

Life's Boat

A.N. Dwivedi¹
India

Life's boat glides gaily
on the waters of time
until it gets stuck up
in mounds of sand-dunes
or against the rocky lime.

To float smoothly, great labour
'n' skill it entails
at the planks 'n' oars.
Its leaky holes must also be plugged
with cotton, wick, 'n' nails.

Or, it will get grounded
near the rugged shore
or amid the swirling eddies,
sinking all the hopes of life
'n' drowning all the joys in store.

¹ Professor A.N. Dwivedi, an award winning poet and critic, has to date published about 100 research articles in local and international journals and a dozen books of literary criticism, three books of translation and four books of poetry. His collections of poetry are: *Random Reflections* (New Delhi: BRPC, 1994), *Fine Frenzy* (Allahabad: Kitab Mahal, 1998), *Protest Poems* (Calcutta: Writers Workshop, 2002) and *Beyond Borders* (New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers, 2008).

Homecoming

A.N. Dwivedi

Returning home is so joyous.
You join your family 'n' friends,
relatives 'n' dear 'n' near ones.
You breathe the native air,
bask in the sun of your land,

feel easy 'n' at home.
No more you are an alien
living on a foreign shore,
hearing nostalgically the distant note
of the melodious *kokila*
in a rocky land of crows.
No longer you are in a cage
fluttering your restless wings
against its solid bars.

Homecoming keeps you upbeat,
as you touch the feet
of your much-missed motherland,
breathe in your own air,
eat the edibles 'n' fruits
of your fertile soil.
You chat with your own people
'n' converse with them
about matters serious or light,
'n' chime guffaws, forgetting
the furrows on your forehead.
Life dull 'n' dreary alters
at once into a bright sunshine.