

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Grandma's spectacles

-Joe Uthup

When grandma lost her spectacles,
She couldn't see at all.
High and low she searched for them
From bed to bathroom stall.
And when she had almost given up,
She found to her surprise,
All along the specs were on her nose
Under her eyes!

When I had lost my happiness,
I couldn't smile at all.
High and low I searched for things
That could possibly enthrall
And when I had almost given up,
I found to my surprise
All along my happiness was
Right under my eyes!

എതാണു ദാനം!

-സൈമൺ സഖറിയ

ഒരുവൻ ഒരുപാടുള്ളതിനാൽ കൊടുത്തു,
ഒരുവൻ വേണ്ടാത്തതൊക്കെ കൊടുത്തു,
ഒരുവൻ ചുമക്കാനൊക്കാത്തതാൽ കൊടുത്തു,
ഒരുവൻ ദൈവം പറഞ്ഞതിനാൽ കൊടുത്തു.

സ്വർഗ്ഗവാതിൽക്കലെത്തി അവർ നാലുപേരും,
നാലുപേരെയും വരിയായ് നേർക്കു നിറുത്തി,
"എത്ര കൊടുത്തു" എന്നു ദൈവം ചോദിച്ചില്ല
"ബാക്കി എത്ര നീ കരുതി വച്ചു നിനക്കായി"?

മനുഷ്യൻ കാണുന്നതു മനുഷ്യന്റെ കണ്ണാൽ,
ദൈവം കാണുന്നതു നീ അറിയുന്നുണ്ടോ?
കായീന്റെ രക്തവിലാപം അന്നു കേട്ട ദൈവം,
ഇന്നും കേൾക്കുന്നു ദീനർ തൻ വിലാപം!

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A Newsletter

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**"Earthly sunbeams vanish,
radiant still the sky"**

-A winter night from Bloomington IN.



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

These days I have been thinking more about greed in the people. No one thinks about the risk of amassing things. When we amass anything more than we need, the difficulty of keeping that also increases tremendously. I am not talking about money alone. It can be fame, power, beauty, attention, physical strength, and wealth. When we look around we can see two types of people, some who are less fortunate than us and the others who are wealthier than us. Many cultures, teach their children to look at themselves without self-respect. Their parents always say that someone else's child is better than you. They do not appreciate anything that they have and try to push themselves as well as their loved ones to achieve or amass more like the others. In their eyes 'grass is greener on the other side'. They always try to put down their culture, country, family, and even their mother tongue. Our ancient scholars taught us very well about the consequences of greed

through many folk fables, and through some wise old sayings. But still we think and practice the philosophy of greed. It is good to understand and accept other cultures and people, but there is no need to be jealous of others or lose one's self-respect. Often times we see only one side of people and things. After seeing the good side of one thing, we decide that we have to achieve something. This is true even when we choose difficult things. If we have to choose between an injection, or a surgery, we choose the injection! I have heard the story of a lady who had a dream of going to heaven. As soon as she reached, she saw an angel giving a cross to the new souls as they arrived in heaven. She also got one. But she was so unsatisfied when she saw all other crosses awaiting others. She asked the angel for an exchange. Angel replied that she can choose any cross from that heap of crosses. She went around tried carrying one after the other. After trying many crosses, she finally selected one. The angel smiled and told that it is the same one which she already got! This is very true of us when we deviate from God's will for us and try to choose something else. The reason why we do this is because of the ignorance of who we are. God exactly knows who we are and all about our potentialities and weaknesses. The secret of happiness is in "Be content with what we have." In another story an ancient king tried to make his sad son happy. The prince was so unhappy in spite of every good effort the king made to make him happy. Finally a wise man came and told the king, that if he could find the shirt of a happy man and put it on the prince, he will be happy. Soon the royal messengers went around the whole kingdom to find a happy

and content man. Finally they saw a happy man sitting and laughing under a tree. They brought him to the king. But soon realized that this happy man didn't even have a shirt of his own. The moral of the story is "The more we have, the more will be our worries." It is a fact that we all will be happy if we learn to thank God for all that we have rather than complaining and becoming greedy to attain what we do not have. I have seen people saying "When I get a lot of money...I will help the poor or give to God's work". But I tell you a truth. It is very easy to give one dollar when you have 10. But it is very difficult to give 100 when you have 1000. I have heard a story about Alexander the great. It is an imaginary story. When Alexander was in military camp he had a dream. In his dream he saw a fort and a golden gate. At first he ordered to open the gate. Finally he pleaded to open the gate. Then someone said in a small voice, "You are not clean enough to enter into this Holy place" So he requested that a gift may be given to him to remember that Holy place. Soon the Golden gate was opened an angel gave him a box with this instruction: "Do not open this till you reach your camp". After he reached his camp he opened it in front of his wise counsels. It was a human skull! But he did not understand the meaning. Finally an old wizard asked him to bring a weighing scale. When he tried to weigh that skull, it was too heavy and he could not determine its weight. Then the wizard told him to remove all the weights and put a few grains of dirt on the skull. Then the heaviness of the skull was gone. Then the wise man told that "When a man dies all his power and importance will be gone forever!"