ISSN: 0976-8165

The Criterion

An International Journal in English



Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Vishwanath Bite

5th Year of Open Access

www.the-criterion.com

Bi-monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access eJournal

An Old Bi-Cycle

Pijush Kanti Deb

The discordant ringing of the half-broken bell of an old bi-cycle and the unabated disgusting creaking noise of its rusted chain touching the loose coverwarn the pedestrians against its babbling arrival. Discoloured it is too

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with the dry clouds of the dirt

fly after it as it runs and

make it untouchable to the cycle-lifter.

Nevertheless, it is used every morning,
paddled forcefully on uneven rural road
with a load of heavy green sweats
to fetch some sparkling green papers,
compelled to groan, maybe, in pain
till its reaching the town,
unloading and leaning against a wall.
It witnesses the same role of its rider,
routine wise argument with the bargainers,
dry smile after settlement,
blissful exchange of bloods for money,
his counting again and again,
purchasing a few requests of children and wife

and drinking only a glass of free water leaving many allured sweets and fruits.

Thank God, the daily game is over,
the bi-cycle and the rural rider
return to the pavilionnot-out with some useful winning runs.
groaning turns into laughing
as the light-loaded by-cycle
and the remunerated rider both start singing
maybe, accompanied by the discordant
ringing of the broken bell

and the creaking noise of the loose chain-cover.