

**Family tribute to the late Sir Arthur C Clarke**  
***Read at his funeral on 22 March 2008 in Colombo, Sri Lanka***  
***by Tamara Ekanayake***

Friends and family gathered here today:

I stand here today on behalf of the family in honour of our Uncle Arthur -- or Sir Arthur C Clarke to the world.

As family, as the three daughters -- the 'Terrible Three' as he liked to put it, with that mischievous smile on his face -- we would like to say a few words to you.

So you know, as you lay in peace, your body at rest, that what you so generously gave us will never be forgotten, but forever cherished.

You gave your time, your undivided attention and, most importantly, your love to those around you so readily.

We thank you:

We thank you for the times you listened.

We thank you for the times you laughed.

We thank you for more than you could imagine.

Uncle Arthur's talent was enormous. He had this ability to immerse himself in all his worldly knowledge and projects and keep himself busy all the time...

But he never let that cloud his dedication to his family and never hesitated to extend his care and unconditional love.

As family, we feel so privileged that you left your mark on us.

Your footprint will *never* fade. If anything, it will only magnify what we do.

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We will never forget our dinner times. There was always a new story about space travel, the moon or one of his marvelous ideas - the list was ever-surprising and on the odd occasion we would have soup, Uncle Arthur couldn't resist but repeat his 'soup joke':

*Waiter, what is that fly doing in my soup?*

*I believe it's the backstroke sir!*

No matter how many times we'd heard it, it made us laugh!

He wanted us to write on his tombstone:

QUOTE

***'Here lies Arthur Clarke.***

***He never grew up, but didn't stop growing'***

UNQUOTE

And with that, we celebrate your life to this day....

And for the rest to come.

**Note for the media:**

*Tamara Ekanayake is the second daughter of Hector and Valerie Ekanayake. With her sisters Cherene and Melinda, she formed the adopted Sri Lankan family of Sir Arthur Clarke. She grew up at Sir Arthur's Colombo home, Leslie's House.*

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