.08.2005-

Talk of the Town or City of Batticaloa

Tsunami affected people are
In a hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp,
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

Organizations are busy with
Putting up billboards
And recruiting youths
To implement their mandates and
To expand their programs

People are in a hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp,
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

Trauma and counseling are
The talk of the town

People are in a hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp,
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

The voice of resistance
To the ill treatment of the people
Is not in mandates or in programs
And dies down with the people
And a few concerned

People are in a hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp,
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

Tidal waves of
The false Tsunamis
Attacking again and again

People are in a hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp,
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

Media Moguls
Rush toward Tsunami relief
Right to information not in their agenda
But they feed the country
With their propaganda

People are in hurry to pack their things
And to be shifted to another camp
May be the third or fourth one
Within a month

-26.01.2005-

Before a PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

Tidal waves Swept away,
Not only the life of the coastal people
But also their sovereignty

The country becomes
An open lab
Visibly
And people
Become the subjects openly

Experiments, Operations
In many forms, in many names
And in many banners or brand names

But,
Fear trodden people
In queues,
Waiting for everything

International figures come in and go
Whether it's appropriate or not
Flooding the air port and harbour
With relief items for the affected

But,
Fear trodden people
In queues

As usual
Intellectuals are busy with interpreting data

But,
Fear trodden people
In queues

Experts are thinking loudly and planning furiously
Fully equipped with flow charts and blue prints

But,
Fear trodden people
In queues

Without questioning
Administrators are busy
To implement the plans from above

But,
Fear trodden people
In queues

As in election days
Politicians are blowing in the wind,
Making miraculous statements

But the fear trodden people
Are still in queues

Queues!
The only ways and means
We knew to give and take
And also
Effective visuals for the media Mongrel

Oh!
Who is there to listen to
The simple and humble requests
Of the affected people?

First we need a temporary shelter
Away from the sea
To relax
And to sleep peacefully

And we want
To get rid of
Haunting dreams
And horrible memories

But
We were forced to wait for food
We were forced to run for relief
We were chased here and there for shelters
And
We are filling forms, forms and forms
Is this a way of counseling us?

Why it is happening to us?
Is it because we are geographically in the periphery
And also weak economically?!
Or is it because we were forced
To be weak economically,
To satisfy the power lust of the
Developed self centered demi-god nations?

Think for us FIRST
A semi-permanent shelter
And
We will discuss about our future
AND
About our PERMENANT SETTLEMENT

In brief, Relief is Better than Rights?!

Voices of the people in need
Make us irritated and disturbed
They force us to look into our business

Do they think
We are unaware of the situation?
And are ill-equipped to face the challenge?

We know everything
And were trained in that
Especially trained in that

So leave us alone
To do our business
And mind yours as usual
Waiting in queues
For relief and meals
And occupying yourselves
With filling up of forms
In different colors and in hues
These will console your mind, bringing it peace

- 20.01.2005 -

And it's really an opportunity
For family participation
Instead of your request for
Community Participation
In planning and in decision making

The certain solution to your grief
Is to be alert for Lorries with relief

In brief
Relief is better than rights

These Great lessons we learnt
From our teachers in schools
These Great lessons we learnt
From our Professors in Universities
These Great lessons we learnt
From our Superiors in our work places
These Great lessons we learnt
From our parents in our houses

These Great lessons we learnt
From our elders in society

So, keep in your mind
Traditional or modern
It's part of our culture
Which we have to nurture

So, go and busy yourself
With Lorries with relief
And fight for your portion
Let us be free to look into our business
Because
We have to build-up our nation

-04.02.2005-

Finally

Finally,
The tsunami affected people got it!

They will get a chance to be treated
For generations and generations
As the treasures of the country
It will give them an opportunity
To live a reasonable life in the future

All the GOs and NGOs including the INGOs
Can continue their routine duties
By providing food to eat
And water to drink and
Other urgent matters
In places where water scarcity is visible!

Finally
The tsunami affected people got it!

They will get a chance to be treated
For generations and generations
As the treasures of the country.
It will give them an opportunity
To live a reasonable life in the future.

The news
 Penetrated into my ears
 Like the tidal waves of tsunami
 And it excited me.
 But it's true! It's true!!
 Not a rumor as on Friday last!
 The tsunami affected people
 Will get a chance to be treated as treasures
 For generations and generations.

The Chairman or Director of museums
 Has announced his intention
 To collect items
 For a tsunami museum
 That is to be established soon.

There are a lot of moveable items
 With speaking capability,
 But make sure their responses stick
 Only to your questions.
 That's the only problem you will face
 But you can equip experienced organizations
 To make the people silent and satisfied
 By providing them with
 Colorful plastic buckets and mats
 With their brand names bigger than the gifts

It's easy now to create Post Modern Museums
 Or you may call them
 Museums in the Open Spaces
 And you can work it out
 In a paddy store or
 In a play ground or
 In a barren land or
 Wherever you want to
 In a place discarded by The People of the country

It's better to incorporate a holistic approach
 And make the country like a "Dream World"
 By incorporating Eco Tourism with Open Museums
 Open Labs to experiment with vaccines and
 Make it a dumping pit for discarded shit.

Without question the sovereignty of the country
 Will be maintained by the people and for the people.
 They will line up to vote
 When you need to show
 Your democracy to the "World",
 And will line up with placards
 To show your strength
 To the "World"
 And not mind.
 They will pay their taxes without delay
 And without arrears forever.

Finally,
 The tsunami affected people got it!

They will get a chance to be treated
 For generations and generations
 As the treasures of the country.
 It will give them an opportunity
 To live a reasonable life in the future

- 01.02.2005 -

Signs of thumps up

Signs of thumps up
Of the state economists,
Symbolize the strength
Of state economy
In media

Men and women of the state
Struggle to make both ends meet

The real situation
Is scientifically different,
Statistics, read accurately
And interpreted appropriately

Graphs in the authentic reports
Always moving upwards
To the satisfaction
Of the people in power
In order to gain
The hearts and minds
Of the people of their state

Academics are busy
With quoting latest data
For their current commitments

Still men and women of the state
Struggle to make both ends meet

Hurrah.....! Hurrah....!! New Millenium!!!

We the sons and daughters
Of an ancient civilization
Glorious by celebrating war and love
Buried love into literatures
And carry the power of war
In our blood with lust
For generations and generations

And still we are proud of
Preserving the prestigious preaching
Of peacefulness in life and beyond

We the sons and daughters
Of the mighty warrior tribes
Are proud to hear and read
The reports of the high priests
That our bravery treads
Into a new phase of glory
And acclaimed us a new motto
"Stop killing for Killing"

We are proud of ourselves
And the future generations
Will hail us as
The generation that shift
The phase of
"Stop Killing"
Into the next
"Stop killing for Killing"

- 12.01.2006 -

- 12.01.2006 -

It's a Different Country

Three hearty cheers for Tea pluckers

Three hearty cheers for Garment workers

Three hearty cheers for House maids

The economic burden of the country
Is on the shoulders of women
Women are the back bone of this nation

But men are really worried about
The double burden
Of working women

And shoulder the burden
Of the politics on them
And manage the country
To get rid of
All the impediments

By militarizing
By privatizing
By liberalizing
By globalizing

And even celebrates
The Women's Day on March Eighth
To make the working women happy
As in May First of every year
To make the working class happy

Naturally
Men are good politicians
And some are with
Extra ordinary capacities
Capable of leadership
To raise the flags
On the "Annual Independence Day"
Hail the politics
Of the Manhood
In the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean"

- 12.01.2006 -

Searching for an equilibrium or "Kulal Puttu" system

For the best interest of the
Legal Business Community
The Country needs peace
And for the best interest of the
Illegal Business Community
The country is in need
Of a different atmosphere

The political community
And the Community
Of it's "Think Tank"
Busy themselves with
Searching for an equilibrium
Between needed Peace
And the needed Different atmosphere

Finally,
The clever minds of the
Nationally rooted
And globally guided "Think Tanks"
Discovered the local "Kulal Puttu"*
Steaming system
To meet the both ends
For the best interest of the country

*Kulal puttu is made from rice flour mixed with water and salt
crumbled into small grains. first a thin layer of grated cocount is put into the
bamboo followed by a thick layer of mixed grain which is then followed by a
second thin layer of coconut and another layer of grain and so on, until the
bamboo is filled. The bamboo is then steamed in a pot of water.*

- 12.01.2006 -

e. Gun

Who is talking of us
As a developing nation or
An underdeveloped country

Don't talk about
Sky rocketing price hikes
Be proud over our
Brand new Banishing Machines
Surrounded and Marching forward
By mechanized Men
Paraded in the freedom square

Who is metaphorising
The Central Railway Station
As a newly excavated
Archaeological site
Crowded with tired people
Rushing here and there
To meet both ends

And bringing disgrace
To the country,
Brave dads consume
The power of spirits

Don't talk about
The empty pots in the kitchen
Without rice or flour
But be proud
When you watch the TV
Unearthed Arms and ammunition
In the kitchen compounds

Our country where
There is no need of
Cash or card
A gun
Even a home made one
Is the key not
For a single door but for all
Gun becomes e.Gun
Gun for everything

Oh God you are too Innocent

Oh God you suffered a lot
For the well being of human beings
In different religions
And in different names
I know you suffered a lot
I genuinely felt you struggled a lot
Not to become a god
But for the well being of human beings
I heard this from my parents and grand parents
I learnt about you in the class rooms
And also from the story tellers in the village temples,
In illustrated story books, and even in cinema.

Oh God
Now your presence is everywhere
I'm not mentioning it in a spiritual sense
But it's in a virtual sense

I heard from the religious propagandists,
Even before the historical periods
Genuinely you suffered a lot
That's what our preachers from every religion
Raise their voices from the bottom of their bellies

Dear God
Even though I used the word Mankind
I genuinely believe your struggle
For the well being of the women too
And not only for the well being

- 30.04.2005 -

Of the human kind
But also for the well being of
All the species on planet earth

Dear God
I feel sad now
Because

Oh God they say
You came in their dreams
And articulated something very strange
This may bring suspicion among the people
Who are working together to fill their tummies

Oh God
I knew you very well
That you are an innocent supernatural being
I genuinely believe you Oh God
The so called agents of your Corporation
(In an era of Multinationals the kingdom is not marketable)
Are not representing you at all

Oh God, they won't say
Why it's not possible for a public dream
For the sake of the human beings

With the loads of relief items
They bring the holy books to threaten others
Or to give chances to the waiting vultures
To burn the people to eternal life
And give them a chance to sit on
The throne of skulls of the human kingdom

Elegy for Tamil New Year 2006

History registered
But not "authentically"
Its disgraced chapters
On April 2006

Mothers mourn silently
In fear and in shame
On the eve of
The Tamil New Year 2006
For the fate of their
Working daughters
In the NGOs and INGOs

Not because of
The atrocities
Of the aggressors

But because of their
Very own and
Invisible sons

Innocents victimized
In order to domesticate
And the perpetrators
Silently harbored

The new version
Of an age old custom
Manipulated invisibly
But celebrated harshly

- 24.04.2006 -

- 15.04.2006 -

Unitary State but Separated fourth states

They always say
The doors are opened
I thrilled to see it
Because I heard this
From my childhood

In my imagination
It is like
A postmodern construction
Constructed
In an empty space
Only with
The opened doors

And always
Talking of
"Within the Constitution"

And the solution
To the problem
By the problem itself

They are always talking of
One Country
A Unitary state

But the fourth state
Always Flash
And open our minds
That its their fourth state

Fear of death or Thinking of justice

Fear of death engulfs
When thinking of justice
Even for right to drink
A drop of pure water
In a world
Where it was trans formed
As a commodity
And patent right to MNCs
Those have the capability
To supply coke or pepsi
Where there is no water

-19.06.2006-

-05.06.2006-

Its not our destiny

Its not our destiny
When time to time
People intrude as illegal
And enslave us as barbarians
Manufacture their exploiting missions
As missions of civilization

Our past generations
Not only our forefathers
Fought for liberation
And brought down
The flags of the civilizers
But some of our forefathers
Made themselves as rulers
And made the freedom
As the annual event
At the freedom square
With the hoisting of flags
Which they said
"Its ours"
And invite missions
With red carpeted welcome
To democratise ourselves
and were made us to live
A "humanitration" life
According to them
Genuinely its not destiny
but our total blindness
of the Third Eye

A VOICE RAISED ON BEHALF OF OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY

Jeyasankar is no xenophobe. All his poems reflect his deep concern that our cultural identity should not be submerged by the rising tide of globalization. As one would expect the emphasis is more on the content than the form.

It's all the more creditable that one who was educated in Tamil medium should be writing these poems in English.

If I am to single out individual poems for commendation, I would mention: "It's not a riddle or History and Westry". It ends on a whiplashing / satirical note.

"Like a committed scientist
I had experimented and experimented
Asking the same old question
With the undergrads in different classes
And they came out with the very same
Brave old answers of slave celebrations" (page 3)

Other poems I liked were "Post Cannibalism" (note, its not post colonialism) where the poet's indignation is revealed, "The Monster's Nuclear Arms or the Unlearned Big Men", "Unidentified Homeless People", "The Mobile People", "Becoming a man or Delayed Evolution" Which reveals the poet's mischievous sense of humour, "Born to Slavery or Conquering with Scholarships", "Why are they Manufacturing This and That?", with the twist at the end.

"Why are they manufacturing battle tanks?
To treat you as an enemy
and blast you into pieces" (page 17)

"Treasure Island" which conveys the poet's indignation at the ravaging of our natural resources in which our academics are complicit. It ends on a sarcastic note.

"At least for a change
Shall we resist?
or be happy
With eternal slavery"

(page 21)

Or the poems on the Chinese gift which we are about to lose, not to mention
"Guns, Condoms and Stess" which states
"So the easy way to relax is to go for casual sex." (page 19)

"In Brief Relief is Better than Rights" where the poet reveals how foreign
relief workers have made the destitute internalise their dependency; it ends
"The certain solutions to your grief
Is to be alert for Lorries with relief

In brief
Relief is better then Rights"

(page 36)

"Talk of the Town or City of Batticaloa" is a protest against the way in
which tsunami affected people are treated

"The voice of resistance
To the ill treatment of the people
Are not in mandates or in programs
And died down with the people
And a few concerned"

(page 31)

It ends with an attack on - so-called intellectuals, experts, administrators
and politicians

But fear - trodden people
Are Still in queues

(page 31)

Keep recurring like a melancholy refrain

The poem, "Comedy of Errors" is an attack on the Minister of Science
and Technology who had the effrontery to ask the unscientific question of
the century from a bunch of questioning journalists

"It was a poya day
Do you work on a holiday?"

(page 27)

and he shifts the blame to the previous government which had not filled
the vacancies and accuses it even of issuing a circular not to fill these
vacancies.

It is but fitting that Jeyasankar who is deeply concerned about the cultural
identities of the Tamils should be very involved in the Kooththu (Tradition-
al theatre of the Tamils of Sri Lanka) of Seelamunai a small village
close to Batticaloa town. He has lived With the people involved in the
Kooththu, carried out research and written a post - graduate dissertation on
the Kooththu which has brought about a paradigm shift in Kooththu.

-A.J. Canagaratna

Dear Sivagnanam Jeyasankar,

"You very strongly state your case;
very intensely put in to words your feelings."

Congratulations.

Augusto Boal
(Fri, 27 Jan 2006)

Note

S. Jeyasankar

Lecturer in Drama and
Theatre Arts

at the Eastern University,
Sri Lanka.

Theatre and Research Activist.

Koothu (Traditional Theatre)

Performer.

Writer: Poems in Tamil
and in English.

Essayist.

Co-ordinator:

Third Eye Local Knowledge
and Skill Activists Group and
Third Eye English Forum.

Co-Editor:

Third Eye Little Magazine
in English

and

Moondravathu Kann

(Third Eye)

Little Magazine in Tamil.

Translator

WE HAVE TO LIVE

WE HAVE TO LIVE
FOR GENERATIONS
WE HAVE TO LIVE
FOR GENERATIONS
WE HAVE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD
WE HAVE TO LIVE THE LIFE
A RARE CHANCE GIVEN BY NATURE
WE HAVE TO SHAKE OUR HANDS
WITH MOTHER EARTH
WHO GIVES US LIFE
WHO TEACHES US LOVE
WE HAVE TO WALK TOGETHER
WE HAVE TO TALK TOGETHER
WE HAVE TO LAUGH TOGETHER
WE HAVE TO PLAY TOGETHER
WE HAVE TO BUILD OUR NESTS
ON THE LAP OF OUR MOTHER EARTH
WHO CHERISHED AND NOURISHED
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION
OF OUR ANCESTORAL BLOOD
WE HAVE TO LIVE IN HARMONY
ON THE LAP OF OUR MOTHER EARTH
SHE WILL SAVE US
SHE WILL FEED US
FOR GENERATIONS
FOR GENERATIONS

-05.01.2005