
The perfect Theft

Jacob Adler, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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 marvelous 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

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

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
