

## ***THE AWAKENING***

*The fateful night had come  
Which the prophecies had foretold.*

*Siddhartha rises as the irresistible power  
Of his destiny moves him.*

*The beautiful Yashodhara sleeps with the baby Rahula  
In love's soft embrace;*

*In the moonlight on her face  
Are reflected all the attractions of Samsara.*

*Siddhartha is torn inside  
And wonders why he feels an ache,  
When he looks at the splendours of the palace.*

*Was it because he had seen the reality of  
Old age, disease and death?*

*What strange voices beckon him and to where?*

*Siddhartha is anguished  
Because he doesn't know that within him  
The Buddha is awakening.*