RIPE and READY

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Translation
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Illustrations
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Berries *ripen* in March, they say
mangoes ripen in may!
Raw bricks *ripen* slowly
in a burning kiln of clay.
Colours that leak in water
or fade out in the Sun
are unripened, unsteady
which is why they run...
Grey hair spells a ripe old age of wisdom begotten.
The boy that *ripen* too fast is most likely to be rotten.
Too many overripe cooks
always spoil the broth.
Eat your words
watch your brain start to fume and froth!
Ears ripen, boils ripen
and ooh how much they ache...
He whose words are half-baked, is such a total fake.
The cook stirs the stew-pot
till it’s ripe and ready!
Roll your eyes at the boy
till he cries for teddy.
Twist and twirl the rugged rope
to make it reach Malacca!
Twist and twirl your moustache to make yourself look pucca.