



## Horizon Manuel Garcia, Jr.

I drank from a hidden fountain:  
everything stopped,  
sound froze,  
cracked, fell to the ground as powder;  
light melted,  
dripped, clung to the skin like sweat,  
sank in.

I breathed in cold darkness  
and exhaled puffs of light,  
my eyes illuminated everything,  
my vision bore through steel,  
rocks, smoke;  
mirrors evaporated.  
I closed my eyes  
and saw a brilliant azure sea  
caressing a band of dazzling white  
stretching away past the edges of sight,  
fringing the toes of flower strewn dunes;  
the air alive, vibrant, yet light as grace,  
and all in a shower of warmth  
under the luminous dome of sky.

My eyes opened,  
I saw my other cell mates,  
"We can get out," I said,  
"You must leave," they replied,  
"Come, let me show you,"  
I said, leading them to the great iron door,  
it was unlocked, as always.  
I opened it, walked out,  
calling for them to follow, saying  
"We are always free."

They closed the door behind me,  
pushing hard to keep it sealed,  
"Go, do not come back, do not speak,"  
they screamed without speaking,  
"Wolves will eat your flesh,  
your bones will lie in the open,"  
they cried in fearful anger  
and returned to their cells.  
I can see them,  
each staring at the texture of the bricks  
in the walls of their cells,  
pining for freedom,  
clinging to the certainty of parallel isolation.  
And I am cast out, left to die,  
wandering the dunes, eating wild strawberries,  
watching the flight of birds,  
the unfolding of clouds,  
listening to the hymn of wind across sand,  
the fall of water into the embrace of surf,  
sheets of water wiping the face of the beach,  
the hissing kiss of foam on wet sand.  
Mountains have grown and been ground flat,  
washed into the sea -  
and still, I am here.

## Paradise



## Murali sets Test retirement date

Sri Lanka spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan has confirmed that he will call time on his record-breaking Test career in 2010. The 37-year-old off-spinner will bow out after a two-match home series against West Indies next November, but will continue to feature in the shorter forms of the game.

Muralitharan said in announcing his departure: "The hardest game in cricket is Tests. The hardest part is you have to take wickets and get batsmen out and sometimes you have to spend two days on the field. You have to mentally prepare yourself for every game. In Twenty20, you look to contain the batsmen and he tries some shots and gets out.

"Fifty-over cricket is also the same. In Test cricket you have to read the batsmen, set the fields properly and get the wickets."

Having struggled with a knee injury in recent times, Murali added: "A torn tendon is a very big injury and it will take a long time to heal. The best suggestion was for me to rest for two to three weeks, train hard and play with a little pain.

"I was prepared to go through with it. The doctors said that I can definitely play with the injury for about one to two years, but in the end when I finish they will have to operate on it."

Muralitharan has taken a world record 770 wickets in 127 Test matches, at an average of 22.18. Murali, who once harboured hopes of becoming the first bowler in Test history to take 1000 wickets, said the lack of Test cricket for Sri Lanka had made it difficult for him to achieve the milestone.

The spin wizard has taken five wickets in an innings an incredible 66 times, while taking ten wickets in a match on 22 occasions. He achieved the grand double of being the highest wicket-taker in ODIs as well when he went past Wasim Akram's record of 502 wickets in 2009.

