

# My Country



**D.H. Vinudi Sahasma**



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# Dedication

Thank you to my dear parents, teachers, my cousins, punchi and bappi for their unwavering support, guidance and love.

This is a testament of my gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable roles you have played in my life.

Thank you everyone for sharpening my journey.

To my beloved parents, loving sister, grandparents well-wishers and teachers with a lot of love.

# Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country.

The Kotte and Dambadeniya areas stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the *Mahamaya* as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past *Yatiwara* writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Atthadassi Thero.

The *Pirivena* student monks have also taken up book writing “The *Herana Gatkarani*” project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and *Pirivena* education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,

Principal, Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.

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# My Country

My country is Sri Lanka. We call it as the pearl of the Indian ocean. It is a small island. This is an agricultural country. Tea, rubber and coconut are the main crops of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has nine provinces and twenty-five districts.

The capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. The population of my country is more than twenty-two million. Our national sport is volleyball. But Sri Lanka is famous for cricket. The national bird of Sri Lanka is Sri Lanka Jungle fowl. The national flower of Sri Lanka is blue water lily. The national tree of Sri Lanka is Ceylon ironwood tree. Sri Lanka 's national gem stone is the blue Sapphire. Our national animal is Giant Squirrel.

There are several communities in Sri Lanka. They are Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and burgher. The official languages of Sri Lanka are Sinhala, Tamil and English.

Pidurutalagala is the highest mountain and Mahawali is the longest river in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has different climates.

Many tourists visit our country to see it's natural beauty. There are waterfalls, rivers, mountains and large number of tanks. It has beaches and attractive places.

## Sri Dalada Maligawa

Sri Dalada Maligawa, or temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, is the holist Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka. It is located in the city of Kandy. The ancient capital of the kandyan kingdom. The temple Enshrines relics of what is believed to be the actual teeth of Buddha.



## Sigiriya

Sigiriya rock fortress is considered as one on the UNESCO. (8<sup>th</sup> wonders of the world) It is known as 'lion rock' too. It is located in Central District in the Central province. This fortress was built by king Kashaya. He built his palace on the top of this rock and decorated its sides with colorful frescoes.



## The Adam's Peak

The Adam's Peak is a 2243m tall conical sacred mountain located in Central Sri Lanka. It is well known as Sri Pada. (sacred foot print) In Buddhist tradition the print is held to be the foot print of the Buddha.



## The Diyalume fall

There are so many beautiful water falls in Sri Lanka. This is the Diyalume fall. It is 220m high and the second highest water fall in Sri Lanka. It is situated 6km away from Koslanda in Badulla.



## The Thuparama Dagaba

The Thuparama Dagaba is situated in Anuradhapura. It is the oldest Dagaba in Sri Lanka. It was constructed by King Denamapiyathissa in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. It enshrines the right collarbone of the Buddha



## The Parakrama Samudraya

This vast reservoir was built by King Parakramabahu the great. It is located in polonnaruwa district.



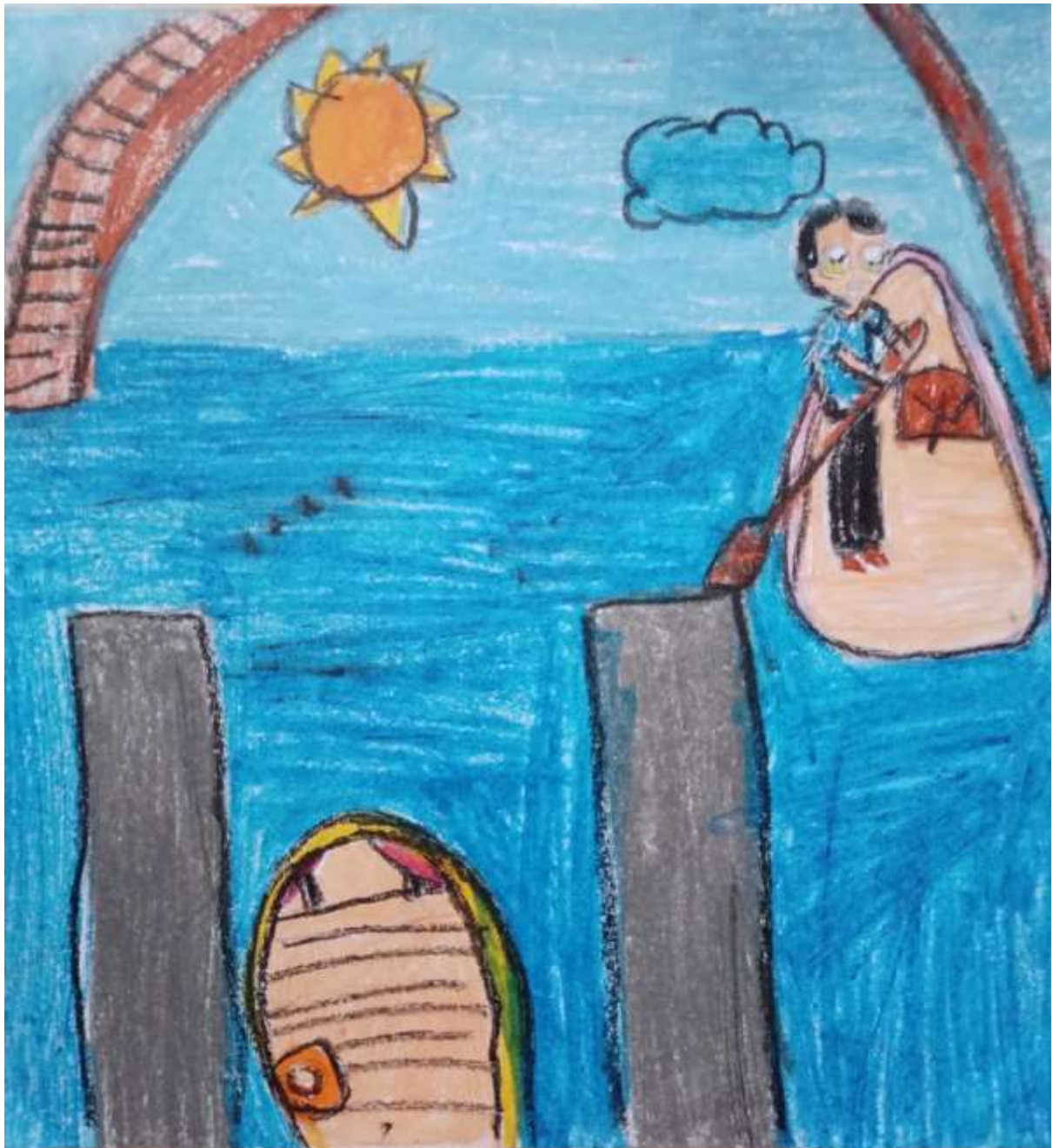
## The Unawatuna Beach

The Unawatuna Beach is situated in Galle District. It is a banana shape beach with golden sand, palm trees and sparkling water. It is popular destination for swimming, sun bathing and water sports.



## The Trincomalee Harbor

Trincomalee is the only natural harbor in Sri Lanka. It is the second best natural harbor in that world. The available water and land area is about 10 times as much as the port of Colombo.



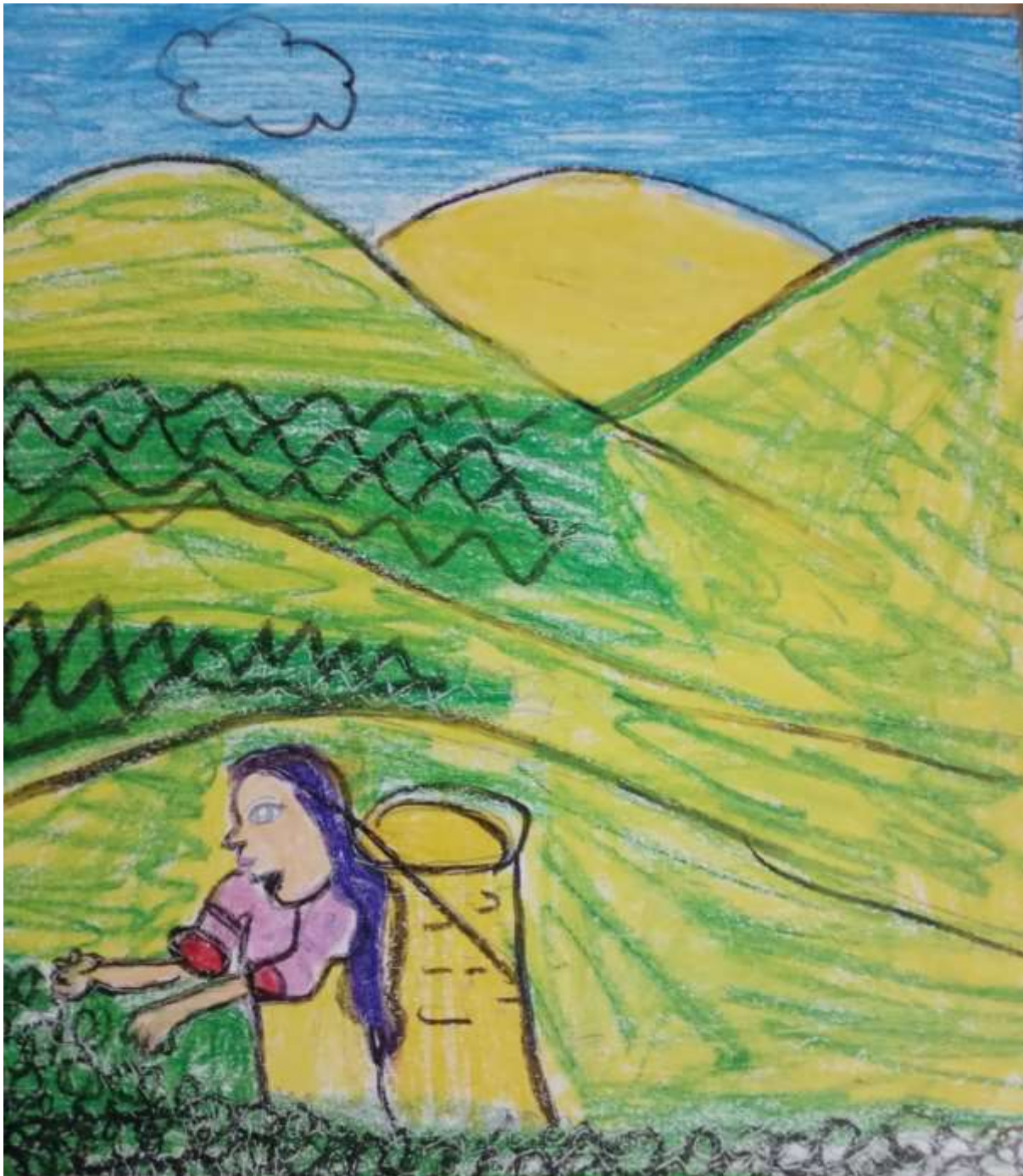
## The Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya

It was a Royal Garden from 1780-1798. The garden was home for a large and diverse variety of plants. The plant that especially including endemics and species endangered in the world.



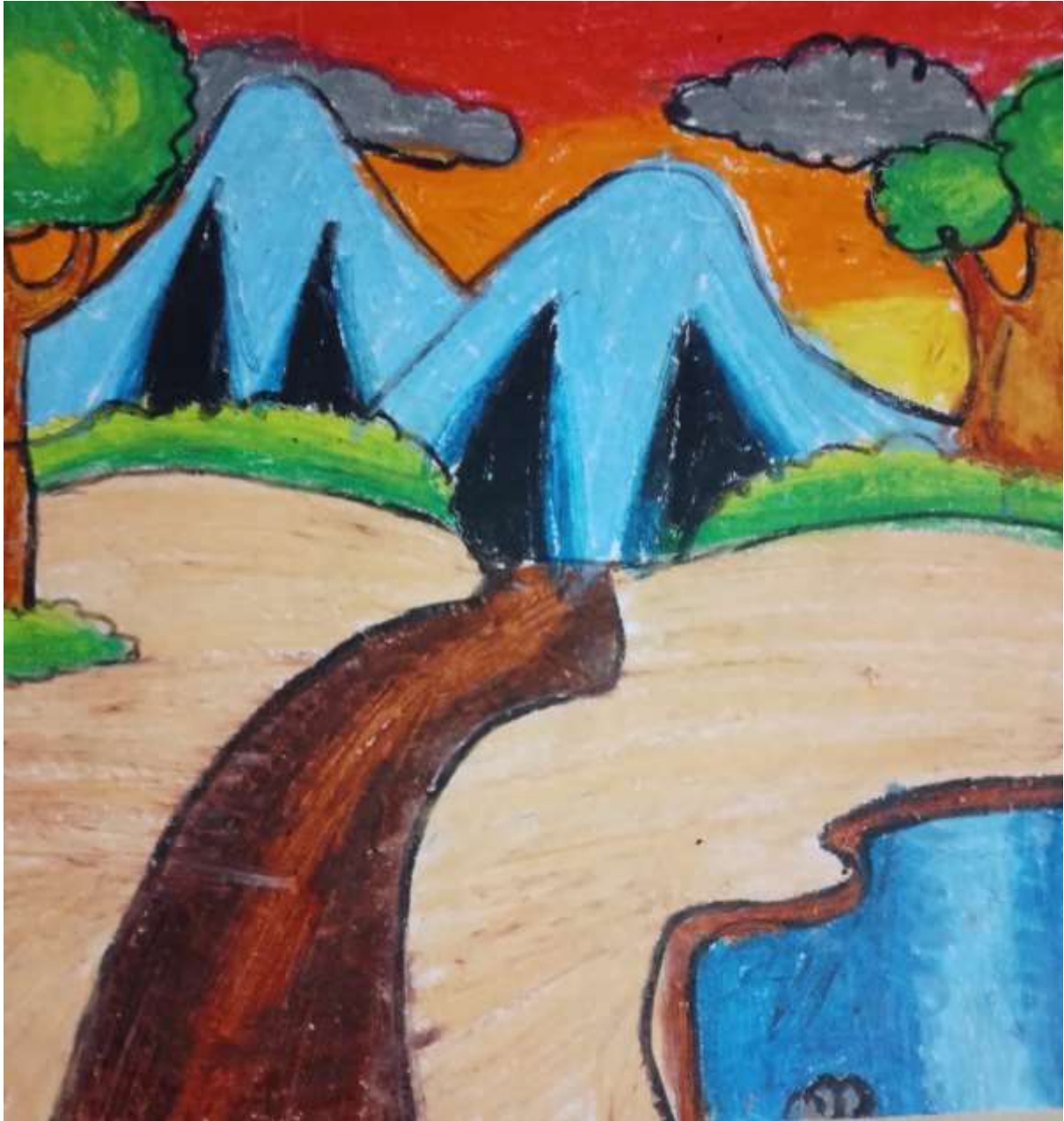
## The Tea Estates

There are so many beautiful tea estates in our country. It is divided into up country and low country tea. Up country tea estates are in Nuwaraeliya district. Low country tea estates are in Galle and Matara.



## Hill sides

There are beautiful hill side places in our country. They look like heaven.



I'm proud to be a Sri Lankan.

I love my country.



Afterward - According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education. This time, it is special that the Pirivena student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,

Senevirathne Maha Lekam