



BETWEEN ENOUGH AND EMPTY

Dr. A. Arun Daves

I am not happy, though I have no reason to complain.
Life has given enough for me to keep moving.
There is food, there is shelter, there are familiar faces.
Yet something remains unsettled within me.
People ask why I stay quiet about my struggles.
I do not have an answer that satisfies them.
I have learned that gratitude does not erase emptiness.
Both can sit together without conflict.
So I carry what I have and what I lack,
Without trying to explain either of them.

I have nothing, at least nothing the world admires.
No great achievements, no promises of certainty.
Still, I find myself giving whenever I can.
And sometimes I wonder, who are you to ask me for charity?
You do not know what I carry or what I have given away.
You do not know the things done without witnesses.
I have no commitments written on paper,
No grand mission, no carefully chosen direction.
I simply do what feels necessary in the moment,
And move on before anyone notices.

Have you ever lived this way, without a clear map?
Have you ever helped and expected nothing in return?
Have you ever stood beside someone else's sorrow
While carrying your own in silence?
I cannot help everyone, and I no longer pretend I can.
But for those who truly need me, I will be there.
Not because I am noble, not because I am strong,
But because I know how much a small kindness matters.
That is all I have, and perhaps all I am—
A person trying to do some good while finding his own way.

Bio-Note:

Dr. A. Arun Daves is working as an Assistant Professor of English at Jawahar Science College, Neyveli, Tamil Nadu. A native of Thenkuthu, a village near Neyveli, he holds a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from St. Joseph's College, Cuddalore, a M.A. in Linguistics from Annamalai University, and an M.Phil. in English from PRIST University. He earned his Ph.D. in English from Annamalai University in 2021 for his thesis titled "*Society and the Individual: A Critical Study of John Galsworthy's Plays.*" In addition to his doctoral research, Dr. Daves has published scholarly articles, poems, book reviews, and short fiction in various refereed, UGC-approved international journals and Anthologies. He serves on the editorial and review boards of reputed academic journals and regularly reviews research papers. His academic interests include modern British drama, literary theory, and interdisciplinary approaches to literature and language.