

GURITAN SAMODRA

*samodra tanpa wewangenan
apa kowe jatining kauripan?*

*banyu gilar-gilar
critamu durung kok babar
samodra gung, samodra biru
aku ora ngerti
ing ngendi urip iki bakal nepi?*

*yagene kok tanpa tekane kali-kali soklat?
yagena kowe keblat tumrap reregeding jagad?
ah, kowe samodra
antengmu wicaksana, jarwamu pangaksama*

*yen kowe ombak
aku eling rama tambak
yen kowe kridha
aku eling bharatayuda*

*kowe samodra
aku bima:
ing ngendi papane tirta amerta?*

(Effendi Kadarisman)

POEM FOR THE OCEAN

O boundless ocean,
Are you the true essence of life?

O silvery water,
Why have you never yet revealed your secret?
Great ocean, blue ocean,
will I ever know
where this mortal life comes to shore?

I will never understand
why you gladly accept the inflow of muddied water,
why you gladly receive the waste of all the world

O great ocean,
Your silence is wisdom
Your speech forgiveness

When you send me ripples,
you remind me of Rama's bridge to Langka

When you send storming waves,
You remind me of the Bharata war

You are the ocean
I am Bima
Where do you hide the water of life?

(translation by Effendi Kadarisman,
revised and edited by Thomas M. Hunter)