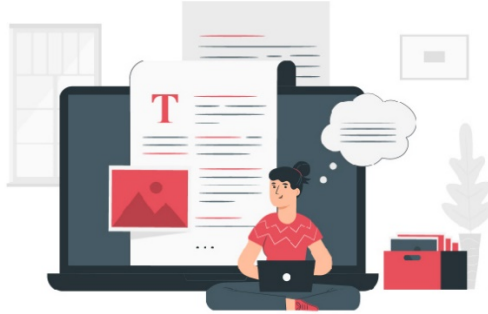


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The City that Attracts me

Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi

On the hump of a garbage mound,
In the valley of waste,
Blossoming still from the manure of yesterday
Rises the city, touching the sky
Kissing the stars and admiring the heights.

Rising forever the skyscape escapes
My befuddled eyes,
That try to concentrate and see
Where the dreams and ambitions
Will take this city that attracts me.

The mantra of money
And its jingling sound,
Jangles so much in the ears.
As I climb the storeys of the skyscrapers
The din of merry-making tries to hush

The cry of agony that the mound lets out-
Whatever is undesirable should be swept under the carpets-
Learn this lesson that the mentors and kin of Mammon taught.
This is the anthem of the city that attracts
But pains me even more.

Tinted glasses shut out the bleak sight

Of a beggar begging alms.
The classy windows of the lux cars
Reflect on the outside the
Shadows of the sick and poor
But who cares-
It is only the coloured world we see.

And when colour is sprayed
On a world of filth
Even filth becomes a sight to see.
Colour removes the browns and blacks,
The greys of pain

It paints my city bright with a sheen.
Colour has done wonders to this city that attracts me.
It has changed the womb of this city.
The rags and rubbish are forgotten
And blissfully forgetful my city
Rises to touch the skies
Bidding goodbye to pain.

Bio Note:

Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi is an Associate Professor in the department of English, Lakshmibai College (Delhi University). An alumna of LSR and Hindu college; she has twenty-seven years of teaching experience. She has an M. Phil and Ph. D degree in literature from Delhi University. Indian writing, European drama and Women's studies are some of her areas of interest. She has written poetry and articles for many journals.