

Turning Back Time

Loved ones
gone forever,
come and stay like
lunette paintings
on the semicircular
alcoves of memory.

Sometimes the cold
winter mist leaches
the colours away;
I fear the greyscale
and crayon the figures--
Precious beyond words!

A 'deepening entrophy'--
Aches in the bottom of my soul
for the lost caring clasps;
dwindling life -- regrets!
Something bites me back and
fills my heart with remorse:

I couldn't maintain
frequent contact and
visit them more often--
Remained busy with
day-to-day schedules,
couldn't take time off work.

Under the 'cyclic shadow'
they must've yearned to

spend time talking with me,
But I could hardly think--
What did it feel like
to be old and alone!

I wish I could
go back in time,
and redo everything,
realising their dreams,
fulfilling their desires!

Poetry: My 2 a.m. Friend

The evening sky with
 splashes of ruby wine,
fades to pools of purple
 to disappear into night.

The sky and darkness
 with a fragment
awaiting perfection--
 The crescent moon.

Disillusionment, sorrow
 and loss of human beings,
float in the empty space
 amid random rain of tears
on closed poppy petals.

Images of sad human plight
 haunt in succession,
jarring the fine strands of peace,

making me restless:

A middle-aged man
legless on crutches,
weaving his way
through the traffic,

thumping the bonnet
of my car--
Dishevelled,
down-at-heel!

Fossils of coiled ammonites
deep within his eyes
uncurling umpteen stories
of endless woes!

Hungry children
deprived of food and laughter,
victims of malnutrition,
in the dark alleys of fate!

A fusillade of questions
assail my mind
and leave me
feeling drained.

Robbed of sleep
I call poetry--
My 2 a.m. friend
to share my feelings.

Together we flow and expand
into ever-growing stanzas
of love and empathy
under the sun of compassion!



Ranjana Sharan Sinha is a former professor in English at S. B. City College, Nagpur, India. A well-known voice in Indian Poetry in English, she received an accolade from the former President of India, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for her poem *Mother Nature*. An author and literary critic, her poems, short stories, and research papers have been widely published widely at national and international levels. She lives in Nagpur.

