

# Lapis Lazuli

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**“I’m a Common Man”**Divya John

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I often spit wherever I deem fit  
Pee on the polluted pavements  
I render public toilets dirtier still  
Throw soiled shreds on the roads  
Not on wastepaper baskets n bins  
Yet I laud the mantra ‘Clean India.’

I perceive rallies from time to time  
The Mahatma’s name used in vain  
I perceive day-long ‘bandhs’ always  
Ruining public property at random  
I see damaging *hartals* recurring  
While crooks get off with crimes.

I pay my bribes due everywhere  
I ride and drive my vehicles daily  
I really don’t know how to make  
A perfect ‘8’ in my two-wheeler  
Or an ‘H’ in my new four-wheeler  
I have the driver’s license though.

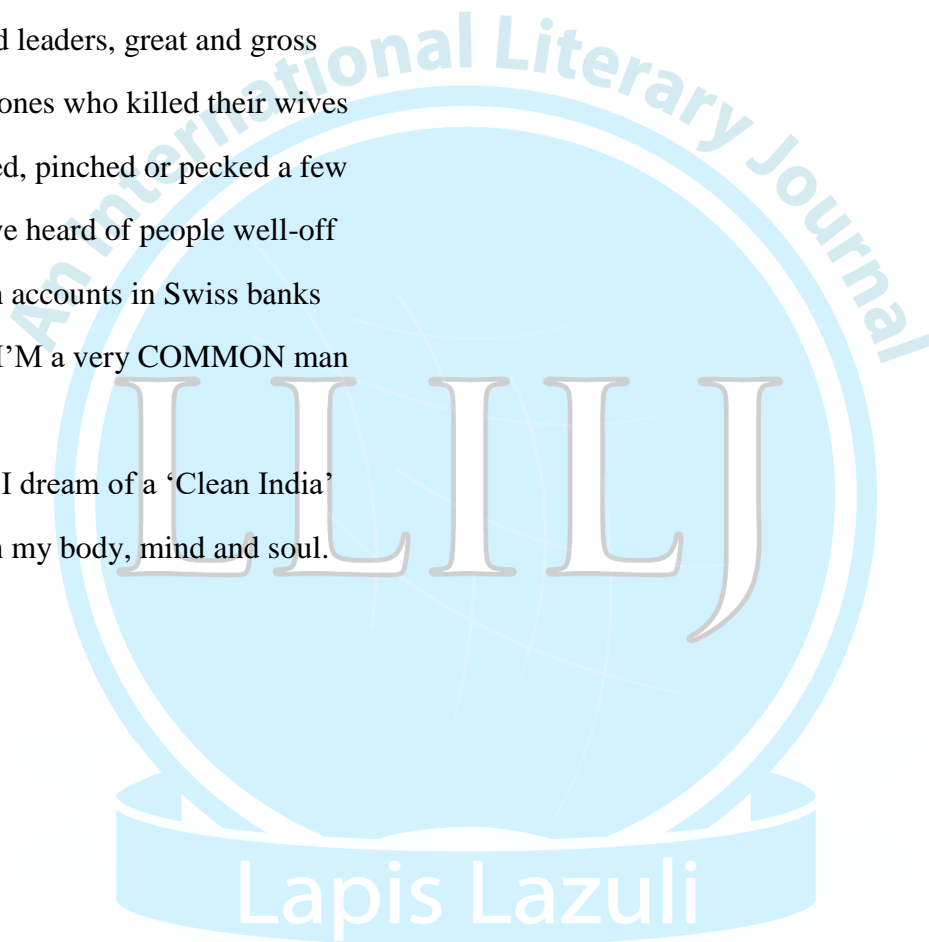
I live my life meeting both ends  
I have one lawful wife, two kids  
A 3-bedroom suite, a 4-wheeler  
Educational loan, housing loan,  
Car-loan, marriage-loan, yeah

Deep debts to pay off in years.

I know I'm not politically prim.  
Aloof from the very high or low  
Yet, not below the poverty line  
I don't exercise my voting rights  
Know not what party to vote for  
For all are made of similar stuff.

I find leaders, great and gross  
The ones who killed their wives  
Poked, pinched or pecked a few  
I have heard of people well-off  
With accounts in Swiss banks  
But I'M a very COMMON man

Yet, I dream of a 'Clean India'  
With my body, mind and soul.



**“Towards the Grand-finale Accolade”**

Divya John

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The creative heart  
The quest of an individual  
The zealous chase of one’s life time  
Refuses to settle on nothing less other than  
Sway the mind to achieve the great grand-finale accolade.

The inventive mind  
The acclaim of the holder  
The intense search of one’s target  
Persuades the heart to gain the unique success  
Sense fuses with passion to win the grand-finale accolade.

The original thought  
The sought-after outcome  
Arising from a fertile heart and mind  
Cannot be barred by a person, place or thing  
To accomplish the distinction of the grand-finale accolade.



**BIO-NOTE**

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Divya John, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept of English, SSN College of Engineering, Chennai, has published her poems in national & international journals. Her poem, "Love Rewritten," was shortlisted in the All India Poetry Competition 2015 organized by The Poetry Society (India). In May 2009, a collection of her poems, Whispers Within, was published by Writers Workshop, Kolkata. She is currently working on her second collection of poems.).

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