

## **I Arrived In This World A Bit Late**

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### **About the Work:**

Kunwar Narain was decorated with the Jnanpith, the highest literary award in 2005 and the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honor in India, in 2009, and was well known Indian poet abroad with many translations of his work. This poem is a pithy way to describe the world we inhabit. It calls attention to the global climate crisis that is manifest in annual catastrophic weather events around the world, at the same time as there are climate change deniers. It also speaks of the ways in which we have organized ourselves into systems of exploitation and oppression. Before reading this poem at a workshop with over sixty tenured professors in the room, I asked if they had ever felt attacked at their place of work. Have you?

### **About the Author(s)**

**Jyoti Bachani** PhD, is an associate professor of strategy and innovation at Saint Mary's College of California. She is the founder of the US chapter of International Humanistic Management Association, where she is the flag bearer for the use of Arts to Humanize Management. She is a former Fulbright Senior Research Scholar. Her expertise in case-writing is recognized internationally. She has been reading and translating Hindi poetry into English for twenty years and in the past four years has brought poetry and improv to the Academy of Management and other conferences. In April 2017, she was a featured poet for U.K. Poetry Society's Poetry@3 at Saint Giles in London. She is the founder of a group called Poetry of Diaspora of Silicon Valley that has met monthly since 2017, and since March 2020, has been meeting weekly to read poems in all languages. Some of her poems were published in the anthology called *Celebrating Creativity*, by Kaecey McCormick, the Cupertino Poet Laureate. She earned her PhD at London Business School and Masters in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. She is a graduate of St. Stephens College with a BS in Physics and of Faculty of Management Studies with an MBA from Delhi University.

***I Arrived In This World A Bit Late***

By then the entire world had been civilized  
 All forests had been razed  
 All animals had been killed  
 Rain had stopped  
 And burning like a ball of fire was this  
 Earth ....  
 In all four directions iron and concrete  
 Jungles of immense size had emerged  
 In which anyone could see  
 Several evolved ways by which  
 Humans were being hunted by humans.

Original in Hindi by Kunwar Narain  
 Translation by Jyoti Bachani

मैं जरा देर से इस दुनिया में पहुँचा

तब तक पूरी दुनिया सभ्य हो चुकी थी  
 सारे जंगल काटे जा चुके थे  
 सारे जानवर मारे जा चुके थे  
 वर्षा थम चुकी थी  
 और आग के गोले की तरह तप रही थी  
 पृथ्वी...  
 चारों तरफ लोहे और कंक्रीट के  
 बड़े-बड़े जंगल उग आये थे  
 जिनमें दिखाई दे रहे थे  
 अत्यन्त विकसित तरीकों से  
 आदमी का ही शिकार करते हुए आदमी।

—कुँवर नारायण