

FOR CHEDDI JAGAN

Unlike world-great priests
 who pray Pharisee-like
you did not worship ever
 in sacrificial blood-temples
where termites and insects joy-dance
 but you nurtured God-given virtues
in the temples embedded in human hearts.

Though you preferred not to deafen
 the ears of the good Gracious Lord
singing songs of great kind deeds
 you did or would have done
you simply served His creations all
 from the high to low to unheard
serenading attending Angels and devout men.

Never self-worshipping in white robes
 nor rendering to God your garments
together with thunder-voiced praises
 flavoured with swaying body movements
you kept the banner up upright
 unfettering a Nation's soul to traverse
landscapes of freedom, justice and bread.

When the final day is come
your scrolls will tell the truth
and every Angel and all God's creations
will bear witness to your deeds
Loudly cheering as you march along with the Prophets
to dwell forever in the Gardens of Paradise
'cause you prepared the way for the wretched of the
earth.

So let's salute a God-inspired champion
of the poor, the naked and hungry
who in the lineage of righteous men
like Gandhi, King, Rodney, Mandella and others be-
fore
eternally walk the universe writing songs of freedom
indelibly on the national psyche of the oppressed
that they forever put dictators on the run.

Doodnauth Singh