

Happy Days

The joy of living the Buddha Dhamma
[Previously published as fb200602 Piya Tan]

EACH MORNING I wake up joyful rejoicing:
Here's another day to know the suttas
to live the Dhamma rightly and fruitfully.

NOT WEALTHY am I like a monk enjoying ease,
I speak of life and reality just as they are,
so that we fully live life in truth and beauty.

NOT CLEVER am I like a titled scholar,
but I don't end up weeding the garden:
daily I learn as I live to the last breath.

NOT TITLED like an Atas* or Datuk** am I,
more titles have I in books on Dhamma:
empty their houses, my library is full.

WITHOUT POWER am I over others;
what need have I of it, knowing myself,
I am free being just as I truly am.

THE DAY MAY END but it's rest for me,
having feasted on the wisdom of the moment:
joyful are we in common yet rare true love.

NOTES:

***Atas** is Singapore Malay slang for "elite, elitist", a reference to the common local attitude of the wealthy upper-class member to feel entitled, and look down upon lesser lower-class denizens, such as not being worthy of speaking with, and so on.

****Datuk** is a Malaysian heraldic title that can be earned or bought at some cost, for the sake of social one-upmanship and other advantages.

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