



ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Freedom, Ignorance and Kindness

Welcome to the 9th issue of Vol. 3 of Human Rights & Culture. In this issue we have another contribution by Krishanthi Anandawansa, Freedom. Krishanthi first appeared in our pages a few weeks ago. Next we have another excerpt from Cecil Rajendra's collection of poems, Parables, Prophets and Pillocks. This week's contribution is entitled, Business as Usual in Burma. This is followed by a brief introduction of the author. Next we have a particularly moving poem by an anonymous author; You are Always Welcome at my Water Bowl. And finally we have the final part of The Happy Prince from the Pedagogical Project.

As always, Human Rights & Culture is grateful to all of our contributors.

Human Rights & Culture welcomes contributions in the form of poems, articles or book reviews. All work will be acknowledged accordingly. Please forward your contributions to the addresses given below.

Publications--We are pleased to announce the release of the following publications: the latest issue of Ethics in Action is now available. Sri Lanka Impunity, Criminal Justice & Human Rights by Basil Fernando and the latest edition of Article 2 is now available.

You may view the previous issues and write your comments at:
<http://hrculture.blog.humanrights.asia/>. Your contributions and comments for future issues may be sent to ahrchk@ahrchk.org .

*****HUMAN RIGHTS & CULTURE*****

Freedom

Krishanthi Anandawansa

Can I compare myself to a bird?
Never in this human world.
A bird, wings spread, is free to fly,
none other it is but king of the sky,
while bound and gagged I feel much like
a genie in a bottle lie.

No prison cell or cuffs to hand
but freedom of expression? Surely banned!
Speak the truth, yes sir you can
"Oh there, she's bragging!" you are scanned.
Self-worth is shattered, broken glass

"growth of the individual" reduced to class.

Can I compare myself to a bird?

Yes, in this human world,
wing ends chipped off, a fat barn goose
the seasonal urge set not a loose.
The human kind deserves much more,
ability to express, the human core.

Live free like a bird, and harm to none,
fly free like a bird, any boundaries? None.
Move free like a bird, in your friendly group,
or no repercussions if it were just two.
Surely what we have of this idiom freedom,
is but bird's feather only in a bird's kingdom.

Ms. Krishanthi Anandawansa is the Project Officer of the Kantha Shakthi ('Strength of Women') Organization--Sri Lanka.

Further details of Kantha Shakthi may be found at:

<http://www.iwda.org.au/au/2004/01/21/kantha-shakthi-social-mobilisers/>