

SETU BILINGUAL MONTHLY JOURNAL



Poetry: Leonard Dabydeen



Leonard Dabydeen

THIS LIFE

(villanelle poem)

Zindagi aur kuch bhi nahin, teri meri kahaani hai
(*Life is nothing more but the story of you and me.*)

This life is a story of you and me:
What's in it that makes it so difficult
For us to sever bond of harmony.

In the beginning it wasn't easy
How we dated each other as adult;
This life is a story of you and me.

Sometimes we talked about dreams endlessly
Of places, and then suddenly find fault
For us to sever bond of harmony.

Fantasies were beyond what we could see -
No turning back, only a somersault;
This life is a story of you and me.

When an empty dish would share our pity
We plaited our hopes, dreams not by default
For us to sever bond of harmony.
Oft times we toured the world, city by city
Not knowing we'd come to an abrupt halt
This life is a story of you and me
For us to sever bond of harmony.

TRY NOT TO BE ASLEEP

(A Villanelle in Pentameter)

Try not to be asleep, yet stay awake
Pretence of the eyes plays tricks with the mind;
Without sleep, you may undermine your stake.

Sleep you must, always, before next day break;
A night's rest from a rough day, hard to find:
Never pretend to sleep, yet stay awake.

After a hard day's work, rest you must take,
Sleep your best remedy of any kind;
No matter how causal, know what's at stake.

Sometimes you've got to burn mid-night oil late
To meet dead-line: you must stay on the grind!
Try not to be asleep, yet stay awake.

Don't make procrastination your play mate,
It will result in havoc – strike you blind!!
Sleep without pretence, knowing what's at stake.

A good night's sleep is God's blessings to take,
After a hard day's work, best to unwind;
Try not to be asleep, yet stay awake:
Without sleep, you may undermine your stake

ON THE MOVE

(sonnet)

Along come butterflies after May rain
Fluttering excitedly at the sun,
Glowing in such radiant hues again;
How wonderful it is to watch the fun.

Where flowers of rich bougainvillea
Bloom in the lush gardens of Trivago,
Beachcombers sip cocktails in grand gesture
Watching their children running to and fro.

There is much delight in this month of June
Full of frolic and joy with people around;
Jogging and walking, dancing out of tune
Enjoying Life's comfort in their surround.

No matter troubles and tribulation
We're on the move in all situation.

Just Facts

(inverted Fib)

I
take
affront
with people
who bluntly extol
their bloated ignorance of facts.
Even when reality sets
in variables
to white-wash
their lies
half
truths.

Stars of the Night

(a Fib)

Let
us
go places
where no one
has gone to before
let this journey be triumphant
let us play beyond the myriad stars of the night.

Keep Moving

(tetractys)

Wait
no more
for the sun
to climb the hills
rise with the shining light to reach the skies.