



Past International Year of the Indigenous People ? Into a new millennium.

Ramana Rao

*The Gondwana has long since gone under
Flounders still, the gond
promised lands in plunder
Romany gypsy is chased by a hound
haunted by memories fond
Beyond the blue yonder
the banjara has to wander
Extinct the Moa, the Maori, reel in a world eerie
the Sioux is pushed to the edge of Lake Erie
Samoa and Pitcairn
Somalia and Scottish cairn
Gallopings Cossack
war painted Mohawk
Chenchu, Chenchita and Cherokee
along the swamps of Ofenofekee
Igloo, icefloe, the husky sledge
far the Eskimo on polar edge
In his seal and krill man has pollution to fill
Heaping indignity on the indigenous
amongst other crimes heinous
Alienating his land and custom picturesque
soulful to Deums on new world soil
Ere Conquistador's soulless despoil
The Bantu, the Toda
Arakan yama of Burmese pagoda
Theirs was the earth
Of skills, no dearth
But modernity has them so swamped
they need urgently to be revamped
The sky above and the mud below
as people they weren't so low
When aboriginal from down under
comes up above, man would have corrected his blunder
Nature and indigenous people's nature, engender nurture
greed in modern man's nature, endangers earth, now rupture*

Correspondence

Ramana Rao, Wildlife Biology Section, Department
of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Andhra
Pradesh, INDIA. siriguri@hd2.dot.net.in

Ethnobotany Research & Applications 2:73 (2004)