

---

# *Catch a Tiger by the Toe*

---

I

How can you Totally Ignore a circle of  
19 children sharing a single bowl of rice?

How can you Pooh-Pooh  
when Apple is picked up from the street,  
weary to the bone, by the desperate police?

Kids living in flutter mud shacks,  
surrounded by the stench of garbage,  
no electricity or running water,  
often abused, sleeping on mold mattresses.  
In company of mosquitoes and disease,  
wearing shoes too small or not at all,  
the only toy, a pitch of dirt in a plastic cup.

Parents, scraping the bottom of the barrel,  
want to give their children up, not able  
to buy enough food or a school uniform.

---

How can you still muck around  
on your cashmere throw rugs,  
as long as there are slumdog kids  
huddled in some desolate corner?

II

Luckily we have the Gunna people,  
who surely give a helping hand,  
in the right circumstances,  
under the right conditions,  
for Tot, Tim, Pai, Pan, Pooh,  
Nada and all the others.

They do see what's going on,  
but isn't it their own karma?  
Their drawing for a wallpaper pattern?

Scrooges in a glass of milk,  
croaking, barking, whistling,  
instead of working tooth and nail  
to make a deaf girl dance and glance.

---

### III

What if your name is Want?  
A crazy lady full of compassion,  
you have nothing but the fierce will  
to Do Something down the mines.

You give God a one week chance  
to Moonlight What He Wants.  
Not any sign though, not even a grin,  
so tongue in cheek you decide  
to give Him 30 more minutes.

Only then, lo and behold,  
you receive a pencil drawn image of  
a Hand reaching out to another Hand.  
And from nowhere 2 Lovely M's appear,  
waiting patiently to join your endeavor.

With absolutely nothing at hand, except  
The Trust in The Given Image, you start  
Hand to Hand (eeny, meeny, miny, moe).

---

At first with a preschool for a couple of kids.  
But in no time, more and more Little Jewels  
come rushing in from all nooks and crannies.

#### IV

You give them education, scholarships,  
sports, music, food for their families,  
second hand goods, shelter if needed.  
But far and foremost,  
you give them your Heart.

#### V

In the background, from a light green  
Shrine, Little Monks are Chanting.

Chanting to give each and every child  
a dream to have a dream of its own.  
To make a one percent prospect grow  
into crimson hues of Hope in the  
Glow of Life (catch a tiger by the toe).