## **Poetry Series**

# Baru Gobira - poems -

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## Baru Gobira(7 may 1952)

#### A Beggar I Never Met

A face with a nose rubbing the car window A gesture accompanied by a futile plea Pressed against glass and beseeched by one Who may be accused of withdrawal symptoms A dreg of humanity hanging lost outside Another human fallen by the wayside Begging we think for a drink Was it so? I don't know I thought he was beyond all feelings, all norms He was not bothered of what I think He was not bothered about this world or that beyond Betrayed, weak and insolent His god had died a long time ago The shell hadn't given up It carried him to another window Pocketing loose change Strange the unseeing eyes were lost I think Suddenly the traffic lights changed For the better or worse I don't know.

July 2010

## A Coffee Morning

On a winters day
Walking through deepening mist
Naked earth wet grass kiss
Anklets tinkle like soft windchimes.

Beans of coffee roast In embers of burning coal Freshly ground aroma mingle, with Winds on rainswept mountain slope.

Scalding lips forever remember Fresh coffee in the mountain air Roasted, ground & filtered coffee's Aroma, distant peaks happily share.

Cold rocks, good chairs make
Both hands clasp the cheerful brew
Tin cups rattle in the winter air
I sit, sipping coffee in the morning dew.

[Copyright 2004 Baruj Gobira]

#### A Farmer Of Stars

I scoop the stars
Into my palm
In waters gathered from the storm
Each star
a world
Slipping slowly from my palm.

I wander
With the receding star
See the light
From afar
I reflect on
The moving light
Of what just might have been
Dreams swept by that moment's delight.

Loss, always loss
Of the star
That was never mine
Each
A desire
Spawned by a passing wind
That moves the clouds
Which can but hide
A star
I thought was mine

Beyond reach
Cupped in my palm
Lingering for a moment
The twinkle so near
I try to hold them
A prisoner of my mind.

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#### A Flower Rested On My Window Sill

Confined for reasons
Other than credit card dues
Forced to flip-flop o'er floor & spice
Confined to messages and ringing notes
from Ma Bell
I felt soft winds push windows aside.

And then when quite descended
A well groomed flower stuck its neck inside
Smiley yellow nestling amidst brown & green
Seemingly posed a question like a queen
Asking, what made me sheep-like inside
And soon she bade me take a step outside
With spade & plow to work again with pride
Rake weeding gloom from deep inside.

I came back to look at my sunshine friend Now aged & truly bent Resting content on my window sill Work done, debt paid, life lived, lamp lit Before it passed into the advancing night.

[7th June 2010]

#### A Mother Remembers

SomeWhere inside me, lost In misty folds of time, Soft falls the sound Of a child's anklet, tinkling, gently On a distant Wind chime; No form, yet child it be Never to be free; Some part of me remembers An anklet's tinkle, chiming In the Wind of a willow tree; No air has it breathed Unblemished it be, Some part of me Weeps For that chlid, that had no chance-To feel & touch or Ever be, part of me; Oh! I hear the sound again A child's anklet, tinkling, gently Somewhere inside me.

[Dated: Feb 17th,2005, Published in an anthology by Forward Press Ltd UKCopyright under my name Bradwaj Gobira]

#### A See-Saw

The Tip of a divine fulcrum Knows not the weight on either side But balance it It must Knowing divinity needs poise To lift one up And send the other down A common ground Of equality In the public park Of ridicule Till One day The riders dismount In search of smaller gods That their ego promotes In the smallness of minds That need Lesser poles To drive stakes Into their journey That has but one end.

[ Sept 2009 Hyderabad India ]

#### A Thousand Eyes

A thousand eyes from the mist appear
From cold blue wreaths inside a mountain stream
To descend on the plains of sacrifice below
Merging moving tree tops, with ash blown fields
That has no hoe or plow or chimney top/stove;
Just a green torn carpet, swaying tiredly
In silent symphony, with the evening breeze.

A thousand eyes meet mine, mine alone
Past, marching on to a present
Fading in the shadow of sunsets dream
Space, just an edge beyond earth
History, a phantom's march
Music, octaves of regret
Rising at the fountains of forgotten youth.

A thousand eyes and mine too
Searching for all the lost minds
That have poured their hopes
Into the stars, the sleepless eyes
Seeing, what must have passed below unsung;
Sorrow, a pale shadow mentored by the moon.

A thousand eyes and mine too, searching
The remains of what are but thoughts
Of men familiar with the mystic quest
The journey through the self, searching for the soul
Of humanity, walking slowly, backwards
In the reflections swept by the riverside wind.

## A Walk Through God's Stream.

Go gently into the sunset
when you're done riding the waves
Go gently away, once from the world of gaze
Cross into the tomorrows, without any disgrace
Go gently into the night
As day chooses the arms of sleep
Go gently... always towards the new
Listen for the sounds of lingering bells
Go gently down the mountainside
Till you reach the shore, where He dwells.

August 2010

#### All(Uring) Charms Of The Looking Glass.

July2010

The beauty of a cup scarred By a slash of the painter's brush Mangled yet majestic in its timeless sadness Seas opening to let THE Master through Mountains with a bald table top Or a poet's enraptured gaze at Sheba's Breasts Mysteries without explanations A broken tooth That enhanced the actress's smile Strange music that stopped a heartbeat A mis-pelt word in an iconic brand Attractions or fatal distractions True art is but a matter of flawed perfection Beauty however marred Can but only beauty be Much like a grey streak On a woman's coiffure All(uring) charms of the looking glass.

Baru Gobira 2010

#### Ask A Florist The Way To Peace

Ask a street florist the way to peace He will sit you down Sip Coffee And expound On a life that saw happiness when marriages were more regular than the monsoon When lovers ventured onto streets When smart clicks on stone turned heads A passerby wouldn't care if a truck stood all day The way to peace, he would say Is through a city of calm Not when it's a trigger-pull away O for Roses, roses all the way If only peace would hold sway A few may well come our way.

July 2010 Revision 1

#### Awakened From A Dream In Which I Lived Inside

I saw the clouds form a blanket

Over earth & rust

Some trees smelt the air above

A gorge saw a waterfall

Gushing from the clouds

See how things change but still remain

And then a wailing twitter brings

A lost-one, searching for other lost souls

A bird in directionless flight

How like some of us

At a busy crossroad

Then again the clouds darkened

A somber mood

As if nature had been threatened by you & me

Both visitors without a pass

A shiver follows a plunging cold

Scarves are tightened over deep necklines

Pulling life together, bracing

For the peace or the storm

The clouds clear, move on to hold sway

On another mountain or a valley plain

Leaving me awakened from a dream

In which I lived inside.

[July 2010 Hyderabad India]

## Between The Future That Must Come And A Present That Must Go

I have not seen the dew For much of the grass is paved concrete I have not seen freshness so green Since plastic choked earth and water serene I have not been inside a lobby of touts For it too is full of seekers I am in search of the giver The One who set the first note to music Who picked the words from a halo of light Deep inside the silence of bliss I am in search of you, THE ONE Who often sends blackness as a gift Patience as a diminishing currency Anger as an outlet of expression I am forever in debt of The ONE Who never wanted repayment Who was friend to both dew and sun Who flew on wings when I needed succor I am an hyphen between the future That must come and a present that must go All the way to find THE ONE who matters most.

July 06,2010 Hyderabad India

## **Blinding Clarity**

When you've lost that which was there Much that you said had not been fair The Sheppard had left his staff for repair The bells had gone silent The road had no bends Voices in the head drove one to despair. The grass and the leaves had fallen And autumn harbored winter's air.

Baru gobira July 2010

#### **But That's Not True**

Let there be light
And there was plenty
But that's not true
Let there be gold
And you found it in the grove
But that's not true either
Let there be desire
And you found it inside the self
I wish that were not true
Let there be peace
And a child walked down the highway
Holding flowers red purple and blue
But that's not true...
For there will never be anything
That doesn't belong to you.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

#### **Changing Chinese Chimes**

A spot the darkness called inside Soon grew to make some smoke outside Both mill and mall side by side Soon banished darkness from the countryside The role of light is seldom sung In notes such as these which must have won The hearts of many and all who've run A race from blinding darkness to the furnace of the sun To sweat and gloat To prod and float An industry the mandarins host Of many that must be clothed In attire the nobles once did boast And now you see a Chinese sea Of workers in flight and onsite A scale of immigration, imagination & unbridled pride Outside the squares of a once forbidden side.

July 2010

#### **Choose Your Rice Bowl**

One bowl of rice
I offer for the kites
One bowl for begging
Other for rich spice
One bowl of china
For culinary delights
One bowl for fear
of teardrops in the night
One bowl for the soul
One for the flies
One bowl for the dying
One for life
One that must conquer
The cup of woe & strife.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

#### Die Die The Seagulls Cry.

When the mind is shattered by darkness And light has flattered to deceive I see earth spinning slowly On a broken axle with ruddy hues The sky clouded by a haze of grief Trees subdued, whispering in the breeze I am cold hungry angry A human in a cocoon of sorrow Working up a sweat Each vein throttled green with envy A loss I'm unable to bear I'm losing my mind Did I have one? Or is it the madness I scream In the loneliness of impending doom I remember Of nights when I'm awake Hearing the sound of my heart I listen To the cold, the old and then see One without desire, free What loss am I mourning? Why do I trust my mind Gone with the memories of yesterday Beseeching me to swim out with the evening tide Die Die the seagulls cry.

[August 2010]

## **Empty**

You should never have covered it with a shroud Hoping to find a cage of darkness With an invisible lantern Singing the song of light.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

#### **Every Face Hides A Secret**

Every face hides a secret
The eyelashes bat once in acknowledgement
Shared and yet hidden
Longing to be released
Every face hides a secret
Of a forbidden glance
An unfulfilled desire
A race yet to be run
A thought that will forever remain a thought
Every face hides a secret
The hope in a mystic's eye
A rope in the hangman's hand
An eye following feet over cobble stone
Madness, marriages & deserted palaces
Every face hides a secret that must be told.

July 2010

#### Feather So Fair

Come my avian friend
And watch me through
the chain metal fence;
as I wonder, what climes
share your dropped feather.

I ask about the last flight you took Was it too far or did you miss the avian route; And leave a feather in the lonely air for a soul mate to find.

Still you chirp inside your diminished existence forgiving both metal and me; For I have stood still picking not the fallen feather that would have freed your soul.

Baru Gobira 2006

## Few Have Kissed The Lotus Lips

The tree has not yielded
The seeker, fruits of the field
The seed has not sprouted
Under the harvesters steed
The sand has not kissed
The feet of the great
The flower has missed
The gates of fate
Not many remain, for
Few have kissed, the lotus lips
Touched by the nectar
Of enlightened bliss.

Baru Gobira July 2010

#### For I Never Left Darkness

Sitting inside the darkness I step out, where else but Into the hall of shadows Searching a God.

Being Gods, they
Separate from shadows
Step out into, what else but
Gardens of growing light

For only Gods can be Gods Others, serf's of ignorance & moral blight.

I step back into where else but Shadows, for I never left darkness Shadows are what I see.

What is that I now know Gods are distant Suffused with light And free.

[April 17th,2005Copyright]

## For The Flowers Of Silence To Bloom

Are we truly alone Is a question I have pondered Even sleep drives thoughts Chewing the living embers Mints mere memories All chasing life Are we truly alone In a Universe that breathes sound Where earth is only A monk's chamber of echoes Others have visited And some have heard Are we truly alone In the midst of living Within a terrain of images Spouting like a geyser Once earth heats To release emotions Are we truly alone Or a fugitive awaiting time For the flowers of silence to bloom Is a question a timid footfall ponders.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

#### For There Is A Shoulder On Which I Have Cried

Hurry, I must leave soon

For there is a shoulder on which I have cried

And I must go

With head held high

Because you were there

When I needed a shoulder to cry.

Can I but walk backwards

There's many a thing

I would re-mend and try

Just so you were happy

For a day more than I

Hurry, I must leave soon

For there is a shoulder on which I have cried

When the sun has set

And the rains are gone

When winters frost has come and gone

The time will come

When peace will reign

In this world and in life's train

Hurry, I must leave soon

For there is a shoulder on which I have cried

What more can I say

To one who has believed

That I was the sum

Of all life's deeds

Other than Cry

Let me go, let me go

From this earth to the sky

Hurry, I must leave soon

For there is a shoulder on which I have cried

Away from the roads of pain.

Catch me in your arms

And take me inside

Whisper the words

"I Love You" ... before you die

Hurry, I must leave soon

For there is a shoulder on which I have cried

Baru Gobira 2009 September 19th,2009

## **Healing Music**

Where I the music
Or the reed
I would float in the wind
Across centuries
Touching the shores
Of foaming love
Healing the thrashing waves
Pounding the cliffs
Of our mind
Resting on the reef
Watching a mermaid heal
The raw wounds...
While tying the knots
On a garland of reeds
Watching, the centuries go by.

Baru Gobira 2006

#### I Am All That You Must One Day Be

I am many things you don't know The hand that brought sand The air held in my breath The blood surging in your vein The thought in your dream The link between you & me I am both mentor & host Anchor & image On a screen that as guest You cannot see I am thought. I am love, I am family I am much that you want to be An endless path that unwinds Below the Sky & the Sea A mountain you must climb A life that you must live A desire that must be fulfilled Come to me little one I am inception conception and perception I am all that you must one day be.

Hyderabad India July 2010

#### I Surrender

I touch, I feel alive

I cry, tears dry

I wait, fate gifts loneliness

I write, words dry

I see, the rimless eye

I think of you

Doors open

I am in debt

No redemption

I surrender

Behold

A bright star lights up the sky.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

#### I Will Again Draw Another Line

At the edge of the seashore hemline reaching well above the knee Breath held, I behold the distant sea stretching far beyond my mind; slowly gathering the waves, which will pass my toe, that has just drawn a line\_\_\_\_ In that act, I have defined my small protest, against the might of great waves, that gather, flow recoup, regather, reflow forming a tidal wave rushing in frenzy, to cross my line. Spent, now mere wash and foam the line gone, waves leave me behind. Victor or vanquished, another day another time, I will again draw With my toe, another line\_\_\_\_

[Copyright Dated: Feb 09,2005]

#### I've Nowhere To Go

[June 2010]

I have but moments You have an eternity I have desires chasing limitations You have boons to grant I have but steps to climb A bell to ring, a pew to sit Bones touching earth Hands extended You have but to see my tortured soul To know I have nowhere to go But you can choose both time and deed To provide succor Wherever you be To one forever in search Of your celestial home.

#### If I Were Destined To Write Just One Line

I was struck
With a reality bolt
If I were destined to write just one line
What would I choose?
That I rested within the borders of pent up dreams

Or the stars advanced to meet words in the summer sky
Better still the quite descended and silence was eloquent
But I, noisy like the world, spun a web of unreal perfections
Hoping to reach the Beautiful One

What should I write?

But that my spirit is one with the sun and I've nowhere to go
That I spoke to the lamp post on my return from the tavern of delight
Or the treasure house of words is bare and no longer do I write
For I have yet to see the gate keeper of light.

Baru Gobira 2010

#### In Pain I Am Alive

New winds breathe
Fresh air into a porous mind
Where time has stopped
To caress
hot winds of doubt;
I often wonder
What music lies
In memory's bank
To trigger dreams
which once did thrive
And then to feel
Aaah!
In pain I am alive... I am alive.

Baru Gobira June 2009

## Keeper Of The Rain

It is not for me little girl
The wind brings the rain;
It is not for me little bird
The sun warms the grain;
It is not for me little bull
The whistle of the train;
It is not for me little ant
The nectar of the plain
It is not for me little one
The moons of Saturn wane.

It is but a gift for you From the keeper of the rain.

Copyright Baru Gobira 2006

(April 2006 Delaware)

## More Naked Than The Morning Dew.

I think you see me naked
I'm afraid
To be left with only my thoughts
Virginity a luxury
Innocence a misunderstanding
I think you see me naked
In flight against solitude
But I seek crowds
So that I may hide
My fears
From you
And my guilt
That somehow makes me
More naked
Than the harmless morning dew.

July 2010 Hyderabad India  

## Screaming Peels Of Orange

Each hurt peeling

A never ending stream

Of waste

Still unreeling

I favor

The healing

Softness of Orange

The freshness of a small jet stream

Screaming

I'm life

Taste it

Smell it

For a moment

I'm surprised.

July 2010 Hyderabad India

## Soft Falls The Rain On My Soul

Soft falls the rain on my soul I feel not the water on my pores Soaked, sliding like life shadows in mime...waves behind glass Floating high, a body below Beckons For a moment On a journey that has but one end Loved, bereaved A wake in progress Life a moment of heavy breathing Leaving - an eternity of wants Time a passage where piers end Capsuled tempests now silent Am I Dead or Much still left to be said That Is something you must find out.

[June 13,2010]

#### The Book Of Tomorrows

Jan 2010

None know the thoughts a poet writes

Much less of where the intent lies

At times the road does lead

To a store of life's most sublime deed

A moment of peace, a day of sorrow

Lines the shelf where lies the book of tomorrows;

None know the anguish in his heart

Much less the fountainhead of thoughts

That has been wrought on a night of dreams

Floating gently in the valley of poetic streams;

So much of life the ripples carry

That he must huddle under the starry skies

Brought back to life and earth, as it must be

To string again the words of might

That may reside one day in the book of strife.

Baru Gobira 2010  

#### The Master & An Incomplete Painting

The paint has not dried

The Master still paints

Much that I see is unfinished

Much that was has died

But still I breathe the same varnish

The polish yet to mirror the pain

I have but eyes that have missed a comet's death

A sadness the stars have but felt

In the passing a truth

In the flash a light

In the tail a sadness of eons

Scorn hurtling blindly into the arc of eternity

The paint, yes, the paint

The trident and its MASTER

Now swish and sway inside the cosmic dance

Rivers roar, the seas explode, the mountains disappear

The Master paints serenely the quite countryside

The sound of bells on sheep follow the grass

A melody of peace

An illusion of calm

A story of an incomplete painting

That hides the torment of a soul inside.

July 06,2010 Hyderabad India

#### The Passing

Who enters your house must decree
He comes alone in peace
His search is you and you alone
Or he must live forever in shadow's zone.

Who needs to hear your song
Must hear with heart
And see with minds eye
For your form alone can make thirst die.

I know not where the cows graze
I know only where tall grass grow
Where tigers wait for you to ride the wind
That pour, cool balm of solace over soul.

My Goddess I have not been bold
I have but one thought and that be you
Courage forsaken, humility fickle companion
Which house is yours L' Ambica and where be that door.

I must knock, but what wood will carry sound
Meant for you who are but in me
And I who am in you, fear the hour
For I may never know, it was you who passed inside.

[April 25th 2005 Copyright ]

#### The Songmaker Sleeps

As a small boy he would sing
For he could run and play
Only if his sister slept;
He would sing
She would sleep; he had a charm
Of value to God's & Kings;
As with all things, the commoner too
Employed the songmaker to sing.

Where from came the song
The songmaker never knew
That he had a song
That brought sleep to all
Was what the village knew.

The wait at the village well
Would lessen when he sang
That he never filled water, known
as other pots swished & clanged
All tired hearts rested when the songmaker sang.

His songs carried a simple melody
A balm for tensed & twisted nerves
The recalcitrant bride would say yes
A land unsold would find a buyer
When the songmaker's tunes the air did rent..

None could figure, why the lamps
When lit one by one
Fancied the songmaker's song
In the evening's shadow from their glow, I'm told.
Lamps swayed, their flames rich raiments of gold.

In the nights in which the rich are enslaved Sought are the songmaker's charms Long is the wait for that elusive mistress, sleep The nights again strange, lonely, forlorn The songmaker now lay forever asleep in his song. [Oct 11th 2004 Copyright ]

#### Till Love Has Found It's Silent Tomb

Whose life was it that lies beneath a stone
Now unkept, moss, green with indifference
shadows haunted by unhappy sky
And breeze sweeping indifferent flies
A life lies hoping for a flower's fall
Silent cold stone waiting a widow's call
Nothing have I
But thoughts for one who knew
That time must pass, forever by
Till an angel's tear will forgive a lie.
The things men must do before they die
And in places far from home
None believe that they are lost
Till love has found it's silent tomb.

Baru Gobira 2010

#### Tribute To An Unknown Soldier

They are mere stumps Bayoneted Helmets hung on each one A flag draped on a dried sapling Much sorrow the air carries An avenue of sadness trees And still leaves An old couple sitting on the porch Waiting for a son, upright Each stump waiting for a Captain The Earth waiting for a cavalcade A nation bereaved A hero now buried Lost on the porch Still waiting, an aged couple Unwilling to see all that has an end.

Baru Gobira 2010 Revised Title. Last line title substituted

#### Unless You Want Night To Power Day..

Unless you want night to power day...

Hide not behind light
Lest you become one with shadows
Cast not the parchment's dust
Unless you've imbibed the musty air.

Move not the pebbles Lest they roll down a mountainside Cast not the seeds of doubt Unless to stop the mountain slide.

Maim not the mind Lest you become the wearer of the mask Cast not the paintbrush Unless flames ignite passion's flask.

Friend let the light play with shadows Lest gray become color of day Cast your net wide O soul-mate Unless you want night to power day..

Mar19,2007 Hyderabad India

## When Darkness Consumed Night

[Inspired by Argentinean Poet Jorge Luis Borges -History of the Night]

The darkness has consumed night Made us blind to the day Oblivious to misery Paralyzed to action Impotent even in dreams The madness has struck us The shadows no longer threaten For there is no light Only distant sounds say There are birds There is a sky A clear dawn was a morning We met everyday I can only see darkness As I grope for the sky Wait, there is hope A glimmer of corn Slowly rises to awaken the dawn.

July 2010 Hyderabad India