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## *Perfect Theft*

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I always like the image of Shiva  
Dancing his Kosmic Dance  
On the body of ignorance  
In a burning ring of fire  
Expression of transformance

How do you keep your balance  
Standing on just one foot  
Holding in each of your four hands  
The jewels for mortal man  
To live in dignity and brotherhood

Spirituality, tolerance, non-violence and  
The fourth jewel of pure engagement  
To human development and oneness  
So such a joy to join and witness  
The birth of a lifelong commitment

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We endured the traffic of Bangalore  
Which is totally out of this world  
Drove hours on end through town  
The holy cows hardly around anymore  
No Thumbs Up lightning the billboards

In those moments I longed to be  
At the Phugtal Gompa Monastery  
Drinking salty butter Tea  
Cooked on dried yak dung  
With a little monk sitting next to me

We arrived in the middle of night  
Ready for a five day marathon  
Of music, dance, singing, devotion  
Women wore beautiful dresses in yellow  
And green, jewelry shining brightly

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Part of One Family and close friends  
Joining Haldi and Mehndi ceremonies  
Eating delicious vegetarian meals  
And on top of it all the most  
Delightful orange ice cream

There were some hazards in between  
Like stepping into a smelly creek  
Taking a shortcut in the dark  
A temperature outside that made  
A small walk an everlasting endeavor

Climate change is disrupting the lives  
Of all people depended on earning  
Their daily income on the street  
And that's just the first beginning  
Of an even more unbearable living

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On the day of rest we visited  
A beautiful little temple and met  
Some pilgrims dressed in pure white  
Sweeping the ground with every step  
To avoid harming any living being

Walking already for years, for decades  
Thick callus on their bare feet  
We learned about the circle of life  
In eons of time, didn't understand  
Where we were in this universe

Chased by beggars in the park where  
Young couples were secretly meeting  
Until we couldn't bear the heat anymore  
And returned to the comfort  
Of the non-stop air conditioning

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The birth of the lifelong commitment  
Took place on the 5th day of the event  
Finally the groom in glitters arrived  
Surrounded by hundreds of guests  
Wearing a turban from Rajasthan

Despite bride and groom had hardly met  
The universe was well prepared  
By the wonderful celebrations  
An engagement blessed in heaven and  
Eternalized by tens of photo sessions

After the guests enjoyed delicious meals  
It was time to leave, but strangely enough  
The couple had not been married yet  
Airco turned off, room turning hot  
Flies at my head, waiting for the climax

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Everyone was totally exhausted  
When finally the stage was set for  
The holy ceremony at three o'clock  
A two hour ritual with burning wood  
Incense, a sword and binding words

A fairytale to get married in such  
A bombastic way, at the end the shoes  
Of the groom were robbed and  
When he paid enough to get them back  
The colorful couple was finally released

A surprise to discover two months later  
That the bride was back home again  
Terrorized by her husbands sisters  
He had not been physical yet except  
With HIS hands upon HER throat

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So the pure engagement turned into  
A perfect theft, the robbery of the dowry  
On clear daylight the family in law  
Turned out to be only interested in  
The assets of the (un)fortunate Family

The jewels have to wait or find  
Other candidates, are they up-to-date?  
Or just not respected anymore  
Now that people decide themselves  
What jewels they are living for

Maybe Ganesh can give a helping hand  
It needs the strength of an elephant  
To uplift the old traditions for  
Each and every individual  
To be able to combine

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Freedom, dignity and the duty  
Of a modern spirituality  
Tolerance and non-violence  
In a just and safe society  
And one more jewel left

Rob Shiva's fire of transformance  
Live in pure engagement  
For human development  
In a sound environment  
The perfect Theft