



**MEETCOMING...**

Abha Vishwakarma

We celebrate your homecoming today  
your return to Ayodhya Ram  
fourteen faraway years  
arduous, onerous, gruelling and grinding  
was not plain sailing  
without you and Ma Sita.

I look around  
everywhere and anywhere  
my eyes can lay hold of  
to have a glimpse of you  
amidst the gleaming and glowing diyas  
of amber, fire, gold, mustard and honey.

The resplendent air  
is fragrant with the myriad shades  
of colourful outfits  
of singing and dancing  
of joy and jubilation.

I see you in a pensive mood  
your looks forlorn and lost  
with your encompassing smile intact  
your confidant and consort  
Sita beside you.

You must be  
wondering and contemplating  
reasoning and ruminating  
is the greed for throne  
so expensive?  
so insecure?  
and so parochial?

I see your silent, dedicated follower  
Laxman behind you  
a brother par excellence  
a friend in need and deed.

But Urmila awaits answers  
to her questions  
of pain, of sorrow, of loneliness and grief  
to her questions  
of her fourteen long years of exile  
devoid of his companionship and LOVE.

I wonder,  
will the millions of illuminated lamps  
replenish her lost years!

### **KRISHNA....**

Abha Vishwakarma

Krishna!  
I become the whirling and dancing 'dervish'  
when your fingers move fervently  
on the seven holes  
of the bamboo BANSURI  
deftly, proficiently and dexterously.

I become me, myself  
in consonance and congruence  
with your melodious tune  
as they enrobe, enwrap and clothe  
the expansive azure sky.

I dabble, dampen and immerse  
my soiled, sullied and tainted robe  
in your notes and chords  
in your presence and attendance  
and step on your footprints  
to feel, perceive and sense  
the Krishna in me.

I am reborn on JANMASTAMI  
I become Gopal, Gopi and Govind  
I emerge as your flute, your song, your music  
I put on your dark complexion to become SHYAM  
and wear your mysterious yet innocent smile.

Tonight,  
I am ecstatic, euphoric and elated  
in the incessant, unremitting rain  
did you transmute and mutate  
as RADHA or MEERA  
for me Krishna!



**Abha Vishwakarma** is an Assistant Professor at Arka Jain University in Jamshedpur, with over 35 years of teaching experience. A Fulbright scholar, she specialized in teaching methodologies at Kent State University, Ohio, in 2012. Vishwakarma has earned numerous awards including the 'Pratibha Samman Award' and 'Teacher Of the Year Award'. She has authored a chapter in the book Promoting Active Learning Through The Integration of Mobile and Ubiquitous Technologies and has contributed articles to various academic publications. Her poetry has appeared in national dailies, academic collections, and has been featured on All India Radio.

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