

... And
The flowers
Bloomed.

I want to tell you a tale of the yore...of days long long ago.

Of how the flowers came into being.

Believe me, there were no flowers then.

Meaning, the trees bore no flowers in those days.

They only had leaves & fruits.

But tell you what, every leaf used to be fragrant. And colorful. Leaves had different shapes and colours.

Each leaf breathed out with its own very special fragrance - a sweet, pleasing smell.

And so in those times...

Everyone used to offer leaves to the God.

People plucked leaves and made them into garlands.

Even laced their braids with leaves.
And for this, everyone plucked leaves.

To make fragrance and to colour.
To dye their clothes and to paint their bodies.
To make essences & perfumes.
Leaves were used to make drinks.
And to flavor foods.

And there were also those who plucked leaves just for
the fun of it.

AND SO...

People began plucking tender, fresh leaves.
They became greedy.
Snatching off the leaves even before they could blossom.
Slowly, the trees started losing all their leaves.
Became bare.
And looked like dead logs of wood.

The trees were dumbfounded...
totally at loss...
When will this senseless leaf-plucking stop?
And how?

And then...

The next day was the miracle...

Suddenly...

some of the leaves were not fragrant anymore.

While others began to smell like fruit.

There were a few that actually began to stink!

Many lost their colours.

Some others got blotches of new colour.

And yet others simply turned pale.

All hell broke loose.

Nobody could understand what was happening.

Everybody was talking about the same thing.

Asking each other the same question.

They all could think only about this loss.

How did this happen?

Why did this happen?

Many started running helter-skelter,

trying to find the answer.

But that's when all of a sudden,

The flowers were born!

The bud, tightly wrapped in soft tender leaves, Peeped
out through the blanket of green leaves.

Each tender leaf gently unwrapped itself...

And slowly the bud began to bloom...

Into a beautiful, Colorful & fragrant flower.

It had its own cluster of tiny soft leaves - the petals.
The flowers called out to people..
Dancing with the winds,
Spreading the colorful & fragrant news.

Everybody was overjoyed.
Some were stunned..
others astonished!!
Some said, "The leaves have bloomed"
Others said "the bud has blossomed"

But in the end
Everyone cried out in delight,
"Wow!!
Flowers have bloomed!!'
