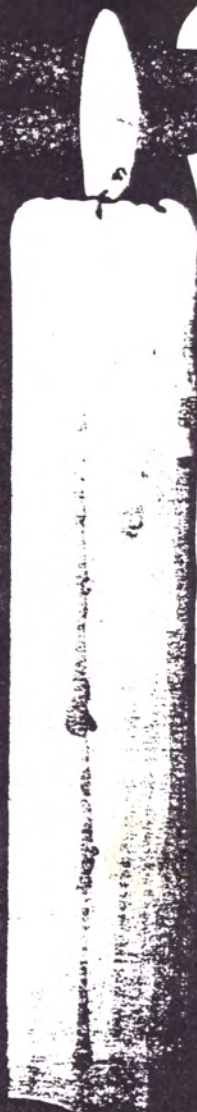


Jubilee 2000



MULTILINGUAL POEMS ON DEBT CRISIS

SPECIALLY COMPOSED FOR JUBILEE 2000

BY MEMBERS OF

GITANJALI MULTILINGUAL LITERARY
CIRCLE, BIRMINGHAM

VENUE : GEORGE CADBURY HALL
SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM

DATE : 16th MAY 1998



SUPPORTED BY
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
THROUGH
THE **ARTS COUNCIL**
OF ENGLAND

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS :

Miss Kavita Meelu	: English
Miss Jaswinder Bhatoy	: English
Mrs Kalpana Ganguly	: English
Mrs Shail Agrawal	: English
Mr. S.R.Sharma "Meeth"	: Urdu/English
Dr. K.Kumar	: Hindi/English

GITANJALI



Farewell
Farewell
My friends
I smile and
Bid you goodbye
No, shed no tears
For I need them not
All I need is your smile

12 June 1961 to 11 August 1977

The word " Gitanjali " is known to the world through India's most celebrated poet Rabindranath Tagore . Tagore died, full of years and reverence, at 80. A few years later there was born - by chance, or possibly reincarnation - another poet, an unknown girl who was given the name : Gitanjali. She died at a tender age of 16 from an incurable disease: cancer. Her parents tried to keep it a secret but the little girl had come to know of it somehow. Always in pain, short of sleep, unable to move and do things for herself, she started writing poems, in English, without the knowledge of her parents. She used to hide them in all sorts of places within her room. She did not want her parents to know that She really knew what they wanted her not to know.

After her death, some of these poems were found by her mother in her room. After a lot of struggle her mother found in Mr.Pritish Nandy a person who could understand Gitanjali and appreciate her work. Pritish got some of the poems published in the Illustrated Weekly of India in February 1979. These poems received a good response which made Pritish feel pleasantly surprised.

Through a number of twists and turns and dedicated efforts of Gordon Fox and David Bacon, a collection of her work was published in 1982 by the then Oriel Press Ltd, in the UK. The royalties received from the sale of the book were donated to various charities in India.

The poems contained in the book describe Life, Pain, Suffering, Death and God in a number of ways. The feelings and expressions of all these aspects of human life are depicted in these poems. They display a high level of maturity obtainable only after a long experience of life. She certainly did not have the experience and thus it is being argued that she was no ordinary person and without doubt was blessed with limitless divine power. Unfortunately, though her work has been translated in many Indian languages and also in Chinese, French, Spanish and German, her message, i.e. face life, do not give up and cry, has not yet reached the masses.

With a view to promoting and propagating her work not only in India but the world over "Gitanjali Multilingual Literary Circle" has been formed in Birmingham, UK. In addition to promoting her work, the members in the group feel that one day it should be possible to open a hospital to provide free treatment to all children, suffering from cancer and other related diseases. The group also hopes to initiate a programme to encourage children to write poems.

For all above to happen , in future , a number of events will be organised and all the proceeds (in true sense) will go towards the said cause. A request is ,therefore, made to every one to come forward and contribute keeping in mind only the contents of ideas and not the colour of skin. Late James Cameron has very aptly said that " Poems like Gitanjali's occasionally light up the darkness and show that all sorrow is universal. Just as love is. "

For further information and how to join the group please contact Dr.K.Kumar (Tel.:0121-472-5464) or any other member of the group.

THE DREAM

She had a dream,
She dreamt that Assams parents had a job so that they could afford to
send him to school.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that Lilly could have enough food to quench her hunger.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that her brother could be treated with propermedecin to help
overcome his illness.

She had a dream ,
She dreamt thatmaybe oneday the village children could play in the corn
fields without the fear of being shot.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that maybe oneday her village could go to Church with
happy souls.

She had a dream,
she dreamt that maybe oneday Mr Elliot could find someone to buy his
crops so he could make a living.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that oneday Mrs Burly could be reunited with her husband
after he went missing during the night.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that oneday her village didnt have to wake up to the sound of
gunfire.

She had a dream ,
She dreamt that oneday someone, somewhere,would help her village to
overcome the drought so they could begin to feed themselves.

She had a dream,
She dreamt that maybe someone, somewhere could just maybe if
anything give them a chance .
A chance for future generations,
A chance that would prevent them living this chain of debt.

Chain, Candle and Flame.

**I am the candle
I am in your debt**

**You are the chain
That deprives my children of health and education**

**The flame are my children
Who are suffering from our actions**

**Release the chain from the candle,
And let the flame burn bright.**

**Give my children, the flame, a future,
Which you, the chain, is responsible,
Which I, the candle, is eligible.**

**You have the power:
To let the flame die out,
Or to let it burn bright.**

**The children of today,
Are the people of tomorrow.**

**By Jaswinder
May 1998**

Help/Debt?

You hypocritical Hounds
 Your hypocrisy knows no bounds
 Promising disarmament
 Knowing weapons will find their way
 Encouraging corrupt regimes
 Turning a blind eye
 To starvation and repatriation
 Your convenient ignorance
 Your hypocrisy turned to apathy
 Big brother, O Big brother
 Promising elimination of poverty
 Promising prosperity
 Helping-LENDING to little nations
 Nothing for them has ever got easier
 To them, only resort left is crime and corruption
 Allow in this jungle of civilisation
 Some honesty
 Let us drop hypocrisy
 Show them our magnanimity
 Eradicate greed
 Let's just keep need
 Let the millennium see us as one family
 Eating from one big pot
 Let the year 2000
 Be free of World debt

Kalpana Ganguly

Promise me not.

Moon is the slice of bread,
shimmering bright in my sky.
Stars, my hungry children, are scavenging for
that half-eaten loaf, thrown in disdain,
a gift, a loan, a master plan ,
A bondage of slavery for generations to come.
This on going battle between haves and have nots.
where is the saviour to rewrite the lot.
I am the sad, barren face of a so-called third world nation.
An ugly, dry patch on an otherwise lush velvety earth.
Even my babies are born with a begging bowl in their hands,
shackled and chained to it.
A bowl so big and bottomless,
that it has swallowed all our hands and legs.
Faceless, crippled, my parched and arid race
sits and waits like the dry earth, with a crack in its heart.
watching those merciful, floating clouds.
Yet again, they gather and hover over a bleak horizon .
These distraught images of flee infested eyes,
of barely skin clad bones,
so called childhood,
in dying arms,
flash in front of the world.
Promise me not,
to throw just a few pennies more,
in this begging bowl and then forget it all.
Lets see how long God's mercy rains
only on distant lush green shores.

14th May, 1998

Shail Agrawal,
Gitanjali Multilingual Circle.

شیریں دنیا کے ملک اور قرض کی لعنت

از قلم: مسری رام مشرما میت

سینہ

آج لالچ نے گھیرا ہے انسان کو۔ مات سے کر دیا اسنے انسان کو
ساری دنیا کا مالک خدا ایک ہے۔ اُسکے بندوں سے لعنت ہی راہ نیک ہے
بیر خدا کے ہی بندوں نے کتا کر دیا۔ بندوں کو بندوں سے ہی جدا کر دیا۔
تین طبقوں میں خلق خدا بٹ گئی۔ قدر انسانی قدروں کی بھی سوٹ گئی
بہلا وہ جن کی سرمائہ داری تھی جاں۔ شیرے کے مقدّر میں تھیں تنگیاں
پہلے سے دوسرے کی کچی نہ بنی۔ دونوں میں یا بھڑوں یا سنگین تھیں
شیرا طبقہ قسمت کا مارا ہوا۔ دونوں کے رحم تیرہ جے چارہ بنوا
بڑھتی آبادی ما پیٹ کیسے بھریں۔ قدرتی آفتوں کا کتا چارہ گرمیں
ہر آئے سال کی بارشیں آتھیں۔ اُنکا برباد کر جائیں سارا جہاں
آمن سیلاب یہ ڈیم نہ ہونے سے۔ ملا کچھ بھی گئے نہ فصل بوٹے سے
گرفتار ہیں بیس پیٹ کیسے کورے۔ سوکھے نے کھائے کھیت جو تھے ہرے
لوگوں کو روٹی۔ پڑا۔ مکاں چاہئے۔ تنگوں بھوکوں کو نہ آسمان چاہئے۔
شیریں دنیا میں بھوک اک مرض ہے۔ سوچا اس مرض کا حل بس قرض ہے
قرض لیکر لئے بیج کیتی ہوئی۔ بڑھتے سیلاب کے ملحوں وہ کئی کھوئی
قرض کے پیسوں سے ڈیم بنوائے تھے۔ بارشوں زلزلوں نے وہ سب ٹھکانے تھے
سٹرک اب بنی، اب اڑھویں سی۔ فاصلوں کی جو دوری تھی دوری رہی
سود سوا میں قرض نکالے لیا۔ ملا کو مو سیر کے موہنے میں می دے دیا
قرض کی رقم تو بے کھڑی کی کھڑی۔ سود کی رقم ہے آسمانوں چڑھی
سود بھی نہ دیا۔ قرض موڑا نہیں۔ محمدنا ہے کوا اپنے بھی توڑا نہیں
ہر جہ قرض خواہ کا داخل چاہئے۔ وقت پر سود بھی اور اصل چاہئے
شیریں دنیا کو سود نے کھالیا۔ اُنکے رنگین خوابوں کو بھٹالیا
اب اس سود دینا ہے تو کیا کریں۔ بس نسا قرض لینے کا فائدہ نہیں
اب ترقی کے منقوبے سب ختم گئے۔ قرضوں سودوں نے فکر دے سے لکھ دم گئے
شیریں دنیا کے بچے برس سال کے۔ کرتے لکھ دے اور لئے مال کے
اس سے بڑھ کر بھلا کیا ہے سیرودی۔ رقم محض ہے قرض کے سود کی
قرض خواہ ما ہے سو رقم جلدی ادا۔ داں نہ بھلی نہ پانی نہ تازہ ہو
اب ختم ہونے کو پیسوں سے قرض۔ دور روئے زمیں سے بھٹاڑ ہوئی
ہر مسئلہ بزرگوں کا پر ختم ہے۔ نیک آغاز کا نیک انجام ہے
شروع نئی صدی نیک دل سے کریں۔ دل جو تمکین میں ان میں خوشیاں بھریں
جو قرضوں کا آفت سے ہے کم لیاں۔ شیریں دنیا میں سینے کا دم لیاں
ایک ہی حل سے بیوی معیبت یہ کم۔ قرض خواہ بھول جائیں قرض کی رقم
نہ قرض خواہ نہ کوئی قرض دار ہو۔ سارے انسانوں میں باہمی پیار ہو

THE THIRD WORLD
THE PROBLEM OF LOAN AND ITS INTEREST

Thoughts expressed by Mr. Siri Ram Sharma ' MEETH ' in his
URDU POEM

Greed has become the guiding force of the day;
The man has surpassed Satan - the Devil in doing bad deeds.
God is father of us all and it's right and desirable,
That we love each other.

God's children have created divisions between themselves;
The world population got divided into three BLOCKS;
That resulted into the loss of human values.

One Block was of developed nations - the rich, the capitalists;
The third Block came to be known as Third World;
And had nothing but miseries and misfortune.
The First and the Second blocks never see eye to eye;
They were either frowning at each other or were at daggers drawn
The Third World Nations had bad luck and were at the mercy of the other two.

Main problems faced by the Third World Nations were:
To feed their ever-growing population; To overcome natural disasters;
Because the rains and storms destroyed every year whatever they had.
Absence of dams on big rivers caused uncontrollable floods damaging crops;
And leaving them with no food.
The long dry weather dried up their crops.
The masses need food, clothes and shelter; They don't ask for the moon.

The Third World Nations thought that the only remedy for their ills
was to get loans from Developed nations.
They took loan without a thought for the rate and payment of interest;
That was like throwing oneself in a lion's den.
They used loan to buy seeds for new crops, to build new roads;
And to build dams to prevent heavy floods.
But cruel and unkind elements of nature spoiled everything;
They could neither save their crops from floods nor their dams and
roads from heavy rains and earthquakes.

The original amount of loans stood where it was but the amount of
interest accumulated to an unbelievable sum.
The borrowing nations could neither pay the amount of interest nor
could they return the capitals... Though they never intended breaking
the conditions of the loan agreements.
The Lending Nations laid down strict conditions for the conduct of
the borrowing nations. Their demand was the regular payment of interest
and also a promise for the payment of the capital sum.

Loan-taking was disastrous for the Third World. It shattered their
dreams of a bright future.
The only way left to pay the heavy sums of interest was to take more loans.

Worries to pay interest regularly and to pay back the capital sum
compelled them to suspend their development plans. It is unfortunate
that the Annual Budgets of the Developing Nations always have provisions
for the payment of heavy amount of loan interest.
The Lending Nations insist on the payment of loan interest, while the
borrowing nations have no electricity, no clean drinking water and
no fresh air to breathe.

The 20th century is coming to an end. Let's remove all ills and dishonest
dealings from the face of the earth. The wise say that good beginnings
have good endings. Let's enter the new century with noble and kind hearts.
Let's relieve the poor of their worries and fill their hearts with
happiness.

The Third World Nations cannot bear the burden of loan anymore. The only
way to get rid of this evil is to persuade the Lending Nations to Write OFF
the loans. Let there be no lenders and no borrowers in the new century.

एक बड़े विस्फोट से
 दुनिया बनी
 सब उसी के अंश
 फिर यह भेद क्यों ?
 विश्व है परिवार
 भारत ने कहा
 विश्व है परिवार
 यह हम मानते हैं।
 आज का संसार
 सीमित हो गया
 आदमी से आदमी
 पर बंट गया
 नित नई सीमा
 यहाँ खिंची रही
 ओ दिलों की दूरियाँ
 बढ़ती रही।
 प्यार में शर्तें
 यहाँ होने लगीं
 आदमी पर भी
 यहाँ बिकने लगी।
 मांगने से भीख
 भी मिलती नहीं
 मांगने से कर्ज
 पर मिलने लगा
 धर मंदर का रूप
 अब संसार में
 फौज का सामान
 है बिकने लगा
 दान का धर रूप
 अब संसार में
 नित नया व्यापार

The Debt

The "big bang" created
 The world We live in
 All are the result
 of the same "big bang"
 Then why ?
 Such a difference in between.

"The world is a big family"
 Was an ancient saying in India
 We too agree
 It is an extended family.

The modern world
 Has shrunk too small
 But people have drifted
 From one and all.

New boundaries are created
 Day after day
 Gap between hearts
 Is increasing all the way.

Even in love
 Conditions are imposed
 And what an irony
 Even Humanity is being sold.

In the past
 Begging provided no alms
 But now
 One can get aid and loans.

In the name of Aid and loan
 Deadly weapons are being sold
 And new systems of trade
 Are replacing the old.

It's important for the world
 To know how ?
 The debt crisis began
 And then to grow.
 To eradicate this sin
 It's a must to know.

है होने लगा।
 कर्ज दुनिया की
 हुई शुरुआत कैसे
 है जरूरी जानना
 संसार को
 और मिटाने के लिये
 इस पाप को
 है सनभाना
 कर्ज के अभिशाप को।
 दो दशक से पूर्व
 इस संसार में
 तेल इंधन की बढ़ी कीमत बहुत
 तेल से समृद्धि
 सारे राष्ट्र ने
 जी जमा
 धन राशि अपनी
 पश्चिमी आधिकार में
 इस मिली सम्पत्ति
 से अभिभूत हो
 बैंक के मुख
 चतुर लोगों ने कहा -
 क्यों न हम
 अब कर्ज दें
 हर राष्ट्र को
 जो उभरने के लिये
 बेताब हैं
 किन्तु हैं निर्धन
 बड़े लाचार हैं।
 लुट गई सारी रकम
 इस कर्ज की
 घूसखोरी और भ्रष्टाचार से
 राष्ट्र सब फंसते गये
 हर मोड़ पर

More than two decades ago
 Oil price rose and rose
 Oil rich Nations
 Deposited their wealth
 In the Western banks
 Overwhelmed with new found riches
 Some clever minds in the banks said
 We should now give loans
 To all emerging
 But poor and helpless Nations.

The entire loan was
 Fritted away in bribery and corruption
 And the debt burdened Nations
 Kept getting trapped in the poverty net
 And the debt chain
 Kept on getting tighter.

UNICEF estimates that
 In the last decade of this **Millennium**
 Every second
 A child is dying
 Due to this debt
 helpless children born with it
 Can neither be educated
 Nor fed
 Or medically treated.

Due to unwise
 Commitments two decades ago
 They continue to suffer
 And endure the blow.

Enough of injustice -
 Many children have died
 Enough of terror -
 Many innocent people are suffocated.
 Excesses have crossed their ultimate limit
 And the mother Earth
 Will not be able to bear this heavy burden.

I am seeing
 Fire emerging out of the gardens
 Which used to be full of fragrance
 And I am also seeing
 The sky full of smoke -
 'Cause hearts which like sandal wood
 Are now blazing.

और ज्वाला
 गुब्बतों में जाल में
 और जलड़ते हो गये
 हर रोज वह
 कर्ज की बढ़ती गई
 जंजीर से
 अब शत्रु के
 आखिरी उस क्षण में
 यूनेसेफ का एक यह
 अनुमान है
 कर्ज के आते से
 है मर रहा
 एक बच्चा हर सेकण्ड में
 साथ है।
 कर्ज है पैदा हुवे
 असहाय बच्चे
 पढ़ नहीं पाते
 सदा कमजोर रहते
 ले नहीं पाते
 दवायें मर्ज की
 दो दशक से पूर्व को
 इस भ्रष्टता से
 वे रहे सबसे
 उलझते
 और मुजतते।
 हो चुका अन्याय कापी
 मर चुके असहाय बच्चे
 हो चुका आतंक कापी
 छुट चुके बेजान मानव
 पौरोष की बाहुल्यता का
 भी उलंघन हो चुका
 भार ज्वाला
 आज का मुहल से

This fire will
 Burn the world
 And the civil wars will erupt
 From the sigh of blazing hearts
 will emerge all kinds of
 Destructive winds
 The universe will be
 Without oxygen.

Tell me then
 What will you do of all the wealth
 When no one will survive
 To use it.

Very little time is left now
 Wake up
 Well to do nations of the world
 Write off the debt you gave
 And also right off
 The interest too
 Open a new chapter of **Humanity**
 In the book of world history -
 The world expects only this from you
 Take blessings from the poor
 And light a lamp of peace.

To-day I salute
 That pure soul of this world
 Who with the help
 Of Christian Aid
 Started this massive movement.
 We all together
 Are with that soul.

To-day I pray
 That by the end of this **Millennium**
 This chain of debt
 Will be broken
 Then We will be
 Able to have peaceful sleep
 And then in the real sense
 Humanity will have won.

Dr.K.Kumar
 Gitanjali Multilingual Literary Circle, Birmingham

सहन हो पायेगा। :

धे धीचे

जो कहते हर समय
आज उनसे भी निरुद्धी

देखता हूँ

औं धुंते से

व्योम सारा हूँ मरा

न देखता हूँ :

लाग चुकी है आग

चन्चल से दिलों में।

आग यह संसार को

रवा जायेगी

हर तरफ़ तब

धुल गृह छिड़ जायेगा

औं दहकते हर दिलों

की आइ से

जन्म होगा

हर तरह की

नाशकारी वायु का

आनसीजन से राहत

ब्रह्माण्ड तब रह जायेगा

क्या करोगे ?

तब बताओ

तुम मिली धन शक्ति का

भोगने वाला न मोड़

जब यहाँ रह जायेगा ।

हैं समय थोड़ा वचा

तुम चेत लो

विश्व के समृद्धि शाली

देश अब -

जो दिया था सज

वह तुम माफ़ कर दो

रुद्ध की सारी वस्तु

The debt crisis

Debt is a fundamental cause of poverty and hardship for a billion people in the Third World. Yet it came about through no fault of those who now suffer under its burden.

1. It's the 70s. The oil-producing countries form a cartel to push up oil prices.

2. They make a bundle – and stick it in Western banks.

3. Deluged with dosh, the banks set out to use it to make more by pushing loans on any country (and any leader) they can persuade to take one.
Even they admit it was irresponsible.

4. Not surprisingly, the money is often spent on under-researched, unrealistic projects – or wasted by dictators. The poor rarely benefit from the loans.

5. Then... disaster! New economic policies in the West send world interest rates sky high.

6. Even more disaster! The prices of things poor countries buy (eg oil) rise... a lot. And the prices of things they sell (eg crops) fall... a lot.

7. So there we have it – the poorest countries falling deeper and deeper into debt. Paying and paying – but, because of the high interest, owing more at the end than they did at the start. Taking out new loans to service old ones.

8. It's the 90s. UNICEF estimates that 500,000 children a week die as a result of the debt crisis. Today's children are paying for the folly of a world that went mad 20 years before they were born – paying with their health and education.

9. Debts have been bought, sold, traded around... Now almost all are controlled by the more powerful governments and big international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank (which are largely controlled by the more powerful governments!).

10. The Millennium is approaching. It is the world's richest governments (including our own) who are responsible for the debt situation. History will hold them accountable – because they have the power to end it. Christian Aid, and the many other organisations in the Jubilee 2000 Coalition, believe the debt can and must be cancelled. **And it will be – when enough ordinary people shout loud enough.**



To meet debt payments, Tanzania's government has to charge high prices for many essential services that it used to provide for free.

The price of debt in Tanzania

– for Agness Chanhua is £1 every time she visits the local health clinic. It used to be free. The average salary is only £1.61 per week.

Again, this used to be free. He doesn't know whether or not he'll be able to afford it.

– for Francis, a farmer from Bunghu village, is the £20 registration fee to send his child to secondary school.

Every man, woman and child in Tanzania owes £6.73 in debt repayments.