

5 Poems by Ram Krishna Singh

1. ALLERGIES

After a day's labor
they lie on a sand pile
in the basement of
a new shopping complex
rising slowly next door
like the waves at Nellore beach
that broke before wiping
my name on the sand

I take a snap at sun set:
they play with plastic bottles in water
or eat fried fish in the huts

I'm warned against placing it on Facebook
she hates my face

nor am I allowed to speak
to the drug addict picked up
from the door steps of
Varsha apartments

his father questions
if there's law in the country
only a street dog wags its tail

I wheeze and take a seroflo puff
and wonder if I should visit
NIMHANS and get checked
to manage my sleep

she questions why I think of Bangalore
for treatment of all my ailments
and takes me to Bannerghatta zoo
for animal viewing

2. DEGENERATION

When gods are out to teach me a lesson
where to go to pray or find relief?

my prophet friends predict each day good
and the future fulfilling, the palmists find
the sun, saturn, venus and rahu hostile:

they seek money for rituals, stones or mantras
while God gives us the best in life gratis

I can't change man or nature, nor the karmas
now or tomorrow they all delude
in the maze of expediency and curse
stars, fate, destiny, or life before and after
degenerating the mind, body, thought, and divine

3. YOU CAN'T SCENT ME

In the poems I write
you can read my mind
even know when I'm blue

before the mirror
when I stand in the dark
you can't scent me

nor will words comfort
in chilly December
when alone in candle light

empty coffee cups
deride the syllables
I spin to make haiku

my hairs in air
revel the baldness:
wank without wad

4. ON VACATION

Because I had no STD code to dial Heaven
I walked into Hell measuring happiness
in buried lines on palms and shrinking head:
I couldn't know when love sieved and sank
like a ship on vacation

5. NEIGHBOR

With scheming mind
and crafty heart
loud and rebellious
a professional loser
perfumes the room
with flattering lips
and strays a preacher
into revolution