

A History Assignment

“On Saturday, this has to be submitted”,
Said my first born and I lovingly set to work
Helping him, guiding him as he thoughtfully chewed on
the pencil’s head. I started with the Vedas, continued till
I reached the Jains of Pataliputra, that’s where my first born
Gently interrupted me and said “But this is about the Mughals, Papa.”

I cut short my journey and wondered
“Without Ashoka’s lament, how will Akbar make any sense?”
But I obediently shifted my gaze from the Chaityas and Viharas to the Ibadat Khana

And found no major difference to highlight, hoping
my son sees beyond the ostensibly carved Budhas
And the geometric designs of the Saracens
Into the spirit that permeates the Hind.
Well, it had to be done in 45 minutes or less,
As afterwards we had promised him the new Playstation Three
I worked dutifully as his eyes grew nimble with patience,
As he sincerely waited for me to complete his work.
His spectacled eyes betrayed his glee when I finished
“Lets go papa....Chandni Chowk will close around 11.”
So we went to the electronics bazaar opposite the Red Fort,
The Red Castle was even sterner than before,
Knowing the folly of the little one.
Punitive measures had to be taken.....

So even though the Playstation was there,

He had to come home hungry

As Nataraj Dahi Bhallas was closed.