

ISSN : 2454-3365

THE LITERARY HERALD

AN INTERNATIONAL REFEREED ENGLISH E-JOURNAL

A Quarterly Indexed Open-access Online JOURNAL

Vol.1, No.1 (June 2015)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Siddhartha Sharma

Managing Editor: Dr. Sadhana Sharma

www.TLHjournal.com

sharmasiddhartha67@gmail.com

UNDERBELLY

SASHIBHUSAN RATH
B-174, SECTOR-18,
ROURKELA, ODISHA

Something has gone wrong at
Underbelly.
The cancer suspected
Has spread from the
Urban underbelly to the
Rural underbelly of India.
Rape, ransom, blackmail
Have become the hallmark
Of my country India
Which I have admired
All through my life.
Bad blood is spreading
Like tsunami
Engulfing my own family.
Anything may happen
Anytime, here anywhere
In front of me, behind me.
I am a helpless citizen
Of a tired and old India
Which I cherished
For the values it stood for
When I was young.
Free India then was also young
And I was younger.
Today I can't see her
Tarnished face
But sure enough I can do
Something for her revival
Of charm & charisma

RECIPE

Recipe of war and war mongers
Recipe of victorious and vanquished

Are different from others.
To preserve power war continues
Barracks and brothels get closer
Comfort women and cheer girls
Are the debris of war
Served attractively today.
Who knows?
Next hot spot for us will be sex
Available in assembly line
Customers moving in queue
Getting their hunger satiated.
Even rape will be absorbed
With lighter punishment
When woman gets objectified.
They say
The male gaze dictates
The use of women's bodies.
The glamorous women
Is for consumption
By pent-up males.
The pin-up glamorous women
On the barber's plank walls
Or on the glossy cover pages
Are eye tonics.
They say
It is a never-ending quest
For perfection
In an imperfect world
Both for females and males.
And it goes on.