



## A Retreat in Flow

Vasanthi Vasudev

When the sun, half asleep opened an eye-lid  
Forty strong and smart, at once, assemble did!  
No nonsense, no sweat, all was neat and done  
We flew in without a hitch to have loads of fun!

A gourmet lunch and then, in thermals, of course  
We set off to see the mighty Ganga in full force  
Namoghat to the boat 'twas a hop and skip  
Once on the boat, we frisked without a slip!

From ghat to ghat, views so amazing along land,  
We cruised on and docked for 'aarthi' so grand!  
Were all the earth and its people gathered?  
To marvel and laud the Ganga so revered?

Lights from oil lamps ascended so high  
Even as the sun descended, sans a single sigh..  
"Har har mahadev" the crescendo went shrieking shrill  
We raised our hands in song, glued to our seats so still....

Spicy chaats so many, and tea in mud cups a-plenty  
To guitar and flute, we crooned in one and twenty!  
Dinner so traditional, amidst decorated ceiling and wall  
Our first day, so long, had much to soak in and enthrall!

Early for blessings, to temples we set out  
Did we get a shut eye, 'twas hard to figure out!  
But were we tired? Did we complain ever?  
Not even in teens did our energies so tower!

Breakfast and off to Saranath so serene  
To marvel at stupas and relics we were keen.  
In the afternoon, no by lane was forsaken  
No shop ignored or bypassed, mistaken!

In two and three with shopping bags big,  
We raided the bazaar, be it for 'tanchoi" or twig  
Dropping dead, almost, we shuffled in  
For a gala evening with Kathak and gin.

The brave hearts faced sleep with a fight  
Twinkle toed, they tapped into the night!  
Cameras clicked nonstop, minute after minute  
Nothing was missed, be it so minute or acute!

At daybreak, we gathered, bathed and anointed  
At Lord Viswanth's gate- at the time appointed  
Fragrant flower in hand, fervent prayer on lip  
We 'circumambulated' and bowed deep, not losing grip.  
His blessings we sought and travails we poured  
For inner peace and harmony, Him, we implored.

'Malai yo' and 'malai toast' waited fresh for us  
To mark and hail our darshan's success  
Sumptuous breakfast was such a treat  
A fitting finale to our two-day retreat!

To all those wonderful ladies in FICClI FLOW  
Who crafted our retreat, flawless so  
I wish to say 'thank you' to the awesome many  
RAJI, NIYATHI DEVIKA, RADHIKA, ANURADHA and the many!

Pease can we have some more!  
Can I ask for an 'encore'?  
Who can do it better than you?  
Just who, but you!!!

**Verses by Vasanthi**