

Abandoned

Abandoned to the garbage bin,
With mosquitoes and insects
eating its tiny fingers away,
Little baby crying for help
as foul smells comes into play,
irradiating from disposed bacteria.

Unheard shrieks of the baby's hysteria
die in eerie silence of the night,
"An outcast of destiny"

Its labored breath
racing in quick gasps
forced lonely like crap
with cyanosed lips
sea-blue nose and finger-tips,
Its tattered and torn dirty wrap
make it shiver in freezing grasp.

A filthy black cat
edges on to the holed bin
searching for easy rats
And finds its food

tearing at the babe's hair
 with their sharp teeth
 gnawing at its ears
 to complete their feed,
 As the cat jumps in
 with a screeching meow
 the rats let loose
 a clicking squeak
 A bloody chaos ensues,
 The only sin of the infant—
 BEING BORN.



- Dr. Suraya Nasim

About the author

The poetry Dr. Suraya Nasim writes is straight from the heart. It has no fixed pattern. It doesn't follow any particular rule. The poems come as a flow. Her poems are simple and easy to read and hopefully easier to understand. English was one of her favorite subjects in school along with science. The prescriptions she writes are from the brain but the poems she writes are definitely from her heart. Her poems were nominated for the Booker Award in 2013.

Glossary

abandoned (v)	:	left something or somebody forever.
irradiating (v)	:	sending rays of light upon ; light up
shriek (n)	:	a short, loud high cry
hysteria (n)	:	uncontrolled excitement
eerie (adj)	:	causing a feeling of mystery and fear.
destiny (n)	:	power believed to control events
crap (n)	:	solid waste

cyanosed (*adj*) : a deep greenish blue coloured

gnawing (*v*) : biting steadily at something

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Why are the shrieks of the baby unheard?
2. "An outcast of destiny" What is meant by this expression?
3. What are the physical features of the baby?
4. 'Easy rats' here means _____
 - a) easily available rats.
 - b) the rats that move easily.
 - c) the rats that are caught easily.
 - d) lazy rats.
5. Who are gnawing at the baby's ears? Rats or a cat?
6. Which of the following statements are true?
 - a) The cat was eating the baby.
 - b) The rats were eating the baby.
 - c) The rats were strong enough to drive away the cat.
 - d) The baby was dead by the time the cat came.
 - e) The rats left the baby to the cat.
7. Can you guess who abandoned the baby?
8. Why do people abandon babies?
9. What leads to a bloody chaos?
10. Comment on the line " The only sin of the infant — BEING BORN."

Project Work

Collect the information about the people who fought against social evils. Prepare a report on the difficulties and oppositions they had faced to fight against the evils. Discuss in your groups the similarities in the problems they faced and the solutions they found to tackle them. Present it before the class.

Sl.No	Name of the Person	Place	Social evils they fought against	Period/ Year
1	Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Hoogly	Sati, Caste rigidity, Polygamy and child marriages	1820 - 1830
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				



Self Assessment



How well have I understood this unit?

Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
Reading: I read and comprehended the text:			
A. The Storeyed House – I			
B. The Storeyed House – II			
C. Abandoned			
Vocabulary: I was able to			
• list the compound adjectives from the story and use them in sentences of my own.			
• fill in the blanks with appropriate compound adjectives + nouns.			
• guess the meanings of the phrasal verbs and use them in sentences of my own.			

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
• fill in the blanks with appropriate phrasal verbs by making necessary changes in their tense.			
• complete the idioms.			
• match the idioms with their meanings.			
Grammar: I was able to			
• identify the adverbial clauses in the sentences.			
• combine the sentences to make one using the words			
Writing: I was able to			
• write an invitation.			
• write a letter of complaint.			
• write a newspaper report on Bayaji's death.			
Study Skills:			
I was able to make notes on the passage.			
Listening and Speaking:			
I listened to the extract from a speech made by Martin Luther King Jr. and was able to answer the questions.			
I was able to make a speech on caste discrimination in India given under oral activity.			
I was able to discuss a social evil in India and present the information before the class.			
Project Work:			
I was able to write a report on the people who fought against social evils and present it before my class.			