

**HARIA**  
**Laksmisree Banerjee\***

*Haria is not allowed  
to cross our threshold  
or enter the thirty three million  
doors of our gods.  
He can hardly combat  
deceit.*

*His dreamy eyes clouded, dark, are  
folded and supplicant like  
the green, timid under-creeper.  
The brooms of cactus-life  
help him to clean our dirt with  
the breath of a hopeful vigilance  
for a simple flash of instant salvation  
with a lurking fear of a ruthless eternity  
of god knows what,  
never leaving his heart.*

*He sweeps our outside verandahs, porches,  
the dusty pathways, the lavatories,  
cleans our sullied bins and grimy cesspools,  
frittering away his doomed hours  
on the dim margins of hope  
which never arrives.*

*Our Brahmin cook with  
a noose of a sacred thread  
around his neck,  
pounds painful thunders on him  
driving him away like a street dog.*

---

*\*An acclaimed Indian-English Poet, Professor of English & Culture Studies, Sr. Radio,  
Stage & TV(Indian Classical) Vocalist, Ex-Pro Vice Chancellor & Ex-Vice Chancellor  
of Kolhan University, India, Email: [laksmisree@hotmail.com](mailto:laksmisree@hotmail.com)*

---