

Sunday Poetry

Purgatory

By- Dr Nunglekpm Premi Devi
Independent Scholar

I knew not I am a sinner,
I knew not I would be unwanted;
'She' likes me not, I knew not earlier;
I thought not a single piece of caring self,
Thought living would be same as before;
Thought 'her' a mother, a woman;
I was wrong and I was just alone;
'She' knew 'she' would be handling 'me';
'She' knew 'she' would be controlling me;
No doubt 'm a fighter but 'm not a sinner;
'She's delighted when 'she' raised her voice,
'She's at her best when 'she' shows her stunning faces;
Alas! If I knew 'her' instincts,
Better would be my part, acting.

I wondered how 'she' so exciting;
'What are you doing in the room?' She blundered,
Whisked away then and again;
Flapping here and there, murmuring,
Should I show anger? I knew not;
Should I responsive to her? I doubts so lazily,
'She's at her mastermind exaggerating;
Bitter I feel, softer I step my footsteps;
Dumb as a donkey, I walk and stand hither and thither;
'ts all easy when I watched her back every minute;
It's all satisfying seeing 'me' dirty in my hands;
Living is all smooth noticing 'me' away alone,
She's all settle knowing 'she' zipped my emotions,
If I were better tackling, she would have battling 'me'.

I knew not I am a sinner,
I knew not I would be unwanted;
'She's shadowing after, no matter her time and age;
Knowing well her tactics,
I rather enjoyed mismatching 'her';
Oh! What a waste of her energy,
'She' shouts and 'she' hates too much;
Calmness as I carry and all I do care,
As 'She' stared and stared at her corner;
Walking through her angles I enjoy now and again;
'Yes 'Yes' I will I will;
Habituating enough through her tunes;
Praying enough what should be the next?
Preying enough I'm a doll of her moving fingers.

Still 'She's active barking and sniffing;
Whisked away then and again;
Flapping here and there, murmuring,
Oh! What a cozy hour she's been to;
Time passed I wasn't a sinner, she knew;
She's so excited when I ask;
And she listened when I speak words;
Prayer after prayer, tears holding inside,
Heavy heartening I never carry upon;
Praising and consoling 'her' emotions,
Never miss 'her' calling 'mother';
She's all when I miss, mother-in-law;
A 'Mother' she would deserve most.

National & International News

India's first AC local to enter service tomorrow in Mumbai

Express News Service

Mumbai, Dec. 24: India's first air-conditioned local will ply between Churchgate and Virar from December 25, senior officials from the Western Railway (WR) said. The first service of the 12-coach EMU will commence at 2.10 pm between Andheri and Churchgate. The local was brought to Mumbai from the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, in April 2015. After two years of trials at Kurla and Virar carsheds in Mumbai, the rake will be inducted into service on Monday. "As a new year bonanza for Mumbai, the first air-conditioned local train will be introduced on December 25, 2017. The services will replace 12 existing non-air conditioned services, so the total number of suburban services on WR's suburban section will remain 1,355, even after the introduction of the AC local," said Ravinder Bhakar, Chief Public Relations Officer, WR.

This will be the first train with automatic doors in the suburban system. The total capacity of the rake is 5,964, with 1,028 seating capacity and 4,936 standing. Twelve services of the local will ply each day on the WR. Of these, eight will run as fast local trains

between Churchgate and Virar, stopping only at major stations, which are Mumbai Central, Dadar, Bandra, Andheri, Borivali, Bhayander and Vasai Road. Similarly, three fast services will run between Churchgate and Borivali, stopping at Mumbai Central, Dadar, Bandra and Andheri. The remaining service will run as a slow service from Mahalaxmi to Borivali, which will stop at all stations. It will not ply on weekends as the rake will undergo maintenance, officials said.

"The AC EMU rake will be placed at Mumbai Central main station on platform 5 for a demonstration on Monday morning. This will be done to sensitise, educate and familiarise commuters regarding features of the train," Bhakar added. The first and 12th coaches from Churchgate end are earmarked as ladies coaches and as many as seven seats in the second and eleventh coach from Churchgate end are reserved for senior citizens while 10 seats in the fourth and seventh coaches from Churchgate end are reserved for physically disabled passengers. Officials said a suitable number of Railway Protection Force (RPF) constables will be deployed in each coach to

ensure security. "Technicians will also be deputed in the train for troubleshooting. Suitable announcements will also be ensured for opening of the door as per platform position of stations," Bhakar said. At least eight services are planned on the first day. The rake received sanction from the Railway Board last week. The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) gave the nod to its running under special circumstances, which include fitting each coach of the rake with emergency stairs and ensuring presence of a technician inside the train during each service for the first 15 days. Officials said each recommendation of the CRS has been implemented.

The fare of a single journey ticket of the AC rake would cost 1.3 times the base fare of a first-class ticket. A Mumbai Urban Transport Plan (MUTP) surcharge and Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be levied separately on total fare. However, passengers will be charged 1.2 times the first class ticket cost in the initial six months. "For example, the present base fare of a single journey ticket between Churchgate and Virar in the first class is Rs 170, then according to

the formula, the base fare for AC train turns out to be Rs 204 for the initial six months. It would later increase to Rs 221, based on fare calculation model. Respective surcharge of MUTP and GST would be levied on total AC fare," a senior railway official said. The present MUTP surcharge for card ticket holder is Rs 6 for a journey between 11-150 kilometres. For monthly season pass, it is Rs 60, Rs 90 and Rs 120 for the respective distances. Weekly, fortnightly and monthly season tickets for the AC train will be charged equivalent to 5, 7, 5 and 10 times a single journey ticket fare of the AC train. "The one week pass will be valid for seven days since day of issue. We are yet to calculate the total fare of the ticket after implementing the respective GST and MUTP surcharge. This should be done by tomorrow morning," a senior WR official said.

"The fare structure would help elite commuters travelling in cars to use the train. The higher fares will also ensure limited crowd inside the train, ensuring comfortable travel during peak hours. We aim to encourage 'eco-friendly' mode of travel. It will also attract better revenue for the division," a senior Western Railway official said.

Rescuers search for Philippine storm victims as toll rises to 200

Reuters

Manila, Dec. 24: Rescuers in the Philippines searched on Sunday for survivors of a storm that triggered floods and landslides and killed about 200 people, left scores missing and thousands homeless, most of whom apparently ignored warnings to move to safety.

Misery in the largely Christian Philippines was compounded by the death of at least 37 people in a shopping mall fire, officials said on Christmas Eve.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons a year and warnings are routinely issued, but the level of destruction wreaked by tropical storm Tembin on the southern island of Mindanao from late on Friday came as a surprise.

"The figure could increase as we continue to receive reports from the field as the weather improves," said a police spokesman from Mindanao, Superintendent Lemuel Gondra, referring to the death toll.

"We are slowly restoring power and communications in affected areas." Disaster officials said 159 people were listed as missing while about 70,000 had been forced from their homes.

Soldiers and police joined emergency workers and volunteers to search for survivors and victims, clear debris and restore power and communications.

Disaster officials said many villagers had ignored warnings to leave coastal areas and move away from riverbanks, and got swept away when flash floods and landslides struck.

The storm was moving west on Sunday, over some outlying

Philippine islands and the South China Sea towards southern Vietnam, at a speed of about 20 kph (12 mph). It intensified into a typhoon with winds of 120 kph (75 mph) as it moved out of the Philippine area of responsibility, the national meteorological agency said.

Fire Kills 37

The United Nations was ready to help the Philippines, a spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

Last week, 46 people were killed in the central Philippines when a typhoon hit. In 2013, super typhoon Haiyan killed nearly 8,000 people and

left 200,000 families homeless.

The south of the Philippines has been plagued by insurgencies by communist rebels and Muslim separatists for years, as well as often bearing the brunt of tropical storms roaring in from the Pacific.

The region was hit by another disaster on the weekend when fire swept through a shopping mall in the city of Davao, killing at least 37 people, most of them workers at a call centre, city government officials said.

The vice mayor of the southern city of Davao, Paolo Duterte, said the chance of survival for any of the 37

people missing at the NCC Mall was "zero".

The fire broke out on Saturday at a furniture shop on the mall's third level and quickly engulfed an outsourcing business on the top floor, said a spokeswoman for the city government, Ma. Teresita Gaspan. The cause was not known but an investigation was being launched as authorities searched for the bodies of the victims.

President Duterte and his daughter, Sara Duterte, who is mayor of the city, visited the scene late on Saturday to meet anxious relatives of the missing and survivors.

North Korea says new UN sanctions an act of war

Reuters

Beijing, Dec. 24: The latest UN sanctions against North Korea are an act of war and tantamount to a complete economic blockade against the country, North Korea's foreign ministry said on Sunday, threatening to punish those who supported the measure. The UN Security Council unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea on Friday for its recent intercontinental ballistic missile test, seeking to limit its access to refined petroleum products and crude oil and its earnings from workers abroad.

The UN resolution seeks to ban nearly 90 percent of refined petroleum exports to North Korea by capping them at 500,000 barrels a year and, in a last-minute change, demands the repatriation of North Koreans working abroad within 24 months, instead of 12 months as first proposed. The US-drafted resolution also caps crude oil supplies to North Korea at 4 million barrels a year and commits the Council

to further reductions if it were to conduct another nuclear test or launch another ICBM.

In a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency, North Korea's foreign ministry said the United States was terrified by its nuclear force and was getting "more and more frenzied in the moves to impose the harshest-ever sanctions and pressure on our country". The new resolution is tantamount to a complete economic blockade of North Korea, the ministry said. "We define this 'sanctions resolution' rigged up by the US and its followers as a grave infringement upon the sovereignty of our Republic, as an act of war violating peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region and categorically reject the 'resolution'."

North Korea on Nov. 29 said it successfully tested a new ICBM that put the US mainland within range of its nuclear weapons. North Korea's nuclear weapons are a self-defensive

deterrence not in contradiction of international law, its foreign ministry added. "We will further consolidate our self-defensive nuclear deterrence aimed at fundamentally eradicating the US nuclear threats, blackmail and hostile moves by establishing the practical balance of force with the US," the ministry said.

"The US should not forget even a second the entity of the DPRK which rapidly emerged as a strategic state capable of posing a substantial nuclear threat to the US mainland," it added, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea said those who voted for the sanctions would face Pyongyang's wrath. "Those countries that raised their hands in favour of this 'sanctions resolution' shall be held completely responsible for all the consequences to be caused by the 'resolution' and we will pay sure for ever and ever that they pay heavy price for what they have done."

Shri Shri Bijoy Govinda Naharol
Seva Singlup Marup.
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai

Annual General Body Meeting of the Shri Shri Bijoy Govinda Naharol Seva Singlup Marup was held today at the resident of Khangembam Bodhamani Singh, Elangbam Leikai today the 24th Dec. 2017. The meeting observed 2 (two minutes) silence as a mark of respect to the three departed members of the Marup identified as Laishram Jaya, Ningthoujam Lokendra and Elangbam Chaoba. Later the GB also elected new office bearer (nine executive member) for the period of one year. Oninam Baldev has been selected as President Once more.

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