

A SENSE OF SHAME

A Collection of Poems



A RAGHU

A SENSE OF SHAME
A collection of poems by A Raghu

ISBN: 978-81-941447-2-4

Printed & Published by Indus Scrolls Press, New Delhi

First published 2019

by

INDUS SCROLLS PRESS

B-289, Third Floor,

Gali No. 7, New Seema Puri

New Delhi - 110095

www.indusscrolls.com

indusscrollspress@gmail.com

Copyright © A Raghu 2019

Printed at Websec, New Delhi

W 821
RAG/S

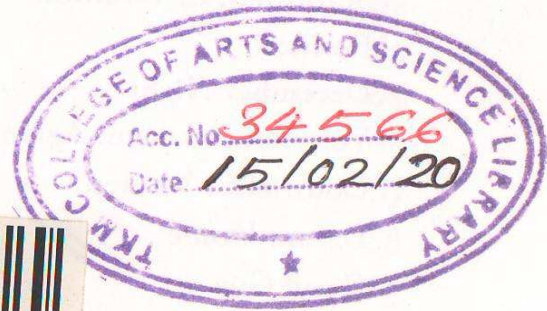
Cover Painting: Carina C. Ianni, Argentina

Cover Design: Vigneshwaran. K

A COLLECTION OF POEMS

A Sense of Shame

A RAGHU



INDUS SCROLLS PRESS

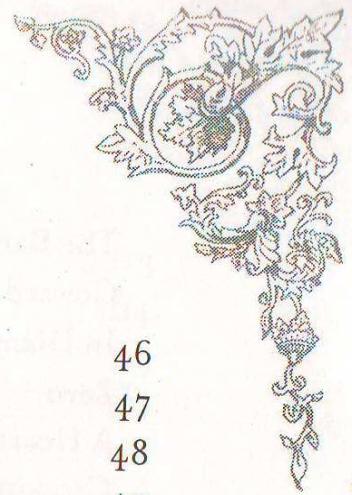
NEW DELHI

2019

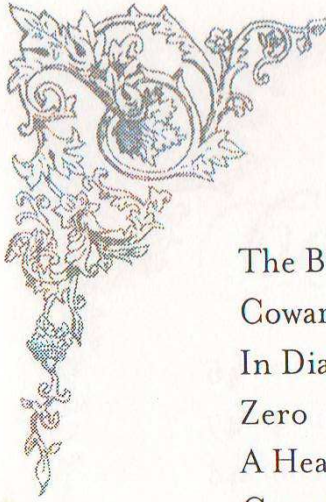


Contents

Preface	09
Raped and Killed	12
Woman	13
Fascinated by False Faces	15
Desire	16
Vijay Mallya	17
Latter-day Dylan Thomas	19
Rival Poets	20
Paradise	22
A Thing for Houses	23
Coffee of Thirty Years	25
Guilt Poem	26
Shivarathri	27
Defeated Words	28
Scandinavian Vacation	29
Farewell	31
December Night	33
Volcano, Dormant Again	34
Counsellor Wanted?	35
Dream Home	36
Good Guy	37
Gambling Gom	38
Pampered Son-in-law	39
Winter Mist	40
Love Story	41
Marriage Invitation	42
Divorce	43
Sudden Migraine	45

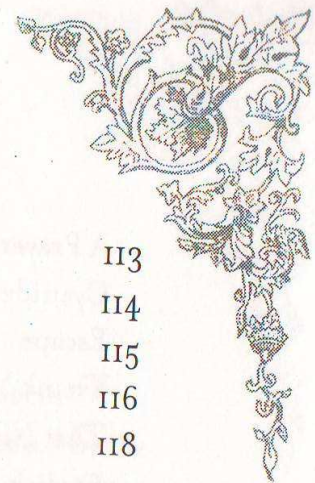


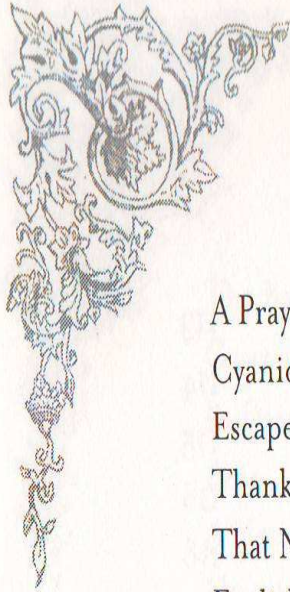
Daughter	46
Come and Sit Near Me	47
Alms	48
Different	49
Eyes, Infinitely Deep	50
Tree	51
She-Judas	53
Uncountable	54
Revisit	55
Stool	57
Poisoned Arrow	58
Fight	59
Crime	60
Fool	61
Self Hate	62
Chemistry	63
An Invitation	64
Her Last Sleep	66
Mother	67
Cannanore	68
Sixty Years	69
Playtime	70
Evening	71
Remembering You	72
The Blind Old Man	73
Careers	74
Death of a Poet	75
A Home of My Own	77



The Bank Executive	78
Coward	79
In Diamond City	80
Zero	81
A Heartless Man	82
Crossing the Pazhayar	83
Erachakulam	84
Man and Nature	85
Selfish Tears	86
The End	87
Memorial	88
Aerial Survey of an Earthquake	89
The Great Investor	90
Accident	92
Fool	93
From a Prisoner to a Warden	94
Burning Haystack	95
Crazy Artist	97
Hang Them!	98
Visitor	99
Why	100
Good Samaritan	101
A Dog Barked at the Moon	102
Wild Fire	104
Yet Again	105
Goodbye to a Girlfriend	106
End of an Affair	108
Final Favour	109
Beggar	110
Chameli	111

Prince Charming	113
Thoughts of a Bridegroom	114
Warm Clothes	115
Take Me to the Palimar	116
Pain Island	118
He Took a Girl to Khadipura	119
She Came from Ajmer to See Me	121
Criminal	122
For Nissim Ezekiel	123
Model Marriage	125
Without	126
Mysora	128
Speech	129
New Year Card	130
For You I Decided to Fight Them	131
P.S.	132
Dream Dog	133
Protector	134
Lock	136
Special Government Order	137
Egg	138
Drinker in the Morning	139
Genius	140
Instead	141
Forgive Me, Amma	143
Everything. So	144
In Public	145
The Dandy in His Drawing Room	146
Current Tenants	147
Naïve Then	150





A Prayer for My Son	151
Cyanide Sandwich	153
Escape	154
Thank You	155
That Night	156
Foolish Love	158
The Hyderabad Call	159
Punishment	161
Soul Sellers	162
That Way	163
A Sense of Shame	164



Preface

A spark has to fall from the sky to become a poem. It is not enough that the spark falls. It has to be accepted by the poet, cherished and treasured by him, and developed into the poem. Fortunately for me, sparks started falling from the sky from the time I was a child. Those early sparks excited in me a thrill beyond words. I tried to develop each spark that fell as best as I could. I started nursing the dream of becoming a great, famous poet. I was naïve then. Besides, my self-confidence was buttressed by rather premature success. When I was nine years old, my name appeared in print, when *Children's World* published a prose piece of mine. When I was fourteen years old, Kamala Das selected my poem, 'An Invitation' for publication in *Youth Times*.

I decided to put an end to my education with high school, and devote the rest of my life completely to the writing of poetry. When I shared this excellent decision with my father, he was shocked. He shouted at me that I would end up starving. I was excited. Not having experienced a serious want unfulfilled, I found poverty fascinating. I imagined myself reciting poems in threadbare three-piece suits to audiences that go berserk. What was there to dread about poverty? Had not Wordsworth been poor? Had not Yeats been poor?

Looking back, I realize that I was extraordinarily lucky in those early years. Practically all the periodicals in India that

A SENSE OF SHAME

A Collection of Poems A RAGHU



We have been hearing the ardent lovers of poetry groaning that amidst the attempts of the so-called new age poets to bring imageries to represent the terror of modern times, the beauty of poetry is lost! Nevertheless, here is a collection of poems that brings the very definition of poetry alive with all its beauty, profoundness and the craft. Probably it is this exceptional blend that reserves for A Raghu a distinctive position among the global contemporary English poets.

Professor Alfredo Pasolino

 **INDUS
SCROLLS
PRESS**



ISBN:978-81-941447-2-4

₹295 (\$7.95)