

# Two Short Pieces

Sahlan Diver

## 'The Master'

A master announced to his pupils the start of a great quest. They must discover what was blocking their spiritual progress. The pupils immediately embarked on the quest with enthusiasm and energy. They studied holy books, practised asceticism, devoted long hours to meditation, and spent many an evening debating the finer points of the spiritual life.

The quest rolled on for months, but on the subject of what was blocking their spiritual progress the pupils felt no nearer to becoming enlightened. Several times they asked their master for guidance, but each time he would just say, 'Wait, and you will see for yourselves.'

One day, a wealthy merchant from a far-off city arrived to pay homage to the master. This merchant was famous not only for his great wealth, but also for his charity and concern for the welfare and well-being of others. The pupils observed their master affording the merchant the utmost ceremony and respect.

After the merchant had departed, the pupils enquired, 'Master. We are puzzled. You treated this merchant like a superior. We saw the look in your eye. You were not mocking him; it was a look of genuine admiration.'

The master replied, 'The man has done great works.' But the pupils said, 'Yes, Master. We see that he is a man of charity, but how can such a man be spiritually high? He has not the slightest energy or enthusiasm for spiritual matters.'

The master replied, 'Now do you understand what has been blocking your progress?'

## 'I Had to Test'

from 'The Guru's Apprentice'

Song, In the style of Gilbert and Sullivan

*(Tenor Soloist)*

I had to test  
I had to test  
Should I buy a new string vest  
I had to test  
I had to test  
Or I could not rest

*(Chorus of pretty young ladies)*

He had to test  
He had to test  
Should he buy a new string vest  
He had to test  
He had to test

Or he could not rest

*(Tenor Soloist)*

Almighty God. If you please  
Kindly put my mind at ease  
Does a string vest fit your will  
Or will it make me ill?

*(Chorus of pretty young ladies)*

Almighty God. If you please  
Kindly put his mind at ease  
Does a string vest fit your will  
Or will it make him ill?

*(International Helper - Bass soloist)*

I had a strong feeling  
My mind was reeling  
You are too much in your head  
You should be in your feet instead  
Buy a pair of socks  
And go to bed

*(Chorus of pretty young ladies)*

Vest or socks?  
Vest or socks?  
Certainly a paradox  
Vest or socks?  
Vest or socks?  
A para- para- dox

*(Tenor Soloist)*

Almighty God  
It's your call  
Should I ever test at all?  
Strengthen my sincere receiving  
Let me not be self-deceiving  
Your true guidance, I'm perceiving  
If we want to be the best  
Then we should test

*(Chorus of pretty young ladies)*

To be the best  
To be the best  
We should always, always test  
To be the best  
To be the best  
We should always test