

Poetry Series

Sheshu Babu
- poems -

Publication Date:

2020

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Sheshu Babu()

' Noble ' Effort

In recognition
Of the excellence in human
Thought and scientific temper
A great man with his relentless effort
Started world renowned prize
The ' Nobel' prize....

Despite controversies
And ceaseless debates
Among academics and intelligentsia
From America to Asia and Australia,
The coveted prize is still a benchmark
Which is seen as a landmark
In the life of scientists, doctors,
Literary critics, social workers
Or human rights activists

Kudos for the eminent human
Who tried to recognize human talent
Give the honor it deserves
And hard work, for posterity, it preserves...

(Swedish Chemist 'Alfred Nobel's will' establishes Nobel prize on this day,
Nov.27,1895)

Sheshu Babu

0°achievement

The climate change talks
Ended as expected without any 'sparks'!

While the rich countries
Reviled in festivities,
The impoverished nations
Could achieve nothing for future generations...!

Talk of prudent measures to limit global warming
Ended in confusion and yielded next to nothing...

For a drastic 'change' of policy on climate change,
People are forced to wait for the 'system to change'
Till then, the expectations of limiting to 1.5°C
Might be imaginary and optimism close to 0°C...! !

Sheshu Babu

A Different Appeal

Salute the Lord
The humanity's God
Who gave a beautiful Nature
To be enjoyed by every creature

Salute the Lord
Who gave his helping hand
For the depressed, the oppressed
And whose lives were suppressed

Salute the Lord
For his patience and infinite wisdom
Who never ceases to warn
The vices perpetrated by human....

Salute the Lord
Who is still prepared to guide
The people who have gone astray
In pursuit of their many a selfish way...!

Salute the Lord
Who, across religions, castes and creed,
Listens to every appeal
And tries always for human welfare...!

(Acknowledgement to G. Puroshattam)

Sheshu Babu

A Glimmer Of Hope.....For Humanity

A small girl
Broke her ' piggy ' bank pot
And contributed the entire amount saved
To flood victims!

A young woman
Sold her property
Bequeathed to her by her father
And sent the proceeds
To flood victims of Kerala...!

A group of fisherpeople
Accumulated their petty savings
And donated the entire money
To kerala flood victims....!

In a turbulent world,
Where rulers vying to release money
For flood relief works,
Where even donations
Are measured on communal lines,
Is there a hope? ?

Humanity...is.....
After all, not entirely lost...!
There is a glimmer of hope...!
To Kerala flood victims

Sheshu Babu

All Is Fine When You Win

..... Now you've started
To remove stones and mud from rice!
What happened when you first saw
The bowl of rice on your table?

You thought you can eat it without bothering...

Only when mud and stones started
Hurting your teeth
Did you realize that something has gone awry!

Yes!
All is fine when you win!
You can gulp any amount of mud
Or any number of stones!

Its only when you loose
That you feel stones rolling
And mud slipping into your mouth....

Hence, one loss is more valuable
Than many wins!
You'll have your brain working
To understand causes for loosing
And cure for winning
Next time! ! !

Sheshu Babu

Another ' Tryst With Destiny '

Fear! Fear! Fear!
Everywhere!
Fear of being lynched!
Fear of being thrashed!

Hatred towards people hating hatred!
Hatred towards people questioning mindless hatred!

Hate towards those supporting freedom
Of expression opposing fiefdom!

In these days of tyranny
There's need for tryst with destiny
To build a fearless safer world
With people solemn and bold...! !

Sheshu Babu

Are We Really Free?

Someone controls every moment -
Thought Police!
Rhetoric changes every moment -
Double Speak!
Omen signals something terrible -
Catastrophe!
Living has become harder and unbearable -
Holocaust!

' Are we really free? '.....
The question haunts
Somewhere....optimism swirls round like a bee
Murmuring '... May be yes...? ' Mind ' taunts'.....

Sheshu Babu

Between Two Extremes

When droughts dry our land
When floods drench our land
Who suffer?

When heat wave causes sunstroke
Severe cold causes havoc
Who suffer?

Who have caused such imbalance?
Who made climate change?
Who are risking with life on earth?
Who are responsible for death and birth?

There are no other supernatural beings to blame
It is we, the humans, who should hang our heads in shame! !
When shivering cold

Sheshu Babu

Blame - Game

While children are dying
And parents weeping,
The debate on the causes
Is worrying with illogical nuances....!

Some blame irony of fate
Others ' litchi ' fruit
No one is ready to accept their condition
The root cause is ' malnutrition'....!

As long as apathy of rulers continues
There will be no respite from malaria or encephalitis
Many more kids may succumb
To the rotten system - a graveyard with a tomb....

Sheshu Babu

'Bloody' Flowers....

There was a garden
Akin to garden of Eden
That made many human beings admire
And, that was the beautiful ' Kashmir'!

The shining garden with colored flowers
Attracted many visitors
Who tried to occupy
And turn it into their property....

Suddenly two visitors came
From opposite sides to play game:
They divided the blooming flowers
And stripped them off their colors

One visitor chanted with uncontrollable rage
'This is 'Cash' for our corporate usage!
A minefield to make huge profits
Take away the Land from local misfits! '

From the opposite roared
'This ' mir' is our sword
It belongs to us from eternity'
They boasted of similar community!

But, the flowers cried, ' Azadi! '
'We want freedom! Azadi! Azadi!
All you visitors just come and go!
Let us bloom and swing to and fro! '

But the visitors never cared their appeal
Their voices choked with authoritative seal
The garden was littered with 'bloody'flowers
Grassy garden beauty replaced by dirty mud- covers!

Still, the blood- coated flowers in unanimity
Cried in despair, ' azadi! Azadi! '
Let there be peace and tranquility
And freedom to all - you, us and humanity! !

Sheshu Babu

Borderless Birds

Flying in the fresh air above the sky,
Birds chirp with ecstatic joy
Crossing created boundary
On the fenced ground with armoury....

Songs are like birds ways
Travelling in the air with sound waves
Not caring artificial constraints
Created by selfish human beings....

Songs emanating in the East
Hummed in the distant west
Convey to the egocentric world
That love has no borders - young or old -
And it is omnipresent, omnipotent,
Its power is beyond nations....and omniscient...!

Sheshu Babu

'Cleanliness ' That Is Lacking

When your opponents
Spewed litter on the way,
You carefully pluck out a leaf
From a tree and cleaned it....

Now,
When number of persons
Are dying cleaning sewage
And politicians
Posing selfies with brooms,
And cleanliness has turned out
A fashion
And a vote winning slogan...

Oh! Departed soul...!
Don't you feel
Your goals have missed
The target? ? ?

(On birth anniversary of Mohandas Gandhi who was a leader in India)

Sheshu Babu

Constitution- Where...? ?

Violence everywhere!
No sight of lasting peace anywhere!
In the most advanced developed nation,
There is dearth of followers of constitution....

(On the occasion of the constitution convention of Philadelphia approving the constitution of USA.

Also 'Farewell address ' of president George Washington)

Indigenous tribes, blacks, immigrants,
Ordinary citizens - all suffers
The rulers violating fundamental rights
Are performing democracy last rites...

The elders signatories of constitution convention
Looking on helplessly from their 'grave- stone'
Remembering famous ' farewell address' of Washington
Shedding tears for present pa

Sheshu Babu

Crocodile Tears

Somewhere lurking behind in the sea
Was a giant crocodile watching with glee
Its prey slowly enter shallow waters
Not knowing the impending dangers....

As soon as the prey came into contact
It pounced on them devoured them with tact
And shed its crocodile tears
Chewing its prey teeth looking like spears

Like the satiated crocodile
Modern rulers beguile
Their subjects from behind
Devour their bodies and souls and
Shed tears in sympathy
To show deluding empathy

This is the nature of present system
A showy democracy with undercurrents of totalitarianism

Sheshu Babu

Cry! My Beloved Baby!

A small baby cries
Whenever hungry
Or ill or angry
With something.....

That is the way of protest.....

Baby doesn' t stop
Till the desired goal is achieved....

That is perseverance....

Crying is a ' weapon' to fulfil aspiration
A small step for revolution....!

The moral- Do not stop trying
Till you achieve everything...! !

Sheshu Babu

'Dangerous ' Education? ?

If you happen to read
Books on history, wars,
Struggles, revolutions....

Be cautious!

You may be booked
And incarcerated
For years....

Like Julian Assange
Or Chalsea Manning
Or Snowdden....

Or, those innumerable prisoners
Of US, Africa, India, Australia
Or UK or Russia....

Acquiring knowledge is dangerous...? ? ! ! !

Sheshu Babu

Destruction..... Fani

Marooned land
Drowned people
Hurling water and sand
Fani was capable
Of crushing anything on its way
With its whirlwind it could sway.....

It has reminded humanity
The ruthless destruction of ecology without sanity
And warned consequences
If the people didn't heed its potential threats...!

Sheshu Babu

Dissent Is Natural Law

When whirlwind
Engulfs the land,
Tree branches waver to and fro
Showing dissent!

When animals
Face danger,
They try to escape
From the scene
Showing dissent....!

Every life on earth
When faced with adverse situation
Try to counter it
Showing dissent! !

Where ever there is agreement,
There is disagreement...!

Sheshu Babu

Distribute Harmony....

In a world seething with hate,
Any one who dares to create
Conditions for peace and love
Is a humanistic treasure trove....!

Despite threats from hardcore fanatics
And constant derogatory tactics,
Sacrificing oneself to save communal harmony
Will be recognized... If not now, in posterity! !

(For those who profess love in times of hatred)

Sheshu Babu

Do Not Falter....

There are many obstacles
Men may use you as ' articles '!
They try to see your hopes shatter
But do not falter...! !

Yes! The world is against you!
It has a blinkered view
But some day it has to alter
Its ways..! Do not falter...!

Fight with immense courage
Fight patriarchy with rage...!
This system is close to its altar
So, be patient..! Do not falter..!

You are the Creator of civilization
The architect of human spiritual elation!
Do not end your life in a whimper
Future is yours! Do not falter!

(In response to the report published on September 13,2018 stating that the rate of suicide deaths of women (SDR)has increased from 1990-2016)

Sheshu Babu

Egypt Red Star ...Amin

In a country of turmoil
Where aspirations of youth boil,
The legacy of Samir Amin
Will be remembered again and again!

He was a champion of poor
His works reflect his philosophy for sure!
Though forced to leave his motherland,
Senegal gave him courage to withstand
The ruthless exploitation of dictators
The inhuman repressive predators....

Yet, he was friendly and warm
Suffered his life with calm
He remains in the hearts of labor
For whom he worked through his life for ever...!

Sheshu Babu

Empty Rhetoric

What does ' development ' mean
When 99% of people without clean
Water, food and clothing
And medication are dying....?

What does ' growth ' mean
When the rich are keen
On accumulating wealth
While poor live in filth...?

All the talk of progress is gimmick
To deceive people and hoodwink...

It' s empty rhetoric!

Sheshu Babu

End Of Chauvinism!

Suffering centuries of exploitation
Gathered courage and determination
O! King! You have proved
That queen can have upper - hand...

With a stroke of tennis racket
Showed the meaning of women empowerment
And trampled the chauvinistic male
Smashing his ego leaving him pale...!

A historic battle
That made the world rattle
And gave sportswomen
Fighting spirit and resolve stern...!

(Salutes to 'Billie Jean King ' who won a ' resounding ' victory on chauvinism)

Sheshu Babu

Foot Soldiers

In the world of political chess
Where the king's authority
Is protected by all powerful queen,
Bishops, knights and rooks,
The first line of casualty
Are foot soldiers- the pawns!

But when these pawns
Cross hurdles
And reach the other side of the board,
They assume powers
That can even threaten the kings!

People who seem powerless like pawns
Can become powerful
If they cross obstacles
Created by the protectors
Of authority
And cause danger to totalitarian kings! !

Sheshu Babu

Forgotten Children

Who has the time to remember
The tiny tots losing lives due to malnutrition and diseases?

Who has the time to spend
Educating slum dwelling children in schools and classes

Who has the courage to stop
Sexual abuse of tender aged boys and girls?

Who has the political will
To nourish children for better future in all respects?

Nothing has changed and nothing will change....
Only some celebrations and empty words of courage....

(India celebrates 'children's day')

Sheshu Babu

Free ' Hair '

Where body of women represents sin,
Where there is no alternative to win
There even free flow of ' hair '
Is a symbol of victory rare!

Let the curling ripples speak
That women are not at all weak:
They have the undaunted grit
To tackle oppressor's ' wit'....

They can lead a great movement
Against suppressive temperament
Of a male hegemonic society
That uses them as toys with humility...!

(In solidarity with Iranian activist Masih Alinejed, journalist exiled for her views
fighting against force

Sheshu Babu

Gifts From Santa Claus

For the homeless Palestinians
For the helpless Rohingyas
For the hungry children of Somalia
For the disease affected kids of Asia...
What gifts are in store.... Father
Santa!

For the

Sheshu Babu

G'old' Enmoments

Let us, just for a moment,
Forget scary days
And cherish golden moments...!

Gold glitters
Through its long- lasting life....
Only it has to be polished
Occasionally
To wipe out accumulated dust -
The mistakes committed
In the long innings of friendship....

We have learned to see through
Dust ravaged time
And fetch (g) old moments
Of life

(For oldest friend- Liaquath)

Sheshu Babu

Humanity... Alive!

You are not innocent...kid!

Even when you know
That you have accidentally killed
A bird,
You tried to revive life
By all the means you could

You taught the world
Meaning of life
Which humans have long forgotten!

Great!

(A small boy in Mizoram, India, tried to save a chicken which he had accidentally run over

Sheshu Babu

Hundred Years..... War Continues

The horrors of war
Left deep scar
On generations upon generations
With sorrowful tales of humiliations...

Poets explained the situation -
Whether Siegfried Sassoon or Wilfred Owen
By their vivid description
Of battlefield friction....

Still there are tremors being felt
As superpowers begin to fasten their belt
To once again repeat the folly
Of another war unholy....

Activists and lovers of peace
Rise! Stop the preparations... PLease!
Celebrating the end of the first war
Will be meaningful only if efforts are made to erase the scar...! !

(For the innocent soldiers who died fighting for their imperialist rulers)

Sheshu Babu

Imagination

Jesus!

In these of biting winter
Even with modern accessories
We are shivering
And many die due to severe cold....

When we imagine
How you suffered in those days
With scant facilities,
We feel proud of you!

You have shown us the way
To bear difficulties and yet live for others!

You are our inspiration
For a better life!

Merry Christmas! ! !

Sheshu Babu

In'toxic'ated World...!

The environment is Toxic!
The air we breathe is 'Toxic' !
The land is toxic!
The food is toxic!

Politics is toxic
Political economy is toxic!
Society and culture are toxic
Human behaviour is toxic..!

Since times immemorial
'Toxic' has been all pervasive and real
In this mundane world
Where morality has been left in storage cold...!

At last, dictionary inscribed the truth
And added 'Toxic' to its vocabulary tooth
And indicated the widespread poison
Warned humanity the difficulty to live on!

(The oxford word of the year has stirred the soul of humanity)

Sheshu Babu

Ismat Chughtai- The Courageous Writer

She had the bravery
To fight patriarchy
And society rooted with misogyny....

She made her mark
With reality stark
Writing on womens' lives dark....

In Urdu, where only traditional views prevailed,
She gave a new progressive outlook that acclaimed
Her as one of the best literary genius who portrayed
Life of all shades she perceived....

Ismat the outspoken writer
Stands out as a great writer for ever...!

Sheshu Babu

Limits To Beauty

Morning sun is beautiful
With its tender sunlight....!
But as the day prolongs,
It produces heat and in summers, sweat....
It's beauty is lost!

The evening moonlight
And stars are beautiful...!
But when clouds engulf them,
The beauty is covered up!

Rains are beautiful
If they drizzle intermittently....
But is they pour in torrents....?
Loss of life and property
Camouflage beauty of weather...!

Nature is beautiful
When there is ecological balance....!
But vagaries of nature
Unsettle balance
And the ' beauty ' is lost
To fear and danger

Sheshu Babu

Marooned Mumbai

Again!

Another year of troubles with rain!

Same woes recurring again and again!

Roads and metro lines waterlogged

The poor hut- dwellers lives shattered!

Puddles on dysfunctional roads

Leaving traffic to tackle falling sign- boards

And branches of old trees.....

Nothing has changed

Though rulers have 'exchanged'

Power over the decades

Like replacing band-aides...!

The downtrodden die every year

No permanent solution or any one to hear

Their ever present sufferings.....

Only few politicians sympathetic verbal offerings!

They face the same situation

Only change of present system may offer them solution! !

Sheshu Babu

Modern Dyers.....

Hundred years ago.....

A supremacist officer
Equipped with latest weapons
Ordered ' fire'
On unarmed masses
Protesting against imperialists....

Hundred years later....

Dictatorial rulers
Are giving rights to officers
To ' fire'
On unarmed masses
Gathering to protest
Against anti- people's policies....

In both cases
It's masses who faced the sufferings
And continue to suffer.....

Only ' the fire'
Cannot be extinguished.....! !

(To the martyrs of jallian Walla bagh martyrs)

Sheshu Babu

Morass

One step forward
Two steps back
The world is in the middle
Of a deep morass

Withdrawal of troops
But attacks continue
Syria or Afghanistan,
The US foreign policy
Is in deep morass...!

Allowing women into temples
But unable to stop protests
Supporting male hegemony
Covertly or overtly
The society is in a deep morass...!

Inaugurating science seminars
But propagating archaic dogma
Highlighting unscientific past
Indoctrinating gullible masses
The philosophy is in a deep morass...!

Boasting of democracies
And freedom round the world
But implementing surveillance
Methods to curb dissent
The living of people is in a deep morass!

Earth is in a deep morass...!
Environment is in a deep morass...!
Life is in a deep morass...!
Future is in a deep morass...!

Sheshu Babu

Nature's Fury....Continues!

Devastation everywhere!
Sign of calm...nowhere!
Torpedoes, tornadoes hurricanes!
Storms, rains leaving humans in pains...

Thousand of lives lost
Hundreds of cattle bite the dust
Trees and plants fall to the ground
With unbearable thundering sound

No difference shown in any area
Whether it is America, India or Indonesia
Lakhs of houses inundated
Animals and people marooned...!

Human greed continues
To harp on malicious tunes
Harming their own species
Along with nature's beauties!

If humans are cruel to nature,
It's retaliation will be a recurrent feature
Unless they realize their cost of misadventure,
There is little hope for the generations of future!

(On the Great Hurricane that devastated Carribean Islands recording one of the deadliest one in history)

Sheshu Babu

'New ' Language

Welcome to our company!
(Applicable to only a few in our company) !

We are a leading producers....
In fact, that's possible only with dedicated workers....

We have a good working environment...
For the laborers to toil hard with slavish commitment...

We have smart gadgets and 'smart' toilets
.... But the workers use open defecation outlets...
Our wage structure is startling!
Yet, there is no improvement in the bottom employees' standard of living!
We hope to increase our profits with zeal of our colleagues...!
Burden lower rung employees with extra- work, reduced perks and lay off risks!

(Inspiration: ' Key words: Language of Capitalism')

Sheshu Babu

Ode To Peterloo

Who remembers the savagery
Of the English ruling cavalry
Which trampled the unarmed
And left scores of people killed...?

Who remembers the bravery
Of those protesting against slavery
And lack of political representation
In their own beloved nation...? I

But their sacrifices are not wasted
Though they did not get what they wanted
One day or the other
They will gain upper hand on ruler

The great saga of Peterloo
After Napoleon's defeat after Waterloo
Reminds the power of the dictator
Cannot go on for ever.

Two hundred years after the struggle
Workers are still in trouble
Protesting against tyranny
To formulate their own destiny

Still, a long way to go
Success wavers to and fro
While there are many a gain
A lot of works remain

Remember the great martyrs of Peterloo
Who relentlessly stood against foe
And sacrificed their precious lives
For suffrage to future generations

Sheshu Babu

Ode To Pillows

Tears of people of all ages
Soaking like ever patient sponges
The pillows imbibe life's essence...

When worried people look for solace
When frustrated people like to rest in peace,
The pillows sooth them to slumber
Absorbing their sufferings -a lot in number! I

Learn from pillows, the secrets of life
How to manage everyday strife
How to treat both intellectuals and laymen alike
Performing duty with out hatred or dislike

Sheshu Babu

One Year....And May Be Many More...!

It has been a gruelling journey
From home to eternity....!

One day, they declared war
Throwing them out from their homes of Myanmar
Into landless lands of Bangladesh
To live without desire or wish

The men got killed brutally
Women thrashed and raped heinously
Children died of hunger and disease
World looked on with comfort and ease..!

There are girls expecting babies
Married to old husbands with wagging bodies
No interest in living any more....
They waited thus for a year and may be some more...

The Rohingyas have become a burden
To their homeland as well as the land of their adoption
Everywhere they see heart - wrenching sorrow
Praying for a safe and better tomorrow

How many days, months and years
Will their wretched lives like pears
Continue to pester....?
They are losing courage - faster!

(Dedicated to poor Rohingyas)

Sheshu Babu

Over The Moon.... China!

Hard work
Scientific temper
Are the two hands of China

Rapid industrial growth
Achieving progress of worth
It is marching forward
Leaving many developed nations backward...

Latest discovery of the 'dark' side
Of the Moon with pride,
China has shown the light
To relentlessly struggle and fight..!

Let the progress of astronomy
Along with robust economy
Lead the people out of traditions
And live with scientific predictions...

(Kudos to the scientists)

Sheshu Babu

Power Of ' Capital'

Workers!

Years ago

You received a clarion call
To unite and fight
For your freedom and identity

No! There was no money involved....
Nor any arms or ammunition!

But the ' power ' that gave you
Confidence that you can rule....
The 'capital ' of France
Or the the Soviet Republic
'Das Capital'!

That will remain your guide
Friend and philosopher
In these turbulent times
And future struggles....

You received a great assurance today
The theory and practice
Of surplus value

Value it like your life...
Comrades! ! !
And

Sheshu Babu

Real ' Black Holes'

Scientists are fascinated of 'black holes'!
A marvelous discovery that holds
Great potential for future research
Into unknown territories - a forward march...The

But look at the earth!
It has real holes...

The Gold mines in Africa or Afghanistan

The coal mines of India or Pakistan

The drainage death holes in Asia
The potholes on highway area...

These ' holes' absorb human lives
Like Black holes absorbing light waves...
Poor workers risk their lives for living
Black holes gulp in cosmic thing

Earth holes are more dangerous
Than hypothetical black hole ' theories'! !

Sheshu Babu

Remote Control

You have morality
You have legality
You have humanity
On your side...

We have power
Plenty of military cover.....

We have the most important
Remote control
Of your lives....! !

Sheshu Babu

Rising Power

Home to Paris Commune
France has a 'historic tune'
Of resistance and protests
By its people who stood all tests

Now, the oilcrisis
Has once again made people mobilise
The tide of ' yellow vests'
Giving rulers tough ' tests '...! !

Sheshu Babu

Salute The Freedom Fighter

This day,
More than a hundred years ago,
A young boy in his teens
Was executed
By the tyrannical colonialists...

The boy from Bengal
Hailed from Mednapur
Called Khudiram
Was sentenced to death
In Muzaffanagar conspiracy case...

Salute his valour!
His youthful courage!
His martyrdom! Last days in jail
Embraced gallows with a smile

Sheshu Babu

Salute To Singh - The 'Gadar' Party Leader

When youth dreamed of happiness
Leading life of carelessness
Exuberance of youth
Led you to 'patriotic' truth...

O! Great comrade Bhagat Singh
You can be aptly said, 'Singh is King'!
To the younger generation you are the 'radar'
Who showed the value of revolution - 'Gadar'..!

Imperialism has taken a new turn
Neo- colonialism is marching on!
There is, everywhere, exploitation
And top to bottom corruption...

Many like you are needed
To drive out growing cruelty unabated
Create millions of Bhagat Singhs
From the unfinished goals of future 'springs'....

Your unselfish martyrdom
For motherland - that was seen as your crime! -
Should inspire the present generation
Urgent need for a revolution..! !

(Birthday of Bhagat Singh - a small dedication)

Sheshu Babu

Scams

Like cats drinking milk
Eyes closed secretly
The people involved in scams
Loot money furtively
Thinking that they are not seen
By world

Cats can be caught and punished
By chasing
But 'scam- sters'
Though can easily be caught and jailed,
Are let off
Due to their powerful outreach

Small thief is like a trapped cat
Who can be punished
But industrial corporate barons
Are wild big ' cats'
Who wield so much power
That they live unafraid
Even after involving in scams
After scams

Bofors or Rafale
Watergate or Irangate.....
All end without convictions
Or persecutions...
Like free - living ' big Cats'...!

Sheshu Babu

See-SawBalance Your Thoughts!

You tried umpteen tricks
To drive away refugees!
Your forceful eviction
Or construction of wall
Will not stop flies
Or birds
Or even human beings
Crossing lines!

There is always a 'see - saw'
Clinging on both sides
Supporting innocents
Who care nothing
But food, clothing and shelter
None of your politics
Is useful for them!

Hence, balance your mind
And think
Imagining see - saw..'.....!

(Inspiration: Ronald Real)
Pink seesaws at border wall -
Artist installs see- saw at border wall so children of the US and Mexico play
together.. (dated July 30 2019)

Sheshu Babu

Solidarity

These are troubled times....

Everywhere communal clashes and hate crimes....!

No one is in a position to think and act;

Accept mistakes and try to retract....

Victims are growing in numbers

Innocents are being flogged and thrashed by members

Of some fanatic group or the other

Names and religion of these doesn't matter....!

Danger of carnage is driving humanity

Towards fear psychosis and stark insanity.....

Let the youth and activists come out with solemnity

And work to eliminate such crimes:in solidarity....!

Sheshu Babu

Space Isn't Black!

Zoom into the wide vacuum...dear!
It isn't colored!
Nor is it black!

It is not racist
Nor discriminatory!

It is for all of us!
Irrespective of religion
Caste, Creed, sex or nation!

Explore the wonders!
The planets, satellites and stars!

Look from the above!
The whole masses of universe...
And our blue earth with diverse
Spots reflecting contents
Inhabiting humans
Practicing every form of discrimination
From a small village to a giant nation!

Don't you feel space as a safer place
With plenty of space! !

(For the first ' black ' astronaut- a Cuban - to enter space)

Sheshu Babu

'Sportive ' Power

From humble starts
To a global power
China has gone a long way...

When US and West ruled the roost
In politics and games

China rose as a formidable force
In Olympics
Now, is the time to show its sporting prowess
In Asian games....
Will China rise to the occasion
And keep up its performance...?
China slowly grew up from infancy....

Now, it is co

Sheshu Babu

Struggles And Slogans

We have waited for long....!
Till the later half of 20 th century,
More than half of our lands
Were ruled by colonial tyranny...!

We thought we were relieved
When ' Independence ' greeted us
As a sweet fruit of our struggles...! !

But then,
New colonialism- ' neo- colonialism'
Replaced
With more hegemony and supression....

We will not relent!
Will continue our struggles and shout
Down with tyranny!
Down with hegemony!
Long live freedom!
Long live peace! !

Sheshu Babu

Sweat And Toil Unrecognized...

Waking early before family
Getting busy with chores daily,
Preparing the way for males to farming,
Women! Your work is unrelenting....

And yet, it is rarely recognized
The valuable service is under- estimated
All the statistics of GDP
Is waste without assessing your 'recipe! '

Coke out, loud and clear!
Without you there's no industry or agriculture!
Inform the world that production
Will stop unless there is your
intervention...! !

Sheshu Babu

The ' Chunnel ' Of Peace!

Risking their lives,
The workers dug ' chunnel of peace'
Hoping to connect an isolated land
With European mainland...

Now, the selfish rulers plan exit
From the controversial' Brexit'!
Spare a thought for the hopeful workers
Who dreamed of a united'shelters'!

Rulers think of benefits to their own
Cronies leaving efforts of EU alone
But people of Britain and France
Led the way for living with peace..!

(The channel tunnel ('Chunnel')was opened in 1990s)

Sheshu Babu

The ' Light' Of Darkness

Generations of humans
Lived in darkness
With moonshine and stars
Or raging wild fires

Till a genius inventor
Hard working researcher
Lit the nights with toil
Electric bulb and wire coil

He led the way from darkness to light
Inspiring many scientists to struggle and fight
For a better brighter nicer world
With future of knowledge worth gold? !

(On the death anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison....)

Sheshu Babu

The ' Pellet - Baby'

Laughing and crying
Oblivious to the senseless war going
On in the strife - torn land
Unable to cover with a tiny hand,
Is a small cute baby
Wrapped in clothes shabby....

Smittenby ' barrage' of pallets,
With the intensity of bullets,
Staring at a 'dark ' distraught world
Is struggling to survive with courage bold...!

In the mad rush of Nationality
Perpetrated attacks with brutality
The ' cries 'of innocent laughter
Are lost in the 'din' of human slaughter'! !

Sheshu Babu

The African Star

Who expected
In their depths of mind
That a diplomat from Ghana
With sweet speaking ability like the taste of banana,
Would rise to the top of UN?
.... That is the greatness of Annan!

In a country where poverty rules the roost,
Where thinking of education is last resort,
He grew up with determination and grit
And was acclaimed as a scholar at MIT..!

Even after assuming the top post,
He did not forget his African root
And even after his retirement,
He worked for 'Elder's ' betterment....

He is as great as Biko or Mandela
Worked for peace in South Africa or Syria
Such persons are a rarity
Their greatness is Eternity....!
Salute to Kofi Annan!
The protector of poor - a humble Man..! !

Sheshu Babu

The Animal Of Faith

Canines are invaluable....
They are most suitable
For domestication
Coz they show lot of affection! !

Dogs protect their masters
From suspicious outsiders
They show path to blind
With care...and do not mind!

Even if their masters
Become rude and callous
Mix their food with poison,
They gulp...and do not complain...!

A dog's life is worth in gold
Do not kill them even if they become old..!
They show sincerity and faith
Which humans lack...to speak truth! !

Sheshu Babu

The Great ' Retreat!

What happened to your clarion call?
To build a ' marathon ' great wall..!
You were looking (Robert)Frost from biopic lenses
And continuously muttering ' good friends make good fences'!

Now that you have realized
It's not easy to create opinions biased
Go back and eat your words
Let immigrants live like free birds!

Nothing can stop humanity
Prevail over petty sensitivity...!
Many migrants have made your country
Proud by their relentless nation- building activity! !

Sheshu Babu

The Land Is Still ' Waste'...!

.... Now, every month seems to be ' cruelest ' month..!
Blood is oozing from lilacs...
There are ' Hollow' men and stereotype J Alfred Prufrock
Roaming to and fro
Talking of Michael Angelo...

World has changed for the worse
Your ' indefatigable ' curse
Has left ' the waste land '
Inhuman with loads of sand...

There are rapes and ' murder in the Cathedral '
Eliot! Will you reform the world or escape from it as usual....? ?

(A loving remembrance on the birthday of the octogenarian writer T S Eliot)

Sheshu Babu

The Rescuers

Diving deep into shallow waters
With bated breath and brave hearts
They rescue scores of lives
Putting to risk their own lives....!

Whether marooned villages
In flood hit areas
Or, the stranded people in mountain areas,
They quickly accept risky responsibilities

Kudos to their valour!
They are the real 'Saviour'!
The people caring for others in need
Who show compassion not in words but deed
That is true humanity!
A great work of simplicity!

Sheshu Babu

The Ugly And The Beautiful

Look at the butterfly!
How beautiful....!
Have you ever thought of its earlier stages....?
The larvae you despised
The caterpillar you feared might hurt you?

How delicious is food we eat?
Did we ever think of the mud and swamp
The seeds grow?
Did we ever think of
Mud- stained
Blood - coated
Fingers of farmers?

Every beauty
Has roots ugly...!
Both sides of nature
Should be equally acknowledged...!

Sheshu Babu

They Are Still Suffering

When you suddenly
Out of the blue
Dropped bombs callously
And went out without a clue....
We could not understand
That you have left behind
Horrors to be remembered in future
By our next generations for ever...

The nuclear fission and fusion
Has left us in confusion
Whether to marvel at science
Or become phobic by its crimes...

We pray to this day
O! Science! Show us a better day
Promote benefits... And hey!
Leave harm out of your way! !

Sheshu Babu

Think And Celebrate.... Merry Christmas!

For the exploited blacks of US
For the yellow vests of France
For the struggling Palestinians
Who are trampled by Israeli zionists
For the war - torn Syrians
And drone - hit Yemenis
The hungry Somalia kids
The thirsty Ethiopian elders
For the impoverished Afghanis
The persecuted poor Pakistanis
The marginalised sections of Indians
For the tsunami ravaged Indonesians
The proletarian Russians and Chinese
The far - east and the Japanese
Millions of Europeans
Aboriginal Australians...

For the secular minded masses
Whether Christians or Jews
Budhists, Sikhs or Hindus
Muslims or Taoist or Shintos...

The people of the world
Young ones or old
Think of the life of Jesus
His yearning for all of us...!
Celebrate with utmost solemnity
No pomp or gorgeous festivity
For He loved Truth and Honesty
Suffered all His life to uphold humanity!

Sheshu Babu

To My ' Pussy ' Cat

Among many international day celebrations,
This is for you! !

Slowly and silently
When you steal milk
You see them annoyed....
But when you smell rat
And finish most of them,
You see them overjoyed....!

You may lick milk with your tongue
But you have potential to stop plague..!

Let humanity realize your power
And ' mew ' your praise and ' purr '!

Sheshu Babu

To The ' Martyr' Who Sacrificed His Life

Who cared for your life
When you started your strife
Leaving all prestige and wealth
Protesting by fasting unto death?

Oh! Martyr!
Lover of ever flowing water
In the pure holy Ganges river
Which is brimming with poisonous gutter!

No one heard your pleas
Though you addressed them with ' please! '
Requested to stop corporates
From immersing their industrial wastes

Your fight for the helpless
Will not become hopeless
Though people saw you dying helpless
Unable to resist....they're powerless!

Your love for the river
Will instill courage sooner
And masses will rise to complete
The task you left incomplete!

Now, the river is smeared with blood
And the sweat of toil of workers and mud
It will be cleaned in due course
By determined efforts...of course! !

(In memory of swami Gyan Sanand (GD Agrawal))

Sheshu Babu

Trees Have' Humanity '

Bathing under the sun
Trees give shade
And much needed oxygen
Absorbing carbon dioxide

Each and every part
Is used by nature 's heart
To perpetrate life without interruption and strife...!

They protect minerals in forests
Lend support to tribes and adivasis
Protect environment from pollution
And extreme climate devastation

They are more ' humane ' than human
Their service commands adulation
They lead the way to serve others
As examples to selfish mortals

Sheshu Babu

Truth Cannot Be Subverted

Courageous and stern
The prisoner like burning lantern
Lights the dark room
With his unforgettable wisdom

Decades have passed
His determination remained unsurpassed
Truth was his weapon
Despite attempts of subversion

That is the mighty Black Panther Jamal
A beacon of light, a robust wall!
Justice bows before him -
Though chances of freedom are slim-
Now he can re- argue his case
And show the world his innocence with grace!
Kudos to you Mumia Abu- Jamal
You are a champ for us all...!

(Journalist Jamal was implicated in a police murder case in 1981 and lodged in prison. He claims innocence despite pressure to drop his statement and agree for his guilt. He was given a chance to argue his case by judge.
Source: Democracy Now! December 28,2018)

Sheshu Babu

Truth.....Burning

She never wavered.....

While vultures surrounded
And mercilessly hounded
She had the will to fight
As long as the Sun held her tight
And egged on
To be stern
In her determination
To expose heinous rape and exploitation...

She never wavered

Though she was attacked and burned
Assaulted and brutally tortured
By the influential village goons
Born with silver spoons...!

She burned
But Truth survived
To tell her story of courage
Drawing people out of their homes in rage..!

Truth is like fire
It glows for generations to inspire
And march towards final Justice
In the world of misogyny, male hegemony and vice! !

(A 'tearful' obituary to Unnao (U. P. India, rape victim))

Sheshu Babu

Unanswered Question

A child walking on the road
With father one day asked:
"Dad! "
look at those laborers build
Mansions with their flesh and blood...
And yet, they live in slums
No proper hut to shelter in heat or storms...? "

Father remembered asking similar query
To his own parent whose reply was wary...
"Exploitation! EXploitation! Lad! "
which he couldn't understand
As he was too young to comprehend
The situation on hand

Turning to his child, after a pause long,
He uttered, "you'll learn as you go along...
You will know the reason
As life goes on and on....! "

Sheshu Babu

Victories Cannot Be Achieved Without Struggles

He was oppressed
Though ' blackhe wasn't depressed
He ' fought ' his way through
Became a boxing champion - a rare one that is achieved by very few
The only one to keep his opponents at bay...
Only only Muhammad Ali, Cassius Clay..! !

He was a great human!
A generous benevolent man!
He is epitome of hard - work and principles
Showed that victories cannot be achieved without struggles! !

(Dedicated to Ali, Cassius Marcellus Clay, who on this day, in 1978, defeated Leon Spinks in Louisiana, New Orleans to win boxing heavyweight championship for the third time, the first one ever to do so)

Sheshu Babu

Violent Prayers

Where is purity?
When even places of peaceful prayers
Are ruled by gun? !

Where is austerity? ...
When churches, mosques and temples
Are ruled by hate and animosity..? ?

Where is solemnity? ...
When scripture preachings are being subverted
By politicians to use for their opportunity?

When abode of serenity
Is violently destroyed,
Is there a place for 'God' to hide...
Let alone humans? ? ? !

(Reaction to attack on people in USA)

Sheshu Babu

Virtue And Vice

The unending tussle
In the livesbustle
And leaves rustle
Vice and virtue are trapped in sartorious muscle....

It is easy to recognize
The outpouring vice
For, it is long lasting
And it's impact long enduring...

But virtue is mercurial
It flashes like things ethereal and
But its impression is real
And impact is sensoreal

Vice is present everywhere
Virtue existence is rare
To fetch virtue from a heap of vice
Takes immense trouble and lot of patience

Sheshu Babu

Voice Of ' Voiceless'

You might have been ill
Or, murdered against your will...
But your voice is alive
Giving the ' voiceless' thrive
In the vicious world
Looking for future life of gold...! !

Dear poet! We ' ll carry your voice
And chant that ' revolution ' is the only choice...

(To Pablo Neruda, who was forced to end his life yesterday some five decades or more ago)

Sheshu Babu

What Did You Achieve...? !

With bullets and bombs
And nuclear weapons
You created the longest havoc
On innocent Afghan folk

On the pretext of hiding militants
Killing ordinary citizens
You claimed re'sounding' victory
Eliminating jihadists military..!

But,
Did you really succeed?
Did the fanatics concede?
There are massacres everywhere
War has spread and didn't stop there!

What did you really achieve?
Mayhem, horrors one could perceive..!
Sufferings of children and women
Terror is alive and well now as it was then...!

(In 2001, US attacked Afghanistan in retaliation to 9/11 attack)

Sheshu Babu

Where Is 'satan'? ? !

To eliminate evil,
You have burnt effigies
And comforted yourself
Saying that 'evil is gone'!

But you did not realize
That evil is not outside you...
It is a part of you
Waiting to be eradicated

Remember Satan 's words
In Paradise Lost
'I am hell'
And evil resides in the mind...

Root out evil
From your own mind
Burning effigies
Is no solution to eliminate vice!

(Scores of people died while burning effigies in a place near Amritsar, Punjab, India)

Sheshu Babu

Which Came First? ...!

What was there before big bang?
If there was nothing who created a ting?
Who thought of force
Behind the world and its course?

All the queries lead
To one philosophical need
To analyse and explain
The marvel of human brain! !

Sheshu Babu

While 'comus' Weaves Magic

There are still
Numbers of sorcerers
Trapping gullible people
With their magic wands....

Struggles against evil
Continue to unveil
Novel forms of resistance
Against Satan or Comus...

We have not forgotten
The literary genius Milton
Who made his puritanical chastity
Known to the world with clarity...!

From Lycidas to Paradise Lost
Courage to rebel...he never lost
Despite his banishment and blindness
He left with us a wealth of goodness!

(Milton's ' Comus' was first performed in 1634 for John Ergton)

Sheshu Babu

Who Is Abled?

In this turbulent world
Where impurity is found even in 'Gold',
Everyone has some sort of deformity
Lurking within them - a latent disability!

But no one cares for the disabled
Other than shower pity on the handicapped
Advising to resign to their fate
And satisfy with what comes their way- love or hate....

Despite development of technology
Improving accessibility and ' ecology'
Disabled stare at their 'physiology'
And failing depressive ' psychology'..

Though there is talk of positivity
Many individuals rising above their disability
Still large number of poor and marginalised
Remain with handicap into their body integrated....

The ritual of remembrance once a year
Will not solve perennial problem for ever
Until the person disabled
Forgets that s/ he is disabled...!

Sheshu Babu

Words That Speak

Nothing can express emotions
Than written words that speak
In a milieu of racist repressions
Black voices creek....

Who knows the mental torture
In a country engulfed in racist picture
The struggles to avoid insult
And searching ways to come out?

Yet, his undaunted courage
Established him on world stage
As a prolific inspiring writer
Expressing his determination as a relentless fighter

(To the first black pulitzer prize winner James Allan McPherson who overcame crushing poverty of his childhood and ultimately entered Harvard Law School and became a writing teacher. His second collection of fiction in 1977 won the Pulitzer prize the following year)

Sheshu Babu

Years Passes....

Another winter
Another year.....
Passes unnoticed silently
Into the annals of history...

What was new?
What would be new? ...
Only dates months years change
Seconds, minutes change...

The struggles remain -
From Standing Rock Sioux
To Yellow Vests
Or Syrian starvation deaths
To struggles of Chhattisgarh tribes-
In the public domain....

Seasons have passed....
Summers without water
Winters with shiver
And rain- washed lives inbetween...

The only hope
That keeps going forward is. -
Change of moments, minutes, days
Weeks, months and years.....
And 'CHANGE' in human lives
With 'CHANGE' in humanity....!
And 'CHANGE ' in the way
Human beings treat each other....
A radical 'CHANGE' towards
Perception of life
On Earth...! !

Sheshu Babu

Your Dreams Are Mine Too!

You have seen people suffer
Society's callous laughter
World filled with lust and greed
A pathetic state indeed!

O! Bard of wakefulness!
Strong like a mountain stubbornness!
'Woh subah kabhi toe ayegi' was your dream
And it's also my unfulfilled optimistic dream!

To Sahir
(Sahir in Arabic is wakeful
And in Sanskrit is 'as strong as a mountain')
'Woh subah kabhi toe ayegi' roughly translated means 'That dawn (or early morning) will come in future

Sheshu Babu

Zeal Continues....

Despite warmongering forces,
Despite scaremongering elements,
Despite hate inciting goons,
The zeal continues...

Though lies spread like lice
Opponents throwing dice
To win by hook or crook bereft of virtue or vice,
The zeal continues....

Days and nights have passed
Times of shivering cold have crossed
But grit remained unsurpassed
The zeal continues.....

Protesters and dissenters
Bravely stood up on the 'Altars'
Of repression and brutal rulers
Their zeal to achieve goal continues....

(For Shaheen Bagh activists in their relentless non-violent struggles continuing in
Delhi and elsewhere, in India)

Sheshu Babu

'Zero' (In)tolerance....?

You know!

All is well...

People are calm

(No communications

No internet or phone

No way to interact....)

People are relaxed

(No schools or colleges open

No shops or markets open

No transport available....)

People are calm

(No outlet to express

No news from outside

No person to talk to....)

Everything is under control

(Whether tolerance or intolerance

The answer is zero

The answer is zero....)

(For the oppressed people of the world)

Sheshu Babu

Zero Tolerance?

A kid
Who knew nothing except rote
Mugging up of scriptures
Went to play
In a ground
Was brutally beaten and murdered
By kids of his own age...

A kid
Succumbed to communal rage
Instilled by elders
Who had no other motive except
Spewing hate....

Is this the beginning
Of zero tolerance? ?
Is this the age
Where innocent children
Become lambs to the slaughter?
Is this the end
Of humanity...?

Sheshu Babu

Zigzag Polluted Lives

Come winter....

After contamination of rain water,
People face new problems... Among
Them are cold, snow and smog...

There is no respite to pollution
Burning stubble or crackers explosion
Spewing toxic materials
Causing lung infections and breathlessness...!

When will the humanity learn
Its primary responsibility to clean
Water, land and air
To live free and fair...!

(On increase in pollution levels across North India according to newspaper reports)

Sheshu Babu

Zionist Minds

Did you know
The turbulent mind
Of people awaiting noose
To be tied round their necks?

Did you ever try
To ascertain the sufferings
Of those Palestinians
Forced to live lives
Of squalor?

You may easily
Support death sentence
But you cannot stop
Living Palestinians
From their struggles against zionists
Braving 'Death'!

(Israeli Prime Minister advocates death penalty to Palestine people)

Sheshu Babu

Zoom Into Space

From revolution on earth
To revolution in space....
Russia! You have fond memories
Of October...!

When other nations didn' t even think,
You launched into space, ' Sputnik'
Daring and dashing adventure
That no one could venture!

Started the age of space
Proving Man can control outerspace
You broke the traditional barrier
Crossing limits of sky forever...

Now, many nations
With their astronomical ambitions
Are going forward quick
With foundation laid by Sputnik

(The first artificial satellite launched by USSR- a tribute)

Sheshu Babu