

Editorial

Iris is the maiden literary venture of the Department of English and Modern Languages of the Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy. As with all maidens, the journey is begun with zest and enthusiasm. The name of the journal reflects the aspirations and the vision of its architects. Iris has multiple meanings. At the most familiar level, it is the orb of the eye, the part that envisions and responds to all visual stimuli. At the classical level, it is the goddess of the rainbow, the varied hued and layered spectacle in the sky. It is the nature's wondrous creation. It is also the name of a flower, scented and delicate.

The weaving together of the physical, the natural, the aesthetic and the mythical, has resulted in a mosaic of wonderful creations. Presumably a forum for young writers, but at the same time, it has attracted the more mature academics and writers. The case of Daya Dissanayake could be cited as an example. The content is rich in themes and techniques. There is a display of talents. Some talents have been honed, some need to be polished and refined. The visionary behind this venture, of course, is the Rector/ CEO of SIBA. He is known as a teacher who inspires. What he touches turns to gold. It is so with this venture, too.

If the leader provided the motivation and the direction, it is the academics in the English department who picked up the wheel and galvanized the students to action. Ruvini, Manel and the other members of the editorial board have to be commended. At a time when the arts are marginalized and aesthetics frowned upon, Iris communicates to the world that beauty, love and human goodness are very much valid in this money oriented world. I have great pleasure in writing this editorial and wish that it will go from strength to strength.

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