

## 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