

Our Story so Far

K.N. Prudhvi Raju¹
India

Hills and plains draped with forests and grasses
It was all wild with prey and predators
Lived atop hills, on trees and in caves
The ancients; the Homo sapiens
Thrived on prey, fruits and nuts
By nature gregarious and curious
Ventured out into their environs
Keen observers and curious creatures
Saw grasses with panicles of grains
Season after season during rains
In the plains within valleys of rivers
And with no less prey than in the hills
Came down the trees, out of the caves
And settled in the plains
Milked cattle and harnessed horses
Ploughed the plains and sown the seeds
Wandering hunters turned householders
Me and mine grew and started families
From mud made bricks and pots
Burned them to build houses
To store the gains and grains
Reaped rich harvests and filled the granaries
On wheeled carts pulled by horses
Reached places to barter the grains
And to bring home the needs
In no time it turned to trade with others
With dreams and desires copious
To live better and to see happier times
Burned the rocks and made the metals
Hammered and cast them into vessels
From stone to iron and copper to alloys
Civilisation progressed through ages
Men and women grew in great numbers

¹ **K.N. Prudhvi Raju** is a retired Professor from Banaras Hindu University. Being basically an earth scientist his publications mostly relate to earth science. He keeps good interest in penning poetry also. Email: knpraju1954@gmail.com

Families together turned into groups

Groups gathered and glued into societies
Clusters of societies turned into kingdoms
Rich and poor embarked on a quest for riches
Wanted to reach the lands out of reaches
As the journey on land is treacherous
Ventured on a voyage over oceans
In swaying ships and in perilous waters
Across the oceans to reach the shores
Of known and unknown lands
Discovered new worlds with new peoples
The wheels took them to places
The sails carried them over seas
With coals and steam, wheels and tracks
Moved faster and faster linking spaces
Found wells of burning oils and gases
Made engines and moved faster in the cars
With men and machines made goods
Production surpassed the needs
Business grew in leaps and bounds
Civilisation progressed to greater heights
Added wings to dreams, soared into the skies
In the planes to land in far off places and overseas
Kingdoms dissolved giving rise to states and nations
Started a different race to achieve super status
Then entered the devil in the minds of a few rulers
A brutal idea of expansion and exclusiveness
Waged wars which brought in untold miseries
In the wake invented nuclear arms
Wars came to an end with countless deaths
And a devastation with no parallels
The civilisation took turn to modern times
Knowledge grew about the world leaps and bounds
With new inventions produced goods and gadgets
Peered into the skies with telescopes
Wondered at the planets, stars, and galaxies
Transmitted voices and images sans wires
Into the space sent rockets and spaceships
Exploring the Universe to find life's traces
Landed on the moon, making efforts to set foot on Mars
Down on Earth the race went on for mighty arms

In the name of deterrent unmindful of consequences
Through progress and development through the ages
Tampered with the Sylvan surroundings
Slaughtered the animals and occupied their habitats

Built cities filled with sky scrapers and fuming industries
Scraped the Earth of its resources leaving many scars
Polluted waters with domestic and industrial effluents
And filled the air with chloro-fluorocarbons
A fine morning saw the ozone holes
Opening a window for ultra-violet beams
Lethal to plants, animals and humans
There came sustainable development goals
To sustain life by sustaining ecosystems
However, in the name of deterrent piled up nukes
Realised, using which there will only be leftovers
Of sticks and stones to fight the future wars
Turned aware, when alone in the boundless vastness
It is the duty prime to sustain lives
Determined not to waste life in a senseless madness
To make it matter making many attempts

Quest for the Best

Ever since human turned intelligent
Bent upon an intent
To live happier and happier
Restless to improve upon the earlier
Taking the results whatever
Kept trying for ever
To get the best
With many breakthroughs met
Still, with the best far away
Allowed not despair to sway away
Progressed slowly to the horizon
But only to find a line of new horizon
Did not look back in despair and dismay
Went ahead to find a better way
To reach where the new horizon is
Only to know the best can't be found with ease
Efforts went on, life turned better than earlier

Satisfied not, wanted to make life further easier
Persisted in the same quest to get the best
Always got better than before but never the best
On the way got trapped in a maze
With the way out, out of gaze
With ingenuity traced the way out
And continued with the same quest
It is still only better than before
The best remained elusive
But efforts paid in plenty
To lay a path to the posterity
The race is still on, on the path set
On the same quest to get the best