

# SRI LANKA

a lyric

CARL MULLER

*INSPIRED BY THE MYSTIC WRITINGS OF  
KHALIL GIBRAN  
THE 'PROPHET OF LEBANON'  
TO WHOSE MEMORY THIS POEM IS  
DEDICATED*

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## **OTHER WORKS BY THE AUTHOR**

### **FICTION**

The Jam Fruit Tree [Winner of the Gratiaen Award and also rendered in Sinhala]  
– Yakada Yaka – Once Upon A Tender Time – Spit and Polish – Grandmama’s  
Kitchen

### **HISTORICAL FICTION**

Colombo - A Novel – Children of the Lion [Winner of the State Literary Award]  
– City of the Lion

### **SCIENCE FICTION**

Exodus 2300

### **CHILDREN’S FICTION**

The Python of Pura Malai and Other Stories – Ranjit Discovers Where Kandy Began  
[Also rendered in Sinhala]

### **SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS**

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Cemetery – Birdsong and Other Tales  
– All God’s Children [Shortlisted for the Gratiaen Award] – Wedding Night: Stories  
– Read Me in Silence – The Thin Red Line

### **POETRY**

Father Samaan and the Devil – Sri Lanka: A Lyric – Propitiations – A Bedlam of  
Persuasions – Clouds Over My Senses – A Return to Rhyme and Other Lines

### **VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

Many Bulls in My China Shop – More Bulls in My China Shop – More and More  
Bulls in My China Shop – The Bulls are Back in My China Shop

### **ACADEMIC WORKS**

The Elizabethans: The Origin of, and the Great Flowering of Modern English  
Literature [Volume I and Volume II]

### **MONOGRAPHS**

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Economy: Is there a Dangerous Dichotomisation of Wealth? – Productivity: The  
Key to Economic Domination – Tourism: Aiming for that Magic Million – God  
Men Rising: Challenging the Berock of Hindu Beliefs and Values – Conflict Within:  
Challenging Sovereignty and Human Solidarity

### **APHORISMS**

Carl Muller’s Mental Mayhems

### **HOBBIES**

Stamp Stories of the USA

### **TRAVELOGUES**

Indian Journeys

### **WORKS EDITED**

Mews and Purrs [Lancashire, England] – The Tide Press of a Dedicated Life: A  
Tribute to Christine Spiytel-Wilson – Rendering Unto Caesar – The Poems of  
Destry Muller [Winner of the State Literary Award] – A Rainbow Sash Adorns my  
Dreaming Sky

TO MY COUNTRY –  
FOR ALL THOSE GOLDEN YEARS

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A land enrapt beneath a tropic sun,  
Of em'rald fields and hills of rolling dun,  
Where sea hawk sweeps on wings of sunlit fire,  
Breathless o'er the dunes of tangled briar...  
Here in the ponds, the lotus pensive, lies,  
In every golden cup a lambent eye;  
While birdsong fills each bower with a trill  
Of piping music, e'en to yonder hill...  
How fares the land, this isle of ancient lore,  
This Eden poets hailed in days of yore,  
This land of kings, this land of heroes bold,  
This island full of epic stories told...  
This was a home of beauty past compare,  
A smiling, fertile land that yielded fair;  
So many golden years did come and go,  
So many golden years in mem'ry's store;  
It's chronicles recount those stirring days  
Of wondrous men to whom we still give praise;  
The very earth would tremble at their stride,  
That warrior breed that was their kingdom's pride.  
Here in the forest, dappled in the sun,  
Here, hunted proud, until the day was done,  
Here did they sport and wrestle in the sand,  
Here did they lust, and love upon the strand...

As moonlight scatters silver on the lakes,  
And moorfowl cries from every tangled brake,  
I hear the wind a-whisp'ring ever on,  
And all the while it sings this age-old song:  
It sings of Lanka – of its pearly past,  
It mourns the years; those years of bounding grace,  
Years of glory for the Lion Race,  
“Those were th'days”, it keens among the trees,  
“Their stories told in every temple frieze,