

# Anthology of Thekkinkattil

Presented by

*My poetic side* 



## Dedication

*Kids and Kin*

## **Acknowledgement**

My loving husband

## summary

Wonders of Nature

Bonsai

Lock down Lessons

Myself

Retirement

Ode to the moving clouds

Climate Change

Exam Fear

Time Machine Please

What For

Daily Dose

Salute Our Soldiers

SUNFLOWER

A Storm

Evolution

Poetic Site

Life's Journey Ahead

Man Animal Conflict

Cob Webs

In God's Court

Spirituality

Festivals

Adieu to the Sun

X MAS Grace

My Concept of LOVE

HAIL THE CROW

Bridal Bouquet

Wild Boar

Gains Vs Loses

?Love Thy Neighbours?

?Land of the Lost?

Land of ?Poorams?

Squirrel and the bird

Fantasy

Cars or Stars

?Save the Planet?

RAINBOW

My Little Brother

My Elder Sis

Teacher?s Day

Road to Heaven

Dilemma

Love or Might

How Grandma Spoilt Her Son

OUTCAST

Millennium Wheel

## Wonders of Nature

### Wonders of Nature

Sleep my baby sleep

Sleep my baby sleep

To go around the world in your dream

Off we go to see the wonders of nature

To see the sunrise at Tiger hill

And the sunset at Kanyakumari

Go to the beaches for a holiday

Climb the mountains for a break

Visit the zoo to see the animals

And the aquarium for the fishes

Forget your tablets and your phones

Look around to feel the joy of life

Alas! You can do all this only in your sleep

Till '**Corona**' leaves the world

So sleep my baby sleep

To go around the world in your dreams

**Gitanjali**

## Bonsai

I am a banyan tree  
In a bonsai dish  
People feel it's a game  
I feel it's a shame  
To grow me in a pot  
Treat me like a little tot  
Birds don't linger by my side  
Branches offer no roosting site  
Can't put me in a village square  
Nor in a temple complex  
People don't gossip around  
Squirrels don't jump about  
No shade for passers by  
No shelter from heat or cold  
I am just a miniature  
And not the whole

**Gitanjali**

## Lock down Lessons

Country in lock down  
People in quarantine  
Face mask a compulsion  
Hugs and kisses out of fashion  
Handshake no longer a salutation  
Namaste a better option  
Family and friends a distant vision  
Dialing them is the only recreation  
Teaching a virtual mission  
Learning a leisurely action  
Tours and travels no longer a temptation  
Pubs and parties all forgotten  
Dating and chatting an online mission  
Junk food holds no attention  
Home food a major attraction  
Work from home a tedious session  
Money in the bank only compensation

**Gitanjali**



## Myself

I am a scientist  
Who speaks of plants  
Daughter tells me  
She is not a fan  
Plants and parasites not her cup or can  
I switch to poetry  
For my kids and clan  
To express myself as much as I can.

**Gitanjali**

## Retirement

It's time to say good bye  
To friends and foes alike  
To forget and forgive one and all  
Relive and relive bygone days

Tiresome days, sleepless nights  
Traitorous peers, endless calls  
Terrifying reviews, tedious travels  
Midnight oil spent on files  
Endless meetings, restless life

Adieu to one and all  
All these for you to hold  
Happily I leave you all  
To chase a passion kept on hold

**Gitanjali**

## Ode to the moving clouds

As I sit on my porch  
I see clouds passing by  
Will they halt for me to talk  
'Nay' they say  
"We are in mission mode  
Have to rush  
And reach the mountains with all our might  
A little wind may sometimes help  
Most of the time we push ourselves"

### **I feel so sad I have nowhere to go**

I try to tell the marching clouds  
The route they follow is not the normal course  
The rain they carry is not to soak  
Give our share before you go  
Sprinkle a little on the roads  
Bring a smile to thirsty folks

They hardly wait to hear me out  
Ahead they troop with little care  
Ready to cause havoc  
In places I don't know where

Gitanjali

## Climate Change

Season is on, seeds are sown  
See no rains for crop to grow  
Rains are scarce, drought is more  
Summers hot, winters freezing cold  
'Climate change' the word for these woes

Cut the trees, clear the woods  
Clog the drains, dirty the oceans  
Burn the thrash and spoil the air  
It's payback time and nothing more

Garner courage to hoot into 'Ozone hole'  
Scan the pacific for 'Garbage float'  
Mend your ways or see your children grow  
In plastic land where nothing grows

**Gitanjali**

## Exam Fear

Sitting in the exam hall  
My hands tremble  
Numbness spreads from toes  
Everything seems to fall apart  
Am I going to pass out

Master comes with a smiling face  
Serves the paper for me to write  
Sees the panic on my face  
Thumbs my shoulder to boost me up

Scan the paper before I start  
Not so bad as I thought  
Pen is the master, travels fast  
Answers seem to flow out

At times it tumbles past  
Questions difficult to crack apart  
Alas! Time is up  
And I finish my exam at last.

Gitanjali

## Time Machine Please

If I had a time machine  
To go back and forth in life  
To relive the moments we cherished  
To be with friends we missed  
To remedy the mistakes we made  
To tell the words we never said

Colorful dreams do sometimes come  
Take me out for treat and fun  
Give a chance to meet loved ones  
They end so fast I feel bereft  
To leave the group so abrupt  
Yet I feel refreshed  
To be with friends I least expect

## What For

I wonder why I feel so sad  
As I sit gazing upon you lad  
The sunken eyes, matted hair  
Weathered shirt and broken bowl  
Asks for food or speaks against the war  
The fight for might, fight for right  
Fight to gain what's not theirs  
Traacherous tanks, deadly missiles  
Bombing planes and nightly black outs  
Yet we claim to be civilized  
Let us work for a peaceful life  
Save the people from this senseless plight  
Fill the world with love and light

**Gitanjali**

## Daily Dose

Senior citizen is a jerk  
With a single toast for breakfast  
To keep the system vigorous  
Consumes a dozen bolus

Memorize their dimensions  
Understand their configuration  
Remember their colour code

Yellow controls sugar  
White maintains pressure  
Pink prevents anemia  
Red for anorexia

They keep your heart beating  
Eyes from twitching  
And throat from aching

Have them with breakfast lunch and dinner  
Consider them as starters or desert

**Gitanjali**



## Salute Our Soldiers

Soldiers are a country's wealth  
Guard your nation and your wealth  
Leave their homes to keep you safe  
Stay in places you never dwell  
Scale the terrain hard to trail  
Eat the food you never accept

Valor is their middle name  
Live for the nation and die for it  
March forward and never retreat  
Round the clock they are on guard  
Keep you safe from enemies abroad

They are the pride of every heart  
Salute them for their mettle and might  
Bow to their parents for their sacrifice

**Gitanjali**

## SUNFLOWER

In the morning I take a stroll  
To wipe the slumber from my eyes  
Stretch my legs and clear my bowls

See a golden flower in my stride  
Waiting for the sun to rise  
Blossoms with the heavenly light  
Track the sun as it glides  
"Sunflower" it's fondly called  
Smitten with the golden rays  
Bask itself with divine light

Love and devotion kept apart  
Fills the floret one by one  
With golden oil  
Till the heads are done  
The plant follows the mighty sun  
To fill its bounty and raise its sons

Humbled by all this sight  
To home I return with a vision  
To start my day with a mission

Gitanjali

## A Storm

A storm is brewing in the east  
Birds and animals seem to retreat  
Air is still and nature has a solemn feel  
Dark clouds conceal the pleasant land scape  
Ghastly winds precede  
Thunder and lightning gives an eerie feel  
Rain gushes down in torrents  
The feeling you get is not so pleasant  
Apprehension takes over common sense  
And you sincerely wait for the drama to end

**Gitanjali**

## Evolution

Life on earth has never been the same  
Micro to macro they went through change  
Ant to man we travelled along  
To evolve has been the natural way

Now we hear of camouflage  
Transparent animals have come to stay  
Invisibility is a trait they see,  
Where glass wings have come to play

Butterflies, frogs and octopus have found their way  
To elude the predators that come to prey  
Its evolution on the way  
What with man we cannot speculate.

**Gitanjali**

## Poetic Site

I have friends round the world  
When its morning its noon for some  
Yet we meet daily once  
To share our passion and our woes  
As if we are just next door  
Makes us feel the world is one  
Hail the science that has this done  
And "My poetic Side" for all the fun

## Life's Journey Ahead

Life is a river that flows  
Love is the boat on which you board  
Select a boat which does not sink  
Or capsize in a torrent of wind  
Flow may be rough or smooth  
Strength of the boat makes you dare  
Take on board only people who care  
Clean your boat to make it fair  
  Keep it safe from wear and tear  
Paint afresh with time to spare  
Let it sparkle in the light of love  
Enjoy your life with every ripple  
Twist and turns drive you mad  
Calamities can make you sad  
Friends and family keep you sane  
So select your boat with love and care  
Remember it's your life's journey ahead

**Gitanjali**

## Man Animal Conflict

Elephant on a rampage

Tiger on a prowl

Fox that eats the fowl

We call it man animal conflict

Why the animals behave so

To make our relations sore

Is it climate change or more?

Don't tempt them with your fowls

Leave a buffer zone, so they never prowl

Ensure their number never exceeds

So that both can live in peace.

**Gitanjali**

## Cob Webs

Cobwebs are beautiful structures  
Made by little creatures  
To trap the prey for their supper  
Yet they represent an unused den

And now I ask you friends

Why do man get trapped in the "web" these days?  
Go round and round with no escape  
Lose sight of the beautiful landscape  
Fail to communicate face to face

Will our lives shrink to a den?  
Should children fall in this trend?  
Maybe it's good for some and not for all  
Moderation is all I ask for

**Gitanjali**



## In God?s Court

The God I know is not always fair  
Sometimes he treats as if I am not there  
Maybe he knows things  
Which I am not aware  
I ask for justice for my toil and tear  
He smiles at me with little care  
Maybe his court is just as unfair  
Or it's listed and just not there  
Have to wait till judgment day  
To appear before his honorable "Grace"  
When I can plead the case my way  
So patiently I wait  
For a fair trial to settle my case

**Gitanjali**

## Spirituality

When I am in doubt  
When my mind wonders about  
When I am in pain  
And look around in vain  
For a pole  
To lean with trust  
For hope to push me forward  
Then I see a light  
Call it Ram, Allah or Jesus  
A name for me to trust  
A shoulder for me to weep  
Clear my mind of fear and doubt  
Fill my heart with love and hope  
Helps me pass this woe  
And thus I move about  
With a little hope to start

**Gitanjali**

## Festivals

Festival days are random ones  
Fill your life with laughter and fun  
Friends and family gather around  
Gifts and parcels make their round  
Fasting and feasting are the major ones  
Little traditions are called upon  
To make the gathering a solemn one  
Food you eat is not the normal one  
Meet the people you miss in life  
Laze around with little thought  
And so we meet yearly once  
To tell our children we are one

## Gitanjali

## Adieu to the Sun

Sun has moved away  
To the southern hemisphere  
To bless the life hither stay  
Without his glare, winter is here to stay  
As others should also have light  
We wished him well on his trip away  
With 'arthi' we bade him off  
On 'Chat' the auspicious day  
We'll welcome him back again  
With prayers, sweets and fun  
On "Sankranthi" as he turns around  
And returns to give us warmth

This is how we were brought up  
To respect nature in all its forms  
Mountains, trees, rivers and air  
Considered as blessings  
Never to be exploited, but use with care  
With due diligence and respect  
We requested permission  
From all life that stay in there  
Before we use them for our daily ware  
These gestures we forgot  
Threw them out to be more civilized  
Maybe it's time to restart  
To appreciate the little blessings we have got  
Not through gestures alone  
But with rightful thoughts  
Refrain from selfish ventures  
Restrict our uses and never exploit  
Prevent "Climate Change" which is patronized

**Gitanjali**

## X MAS Grace

The sun or the moon  
It's hard to say  
From the east  
He comes without a glare

So serene so calm  
To show us he is up there  
His might he has lost  
To the winter flakes  
That brings the " X mas Grace"

Maybe it is for "Santa"  
The sun has taken this shape  
As he comes from a very cold place  
To bless us all and shower his grace  
Enjoy the winter with gifts and cakes  
And the blessings from the "Holy Grace"

**Gitanjali**

## My Concept of LOVE

Love is an abstract noun  
It is seen all around  
Does not confine to a single one  
Manifests in different forms  
Keeps you awake when your parents are down  
Clasps the hand of your little one  
Makes you flutter when your spouse is late  
Puts a smile when your loved ones gain  
Leaves you aghast when they are in pain  
Manifests in different forms  
Anger, duty, sacrifice or a routine you perform  
Deny its existence you may  
Beside whatever you say  
Love keeps the world moving around  
Friendship, devotion, respect are different forms

**Gitanjali**

## HAIL THE CROW

Crows are sacred birds  
Represent departed souls  
Dressed in black you see her around  
Flies about with a beseeching sound  
Make you feel that someone is around  
Alarm clocks need not run  
Wake you up when the sun is out  
Eat the food you throw away  
Cleans your courtyard from rats and mice  
Claims her authority over pigeons and fowls  
Keeps an eye on things around  
Gives a warning when something prowls.

I saw her on a banana bunch  
To devour the insects seen around  
She is a friend and not a foe  
So we feed her yearly once  
As gratitude to our departed ones.

**Gitanjali**

## Bridal Bouquet

Bridal Bouquet in my garden  
Needs a string to keep it right  
Or a tree to make it straight  
I wonder why it's called a bridal bouquet  
For its beauty or its plight

Does a lady need a guy?  
To keep her straight or support her by

A learned girl can lead a life  
Without a family to make it tight

Worldly riches can leave you starved  
Love and support lighten your path  
Have a partner who is right  
To share your sorrows when things are tight  
Enjoy your happiness when life is bright  
Let the bridal bouquet bloom away  
I'll give it support to make it stay

Gitanjali



## Wild Boar

Wild boar enters the field  
Tampers with the crop  
Leaves the farmer aghast  
To see his labour lost  
Time and money spend  
Is not the boar's concern  
They come in troops  
Trample the field in just a run  
It's not for food, just for fun  
Time to declare war  
Keep the boar at bay  
Or things will go out of hand  
And people will have to leave the land  
Take this up in parliament  
Save the farmer if you can  
Farming and conservation should go hand in hand

## Gitanjali

## Gains Vs Loses

We work to gain all our lives  
What we lose, we never highlight  
Acquired skills make you bright  
Helps you scale the heights with might

Learn to walk, nobody bothers to carry you about  
Learn to drive and you no longer walk  
And miss the friends that were part of your walk

Get a job and lose your freedom  
Build a house and be rooted to a spot

Count your gains and your loses pile up  
You reach a stage when nothing matters much  
Gains no longer hold their charm  
But loses you shall recount  
Gains you worked for all your life  
Loses you cherish more in the sunset of your life

**Githanjali**

## ?Love Thy Neighbours?

### "Love Thy Neighbors"

Neighbors are your closest friends  
Share the air and the land  
To become enemies is the normal trend  
Where we went wrong we don't understand

Selfishness, jealousy or intolerance  
All these and others might lend a hand  
To cause a dent which is hard to mend  
Wage a war for the smallest spark  
And feel the brunt for this stunt

Others far away may fuel the fight  
To see the neighbors fall apart  
And lick the gains from the fallout  
Loss of life and property is not their concern  
Never be a ladle in their hands

"Do unto others what you would like others to do unto you"  
Follow this mantra to make your neighbor your bosom friend.

### Githanjali

## ?Land of the Lost?

As I loiter in the land of the lost  
Come across a lot many souls  
Family, friends, lovers and acquaintance  
All of them are there to hold

As they pop up from the lost little hole  
I scan them through the network mode  
And there they are in my face book post  
To say hello, from long ago

Which makes retirement a glorious one  
With time and leisure we can go for a witch-hunt  
Pick up the strings we lost on the way  
And make our lives colorful again

**Githanjali**

## Land of ?Poorams?

In Gods own country  
It's a common sight  
To see the elephants  
Decked up bright  
With golden head gear  
And satin umbrellas  
Adorn the Gods  
When they take a ride  
To bless the people  
From their mighty heights  
Trumpets and drums  
Follow their strides  
In a procession  
They make their rounds  
Streets and houses brighten up  
Children and adults line up  
To welcome the procession  
As they pass  
Our summer days have their charms  
With colorful 'Poorams' all around

**Githanjali**

## Squirrel and the bird

Squirrel and bird had a fight  
To eat a fruit that was just ripe  
Squirrel ran up the tree to make his claim  
Bird zoomed down to put up a fight  
The sound they made was a noisy squabble  
Their little fight was a visual delight  
Squirrel hopped about and rebuked the bird  
As a fluffy tail went up and down  
Chirping bird fluttered around with yellow wings  
Ready to peck the squirrel in its stride  
The nasty brawl lasted some time  
The squirrel had his way and ate his share  
Hopped away to end the fight  
Bird picked at the fruit and flew away

Farmer stood aside to see the duo fight  
His toil is to feed the world man or animal it's just alike

**Gitanjali**

## Fantasy

If I was a seagull I will stretch my wings and fly  
Far into the sea to enjoin the silence of the ocean  
If I was a crane I will launch into the blue sky  
Flap my wings and fly to places far away  
If I was a butterfly I will flutter around the bushes  
Sing a song to the flowers as I fly  
If I was a hawk I will soar over the mountains  
Enjoy the greenery of the earth and the life moving by  
If I was a vulture I'll fly above the sand dunes  
And look for the oasis of life  
If I was a whale, I'll plunge into ocean  
To see the beauty of life  
But I am a human with no wings or fins to fly and dive  
Yet my deeds are crooked enough  
To mar the beauty and the life

**Gitanjali**

## Cars or Stars

The sky is full of stars  
I rarely see them now  
As the air is full of dust  
Which blurs the vision up

Diamonds in the sky  
Seem a vision of the past  
To buy the cars we ride  
The jewels we had to part  
The junk we fill around  
Will deplete us of the gold

Cars have made our lives  
Much easier than the old  
Trading is what we do  
To live a life of ease  
Regrets we should not hold  
Its trade off for our goals.

**Githanjali**



## ?Save the Planet?

Nature holds secrets unknown  
To decipher it is a challenge of its own  
Who would think the sand from '*Sahara*'  
Will find its way to the '*Amazone*'  
Heat at the '*Equator*'  
Would make the '*Trade winds*' blow  
Water currents of the '*Pacific*'  
Will heat and cool the earth you know  
A depression here and a depression there  
Will make the rains move everywhere

Tend our '*Planet*' with love and care  
'*Chaos Theory*' says  
"Little changes here and there  
Can cause the people lot of woes"  
The '*Butterfly effect*' is there to hold

May our deeds be sacred so  
To save the '*Planet*' and keep it whole  
For our children when we go

**Githanjali**

## RAINBOW

Rainbow stretches across the sky  
Violet, indigo, blue, green yellow, orange, red  
They make a pretty sight  
Colorful rainbow is a spectral light  
Where all the colors seem so bright  
As they blend they seem as white  
And fill the world with heat and light

Would we like to see them run,  
As different colors or a single one  
Colors alone enchant our hearts  
When they merge they serve us right  
What we learn from all this sight  
To act as one for all the might.

**Gitanjali**

## My Little Brother

Being a sister is not so easy  
With a brother who is an 'Elf' to start  
With love and patience I do retort  
Sense and reason is not for his sort  
Rashness and violence is all he knows  
Shielding him from harm is arduous to all

A game with him will end in war  
Screams at me and pulls my hair  
Tears my books and breaks my dolls  
Scolding I get is not always fair  
At last I retreat with a broken heart

The angelic smile on his sleeping face  
Wipes the remorse for all his deeds  
Clinches the love from my little heart

**Gitanjali**

## My Elder Sis

Elder Sister is a bore  
Treats me as a serf, dictates as a Chief  
Tests my patience with all these deeds  
My cars and guns she do not care  
Shopping and cooking are hard to brace  
A game with her makes me flare  
I lose my control and scratch her hair

Babies and dolls need love and care  
Chatter and tantrums are hard to bear  
A little cockroach makes her scared  
Leave her alone is all I hear

Sheds her tears when I am caned  
Holds my hands when I am in pain  
I feel secure with her around  
Love my sister with all her faults  
She'll be there when I am in a spot

**Gitanjali**

## Teacher's Day

Teacher's day is celebrated with splendor  
For the toil they put and their zealous venture  
Every teacher is a model to say

Some teach you how to care  
Others teach you what to spare  
With gratitude we remember

The way they ridiculed our slumber  
Punishments meted out for our blunders  
Science and maths that made us wonder  
The doors they opened for us to ponder  
The old and the new that took us yonder  
Hand in hand they took us up the ranks  
To start our life's with grandeur

### Gitanjali

## Road to Heaven

I am in search of a road  
A road that leads to heaven  
There are many to direct the way  
But all the roads are strewn  
With roadblocks to test your mission  
Which questions your vision  
And you back out with frustration

Then I listen to my heart

Heaven is but a Utopia  
Why not make one here  
So I currently live in heaven  
With sunshine and rains to lighten my days  
Trees and plants to freshen the air  
Birds and flowers to brighten the place  
Friends and neighbors  
Who care and share  
Why go in search of heaven  
Make one in your garden  
Githanjali

## Dilemma

Sometimes it's difficult to put things right  
However much you think otherwise  
At times it is the life of a person so dear  
There is a limit to which you can interfere

When people are close you feel the brunt  
The helplessness that makes you numb  
Lend a shoulder for them to rest  
Hold their hands when they need rest  
Leave the rest for them to solve  
And choose the path which they feel best

## Love or Might

Warriors, Kings and dynasties  
Ruled the earth for years  
None of them could make a dent  
In the minds of the people they tend  
Thrones, castles, forts and palaces  
Are the only relics that meant  
Such people ruled our den.

People who tended cows and sheep  
Through Love and wisdom  
Conquered the hearts of men  
They built no castles or forts  
Yet across the world

Temples, churches and mosques are built  
To remember their lives and teachings  
And sing the praises of these men.



## How Grandma Spoilt Her Son

Little Grandma had a son  
Her boy was pampered much  
Which made the people stunt  
To see a boy so dump

Kept him in a rundown farm  
Fed him lots of bun  
To drink he had lots of rum  
Which made him a lazy little lump

One day Grandma left the world  
Leaving her son alone  
The lazy little son  
Found no work or fun

He left the barn  
. To fend the cows and goats  
But knew not how to fend  
The farm and its hen

His mother was to blame  
For she taught him not a thing  
Too much love made him sink  
To the rotten state He was in

Gitanjali

## OUTCAST

Away from my traditional home  
I am a wondering soul  
Left the land of my ancestors  
With no roots and traditions to hold  
Do I belong here?  
My eyes and hair do not say so  
I cannot be them  
I cannot be me  
In this land  
I do not feel whole  
What I left  
I do not know  
What is left for me  
I cannot hold  
Return to my roots  
Is an urge of the soul  
To do this I need courage untold  
Feel stranded in this whole wide world  
Gitanjali

## Millennium Wheel

The millennium wheel is up in front  
Round, round and round  
In the merry go round  
Up you go and down you come  
See the places far beyond  
Houses, parks, rivers and mountains  
Moving cars, buses and man  
Look like ant and nothing more  
The lofty height makes you think  
You are above all these things  
Down you come and  
River Thames is no longer a string  
So is the case with a lot many folks  
Who feel they are up when in the force  
Down they come and feel the brunt  
Of the common man  
Fend alone and complete the chores.  
Gitanjali