

SUMPTUOUS KERALAM

Beckoning from afar and ever enchanting,
Is a land with swaying welcoming fronds,
Keralam is thy name; “god’s own country” to some,
‘Land of coconuts’ I prefer, a more befitting name.

Milk and honey flowed in this land, say folklore,
Maveli’s subjects enjoyed peace and prospered;
This story tells us how gods grew afraid so,
They banished King Maveli to netherworld.

Now when his people celebrate bountiful harvest,
Jubilant welcome they offer their king dearest;
Soon after monsoon comes this festival of joy,
When the land is ablaze with flowers and growth.

Twelve days of ‘Onam’ are Keralam’s own,
Rich and poor rejoice, so do young and old;
With floral designs decking house-fronts,
Barriers of caste and creed cross this fest!

Paddy fields and coconut trees and lush landscape,
Together they merge to weave this state,
String of heavenly green pearls stretch from end to end,
No clusters of houses here between long wastelands.

The west is decked with long seashore,
The Western Ghats guard the state’s east face,
Rolling hills of tea, coffee and rubber estates.
Wherever your eyes rest, is a veritable feast,
The natives don’t even know the heaven they inhabit!

Hill stations, animal sanctuaries, tourist resorts,
And the many splendid lakes and backwaters,
House-boats to rent and spend the nights on,
This special attraction Keralam offers,
At rates other resorts can only dream of.

Spices of Keralam were prized in all lands,
And drew the colonialists to the “Indies”,
Now pepper, the famed black gold and other spices,
Cloves, cinnamon and cardamom continue to zest,
Changed forever are world’s cuisines.

Kalarippayattu martial arts was world's first,
 Keralam pioneered it long before Kung Fu and Karate,
 And bred heroes like Thacholi Othenan;
 Katha Kali is Keralam's own art form,
 Mohiniattam and Ottam Thullal round up the list.

Centers of Yoga, meditation and Ayurveda abound,
 In Keralam, the perfect nature's wonderland.
 Shankaracharya is Keralam's own legend,
 For with his Advaita Philosophy fame he found.

Factional harmony is Keralam's specialty,
 With Hindus, Muslims and Christians in all localities.
 In education, healthcare, disease eradication,
 And other measures of human endeavor,
 Keralam stands tall, a model for all of India.

Raja Ravi Varma refined painting in oil,
 On canvas he rendered heroes and heroines of old,
 In perfect shapes, Hindu goddesses and gods,
 He remains an inspiration for us Indians all.

Mathematicians and Keralam's many poets,
 Vallathol, Aashan and Ulloor make us proud;
 New writers, novelists and poets carry the banner,
 Never in its history had a dearth of intellectuals,
 In every sphere of endeavor Keralam shines.

Now children of Keralam call all corners home,
 In spheres varied as medicine, engineering and law;
 True to old fable, in flesh and blood you'll find,
 A wholesome Keralite Muslim tea shop minder!