

LIMERICK

By U AtreyaSarma

There was a smart gal glued to iPad
Her parents said: "Shun this device bad;
We'll buy anything great
For you – whate'er the rate."
She said: "Get me a Tab, I'd be glad!"

SONNET: THE TALE OF A CROOK

There was a Crook who's into small-time crime
So nimble in theft and pocket picking.
He indulged in this guilty job full time;
It's how he'd kick off his life a-clicking.

Then a poet named Tongue while at a tree
Called upon him: "Ne'er like this fill your purse.
Be off your track and take to poetry
Or else god on you hurls many a curse."

So Crook looking into books, made a shift
And began to think a lot on the rhyme;
Good poems of others he'd neatly lift
And win good laurels and prizes of prime.

Who can say a tiger his stripes would change?
How could a goon his basic traits estrange?

SIN UNDER THE SUN

Tired of watching man's sins
Under the very glare of his light
The defeated sun set out retreating.

Un-contrite,
Man glowered at the wan Sun.
Unable to bear
The sinner's burning glare
He slipped behind a veil of clouds
And sank down fast
Closing his eyes...

VALENTINES

Teenage and young couples
Dressed in garish yellow
Swarm the park with dark smiles
And slink behind the bushes...
Leaves sear and flowers wilt.

Man in white visits the temple
Circled by stretched out hands.
The emptied pocket tinkles

To the nodding clang of the bell.
Then returns home with pocket
Refilled with grateful, blessing smiles.

Lunar prince at the nightly apogee
Wooed by countless starry fays
Shines with an expansive pride.
He doesn't touch them or won't be touched.
Yet he tickles the dark-blue tapestry
Sharing his moonlight with one and all.

Bio:

Interested in literature, **U Atreya Sarma** is into writing poetry, freelance editing, book-reviewing and translating. His output – about 250 poems and 400 writings (articles, editorials, reviews, forewords, translations) mostly in English and a sprinkling in Telugu – has appeared in various print/online media and anthologies. A freelance editor with 17 years of experience, he is presently the Editor (Fiction, Reviews, News & Events) & Contributing Editor (Telugu Literature) of the e-journal *Muse India* (www.museindia.com). His past editorship includes *Bharatiya Pragna* monthly and *Cyberhood* weekly. He has also brought out Telugu literary features in three issues of *Muse India*. He is also the official critic of *Metverse Muse*, an international journal of metrical poetry published from Visakhapatnam.

He composed in English the profiles of 132 modern Telugu Stalwarts for the bilingual book *Marapuraani Maanikyaalu* (2010) (with wordy & pictorial sketches in Telugu by BNIM, a noted writer & artist).

Atreya Sarma has edited three books: *Lung Care and Long Life* (2012) by Dr Shyam Sunder Raj; *Memoirs & Musings of an IAS Officer* (2013) by KV Natarajan, IAS (Retd); and *Turquoise Tulips* (a collection of short stories) by the USA-based Dr Ashok Patwari (in publication stage). The fourth one is in the pre-publication stage – a revised fictional autobiography by Gian Singh Shatir (a Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Urdu).

Sarma's translation of 16 Telugu short stories by a senior and prominent writer Dr Mallemala Venugopala Reddy under the title *Salt of the Earth* (2013) has been acclaimed by reviewers. As a panellist, he has translated into English 6 out of 36 chapters of Jnan Pith awardee Viswanatha Satyanarayana's Telugu mega novel *Veyipadagalu*, under the aegis of the Hyderabad based Viswanatha Sahitee Peetham (scheduled to be launched on Oct 18, 2015).

Atreya Sarma features and encourages poets through the weekly column 'Wordsmith' in *The Hans India*, a Hyderabad based English daily circulated in AP & Telangana states.

He holds an MA (English), a PG Dip (Mass Communications & Translation Techniques), a BA (English, Sanskrit, History) and BSc (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry), and CAIIB (Part I) with mid-level managerial experience in SBI.

While his home base is Hyderabad, Atreya Sarma lives between Hyderabad and Pune.

Email: atreyasarma@gmail.com