

Chanthulee Gamlaksha

(song)

My garden sandcastle

Imagining to be the emperor in my garden sandcastle,
Sitting on the stone fence,
Watching the rising moon.
I will come soon winning all four directions,
I will be the sun and the moon giving light to our world.

Swimming through the sea of education
Learning all the skills and subjects thoroughly,
Other people's disheartening thoughts cannot stop me.
With a smile I will carry on being a good human.

Imagining to be the emperor in my garden sandcastle...

I do not want crowns for my head
I do not want a throne to sit on.
Please can you wait smiling until I come home?
Dear father, if you can just call me 'My daughter',
It's more than enough for me.

Imagining to be the emperor in my garden sandcastle...

Commentary:

This Sri Lankan song was sung by a Sinhala singer called Peshala Mendis. The lyrics were written by Kumaradasa Saputhandhri. Peshala Mendis sang this song when she was a child. It's about a girl who went to a secondary school far away from her home to do her higher education. She sings this song to her father and says she will do well in her higher education, and then she will come back to him. I found this very interesting when translating the song lyrics and writing the translation down helped me understand it better. A sad feeling came into my heart because I quickly got used to songs in English and realised that sometimes I forget songs from Sri Lanka. At the same time, I felt translating this song from my mother language sparked an interest in Sinhala songs again. I came to the UK last year and I do not want to forget about the music in my country, which used to be so close to my heart.

Translating the lyrics was a bit hard because the meaning of some words was unfamiliar to me so I asked my mom for a little help. We had a whole conversation about their meaning, about Sinhala music, the importance of education and the strong connection between parents and their children. I chose this song because it has a very deep meaning for me as well as a beautiful tune. The lyrics say that if you learn hard, you will do really well in your exams and this is my goal. Just like the author, I also want to make my father proud.