

RECESSION HITS LOVE

-- Rajiv Khandelwal

Dwindling contact
Three months waiting
And when the wait
Gets almost pickled in formaldehyde
I finally get to hear from her

She says: Can no more
Log on to Skype or E-mail
And she's doing seven peoples' jobs all by herself
Most of the staff got fired
But she's elated
Got a salary rise with
Home loan approved

Nothing much happening
Except
She has no time
Has a lot to finish

I
Recession hit
Wait
For the finish

A DREAM AWAY

While the ranks of the jobless
Keep rising everyday
I am
Not looking for a job
Like my American contemporaries
Nor am I
Looking for business bail out packages
Like most iconic business houses
Because I am not cash starved
Yet
I am not looking
For a Hyundai i10
Or a Honda City
Or a Toyota Innova
Either
They are just a dream away
And
While you are always away
Everyday
I hope it's your mail
So that
We can again feel together
Grieve together
Hope together

NOTHING HAS CHANGED

Even now
When I see blooming, swaying flowers
I think of you

When I hear
A subtle knock
Echo of fading footsteps
Sounds of laughter
I hope it's you

I wait for the fragrant spring breezes
Wishing your musky aroma wafts by

Nothing has changed

Except

I no longer go to the theatre
Where in the dark
We held hands

The book 'Games People Play'
And the bookmark you gave me
Have an aged, tired look

Often I find myself in the dark
Playing make-believe games
Tossing the coin
And betting

"Did she or didn't she?"

Rajiv Khandelwal
Partner - S.M.International
Owner - G.R.Exports

22\3 Pandit Motilal Nehru Road

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Tel: 91-562-2852188

E-Mail : rajivk92@gmail.com