



## ON THE BANK OF RIVER MAHAWELI

**Wetara Mahinda\***

Minnesota, USA

### EDITORS' NOTE

The following song was written by Wetara Mahinda, who first produced the piece in Sinhala with the title '*Mahaweli iwure pot gula weta pe...*' (music produced and sung by Sanath Nandasiri), and later himself translated it into English. It is presumably the only song about the University of Peradeniya published in English, outside of Sri Lanka's borders. The editors' have taken the liberty to also attach, at the end of the translation [document], a non-exhaustive list of songs written by others about the splendor of this University, as it was felt to be momentous at the "celebration of the Diamond Jubilee" of this seat of higher learning.

The lyricist obtained his Bachelor's degree in Archaeology from the University of Peradeniya with First Class honours in 1980, followed by a Master of Arts in 1995 from the same university. Having joined the University's faculty even before his Bachelor's convocation was held (in 1981), Wetara Mahinda continued his teaching duties up till 2011 when he resigned. He held the post of Head, Department of Archaeology for six years, having been appointed three times in 1997, 2000 and 2003. He played an active role in the administrative affairs of the University, as evidenced by the various posts he held such as serving as the Senior Students' Counselor, Warden of Sangharamaya Hostel, Member of the Library Committee, Member of the Arts Faculty Higher Degrees Committee and Chairperson of the Arts Faculty Research Committee. Wetara Mahinda, while living in the United States, beautifully depicts in this song the moment of separation of a person who has long been associated with the picturesque University of Peradeniya, his alma mater and home.

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### **On the Bank of the River Mahaweli**

(Translation of *Mahaweli Ivure*..... from Sinhala)

Having asked for permission with the last glance  
Made at the library on the bank of River Mahaweli,  
Having buried in the answer scripts  
The remains of the battle between books and eyes,  
Let me bid farewell to you the Muse at Hantana!

Having imbibed in my heart how I was soothed  
By the performances at the open air theatre in the festive week,  
During the time flowers were flying surpassing each other  
After taking leave of the splendor spread on trees,  
Let me bid farewell to you the Muse at Hantana!

Having gently lowered my eyes while whispering  
The eternal love I have developed for your grace,  
On the memorial erected in my mind  
To remind myself of the warmth I had in your embrace,  
Let me bid farewell to you the Muse at Hantana!



Rev. Wetara Mahinda during the making of the song with artists Sanath Nandasiri, Malkanthi Nandasiri, and Jagath Wickramasinghe (from right to left).

Table 1: Peradeni Sarasavi Geetha Sahithya

| Song                                       | Singing by                                      | Lyrics                      | Music                       |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 'nawatanin eya yanawa'                     | Sanath Nandasiri                                | Sunil Sarath Perera         | Sanath Nandasiri            |
| 'Mahaweli evre poth gula wetha pe'         | Sanath Nandasiri                                | Ven. Wetara Mahinda         | Sanath Nandasiri            |
| 'hantane kandy muduna sisara'              | W.D. Amaradeva                                  | Wijaya Ramanayake           | Premasiri Kemadasa          |
| 'hantana sihine'                           | W.D. Amaradeva and Umariya Singhewansa          | Janaka Siriwardhana         | Aruna Gunawardhane          |
| 'hantana kandu wetiya eda wahei adath'     | Amarasiri Peiris                                | Upali Maldeniya             | Denister Perera             |
| 'hantanata payana sanda'                   | Amarasiri Peiris                                | Dhammika Perera             | Denister Perera             |
| 'hantana kandu dana ena namadina'          | Gunadasa Kupuge                                 | Gunadasa Kupuge             |                             |
| 'hantane sewane'                           | Swarnalatha Kaveeshwara                         | Manike Weerasinghe          | Gunadasa Kupuge             |
| 'sarasaviye heta witharai hamuwenne'       | Dayaratne Ranatunga                             | Sirisaman Wijethunge        | Dayaratne Ranatunga         |
| 'sivu wasarak thula pem'                   | Dayaratne Ranatunga                             | Upali Dhanawalavithane      | Sarath Dasanayake           |
| 'Oba ethin sakman karane welawata'         | Priyanthe Kirinda                               | Priyanthe Kirinda           | Priyanthe Kirinda           |
| 'hanthana adaviye'                         | Nanda Malini                                    | Sunil Ariyaratne            | Mervin Perera               |
| 'hanthana kumari'                          | Dayan Vitharane                                 | Madhawa Vaidyaratne         | Nawarathne Gamage           |
| 'sarasaviye gal kulunu sewana yata'        | Nirosha Virajini                                | Denister Perera             | Madhavi Herath              |
| 'hanthane kandu pela handata awada'        | Bhadraji Mahinda Jayatilake                     | Bhadraji Mahinda Jayatilake | Bhadraji Mahinda Jayatilake |
| 'muthu warusa'                             | Amara Ranathunga                                | Sunil Amarasinghe           | Rodni Vidanapathirana       |
| 'sarasavi thuru sewane'                    | Rohan Shantha Bulegoda                          | Rohana Weerasinghe          | Rohana Weerasinghe          |
| 'sanda diya walapena gan theree'           | Chandana Liyanaarachchi                         | Sandun Jayawardhana         | Denister Perera             |
| 'hanthana desinn ena'                      | Karunarathne Divulgane                          | Sudath Gamini Bandara       | Gunadasa Kupuge             |
| 'rangahala dan etha ada andure'            | Wijerathne Warakagoda and Anula Bulathsinghela  | Hadsan Samarasinge          | Ostin Munasinghe            |
| 'me nagaraya'                              | Mervin Perera                                   | Premakeerthi De Alwis       | Mervin Perera               |
| 'dalada madurate ihalin wana petha'        | Karunarathne Divulgane and Shanika Sumanasekare | Udaya Madugalla             | Dayananda Konara            |
| 'hanthana kandu mudunata handa nuwan vida' | Dayan Vitharane                                 |                             |                             |
| 'nonidai hanthane'                         | Dumal Warnakulasooriya                          | Madhavi Herath              | Denister Perera             |

| Song                               | Singing by               | Lyrics                   | Music                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>'hanthana selawenna'</i>        | Lakshman Hewawitharana   | Narada Wijesooriya       | Shantha Jayalath Thisera |
| <i>'pini wessak watila'</i>        | Asanka Priyamatha Peiris | Shehan Galahitiyawa      | Priyantha Nawalage       |
| <i>'sabadha obage sina handak'</i> | Shashika Nisansala       | Shantha Jayalath Thisera | Shantha Jayalath Thisera |
| <i>'hanthane manda maruthe'</i>    | Clarence Wijewardhana    |                          |                          |
| <i>University Anthem</i>           |                          | Jayaweera Bandara        | Sarath Peiris            |

Source: *Hantana Ninnada Gee Dahana* (2017). Arts Faculty, University of Peradeniya: Diamond Jubilee Organizing Committee.