

Mumbai Streets

by Dilip Mohapatra (January 2015)

The glisten and glitter
of receding tail lamps in waves
the siren of the ambulance
dopplering into a splinter
in the silence zone
on the resilient streets
defiled by the reclusive rubbish
heaped in the corners
the sidewalks with an occasional
missing manhole cover
and the skeletons of the
rusted scaffolds of billboards
melancholically perched
on the brown and severe
brick and mortar
ravaged by a savage storm
the neon signs flickering on
celebrity faces hanging in shreds
hold you prisoner
your indiscernible being

merged with many other beings
you stop at the red traffic light
waiting for it to turn green
and the street urchins
tap on your window
to drive a bargain
and sell you the flowers
that they stole from
someone's grave
while you are lost in nostalgia
and seeking your green memories.

Dilip Mohapatra (b.1950), a decorated Navy Veteran started writing poems since the seventies. His poems have appeared in many literary journals of repute in India and abroad. Some of his poems are included in the World Poetry Yearbook, 2013 along with the works of 211 contemporary poets from 93 countries. He has two poetry books to his credit: *A Pinch of Sun & other poems*, and *Different Shades*, published by Authorspress. He holds two masters degrees, in Physics and in Management Studies. He lives with his wife in Pune.

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