

A Plea for India

We, Indians, are proud to be a strong nation,
our roots, we declare, cannot be shaken.

Then why these fights,
which leave us in poor plight?

Irrespective of our region,
forget the castes,

which makes us lose our charm.

Let's ignore the selfish call of each region,
and listen for once to the call of the nation.

Why do we spend our time bickering
when so many tasks need finishing?

Don't we have better things to do
than indulge in creating problems anew?

Is all this violence needed
with the people being cheated?

Who will return this only son
whom she loves a ton?

Who will bring back his brother
whose ashes he is still to gather?

Where has all the love gone
which resided in the heart of all?

There is no reason to be proud,
and be on high cloud.

We have to go a long way,
we have to think seriously,
else we end up miserably.

Then let our minds throw out the rot,
and devote our time to pious thoughts.

Let us control the riots,
which leave us with no choice,
but to hang our heads in shame,
and say we have miserably failed.

We have the power to win,
so why not end this din?

Let us unite,
and fight against those who incite.

Let us not be misled,
by those who want to see us dead.

We are a strong united nation,
all we need is a bit of dedication.

Glossary

plight (*n*) : a difficult or sad situation

bicker (*v*) : argue about things that are not important

pious (*adj*) : showing a deep respect for God and religion

din (*n*) : a loud / unpleasant noise that lasts for a long time

incite (*v*) : encourage somebody to be violent by making angry

Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. What do fights put us in?
2. Why does the poet use the expressions ‘proud to be a strong nation’ and ‘hang heads in shame’ at the same time?
3. Who are cheats ? Who are being cheated?
4. What are the tasks to be finished according to the poet?
5. What is the central idea of the poem ?