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The Buddha- Illusion and Reality

A.P.Govindankutty

Deeply pained by the miseries of the masses,
Wrought by the rising monarchies
Perpetrating cruelties,
Executing massacres,
Robbing possessions,
Driving from cultivated fields,
To annihilate tribal settlements,
Their haloed way of life,
Their classless democratic ways,
A threat to their existence,
Gouthama invented an illusion,
His Sangha, with all the good ways
Of the tribal life, all equal,
With no right to property,
And those who grieved the loss
Of their tribal ways
Flocked to the Sangha,
The life at large still reeling
With miseries,
Miseries for which the Buddha
Invented metaphysical planes
To comfort the masses,
Prescribed renunciation sole remedy
For the miseries of real life.

Repentant of their role in the sinful war
When soldiers of King Bimbisara
Sought ordination as bhikshus,
Determined to let the reality
Have its own weird ways,
The Enlightened One
Said."No, none in royal service
Shall ever be ordained".

Their tribal memories still unfaded,
The masses drawn to the Sangha
Bowed before the Buddha,
Placed at His feet their hearts
In the shape of white lotuses,
His faint smile and fascinating sermon,
Reiterating the Eight values,
Awakening from the tribal conscience,

Surrounding them, a protective shroud
Against the fire and storm raging around.

Dismayed at the heart-rending violence
Turning the people into merciless monsters,
He pleaded for an end to violence,
Persuaded even powerful Kings
From killing lambs for sacrifice.

Measured with the deeds
Of his vast following
What he taught didn't fructify,
Got distorted like the teachings
Of every prophet on this Earth.