

SIX EIGHTY

When roses make poses You know it is time For daffodils, On the foothills.

Do they have a budget For wild-flower seeds? For grass That is picturesquely yellow Or do they include it in the gas?

Do they meticulously Paint it blue, Your sky, What is a sky Without a cloud or two?

But there is mitigation yet, You have the hummingbird And the cricket, And rhododendrons That pretend to be wild By the lakeside.



anta Monica

GEESE

Without the geese Time would freeze. The landing And the ripples in their wake Their homing cry at sunset, Another night has begin its day, Get out of the way.

MOODS



There is a quarter
Which we cross
With French buildings
Even when we are dross.

I saw a mendicant
On my way to the post
I saw the belly of the Indian host,
But what I liked most
Was the mendicant by the post.

He must have a story to tell Even in Fremont Where I don't even ring a bell I only imagine the suburban maize In the urban haze.

There are these lights on baseball courts And the deaf and the dumb In special schools, Which get the sun as I do, On a baseball night.

I am almost sure
We will fight with fireflies
Jogging at night with ear-phones
On pavements clearly earmarked
And watch flat screen TV
Comfort ourselves with our comforter
And live to see
Another day.

Any which way.

APES

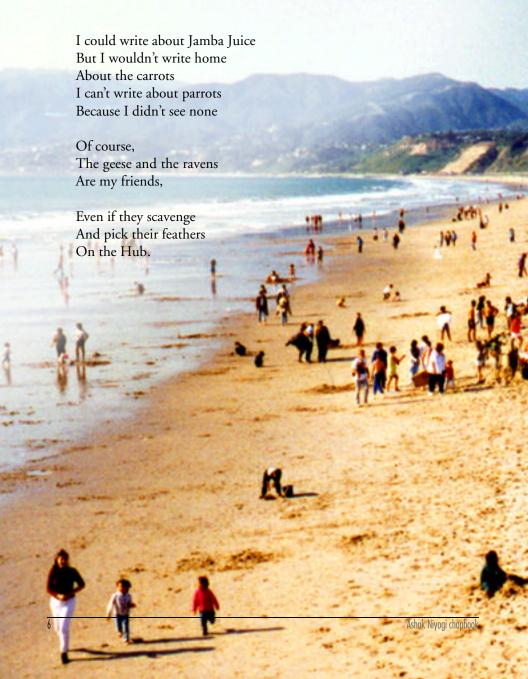
They will park the car in the visitors' slot And move it around every third day, But they take away The garbage only once a week, I must write to Shwartzneggar about it.

The fire alarms ring
With Indian cooking,
And you must not laugh out loud
For sheer
Fear
Because you just paid
Half a million to buy a house.

This inverted logic bemuses me Perhaps it is civilization And we are apes Who rent their breasts in agony Even though In a foreign land We emote in drapes.

At the end of it all
If I have got the Austrian right
Accent and all,
I win a prize
In 'Homeland Security'
I rise.

PARROTS

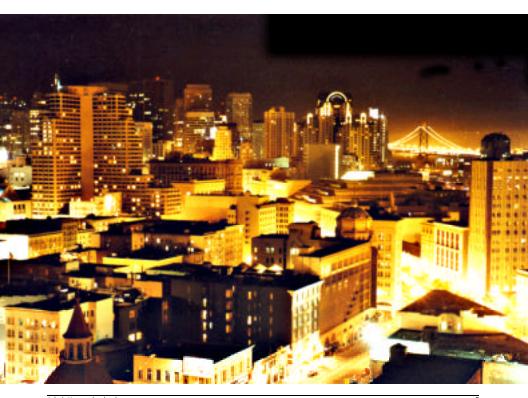


SAN FRANCISCO ^ TOURIST TOWN

Bridges and bridges
To take you away to Embarcadero
And five storey parking lots;
Bullet- proof glass
To hide mediocre art
Le chocolat.

My crooked little house, On a crooked little road, Costing ten million or so.

The Marina I see; Yachts bobbing up and down, Jewels in the corporate crown, But where is the sea?



ALKALI

A little acid maybe To be neutralized with alkali, I vandalized again Ungrateful wretch that I am,

But your chimney-tops Are so uniform, They make me sick.

A San Andreas fault In the NASDAQ Is what you need to shake you up;

I saw a scrap vendor today Carrying his load at end of day Precious as it was; After hard bargaining It will fetch him a dollar, That's enough for three meals,

Such as they have In forty six degrees Beneath trees.

I was debating with myself What car I should buy Air conditioning, mountain roads And engine power Why?



CAR RIDE FROM SUBURBIA

Triangles have angles
As does the building downtown
In little Italy is it?

And I thought they didn't paint it right Must have cost them a fortune To get it exactly wrong.

We must walk these roads just once To get it exactly right Like the needle.

I think of shadows all the while As I did in Manhattan Amongst all that concrete And steel and glass Amongst all that class Where does the sun grow?

Maybe in deserted cells in Alcatraz, Maybe in the Utah snow Icicles on trees Show me these Or T-shirts written 'San Francisco'.

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