PEACE OR WAR?

ROBBED IN THE DEEPEST BLACK,
WITH EVIL, MALICIOUS EYES
AND JAW HELD SLACK,
WITH FIRE INSTEAD OF BREATH
AND THE COUSIN OF DEATH
IS WAR.

THEN COMES PEACE.
SWATHED IN THE PUREST WHITE,
EYES BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT;
FULL OF HOPE AND LOVE
ON A SHOULDER-A WHITE DOVE.
SO SERENE. SO CALM.

BOTH WERE THERE
WHEN THE SUN WAS BORN.
THEY SAW THE FIRST
SWAYING FIELDS OF CORN.
IN 1945 HAD THEY LAST MET;
WAR HAPPENED FIRST
AND THE FATE OF HUMANITY WAS SET.
IT WAS THEN,
THAT PEACE HAD INTERVENED;
SO STOPPED THE WAR
TO THIS DAY SHE HAD REIGNED.

POOR WAR HAD FLED;
HIDING ONCE IN A PIGSTY
OR IN AN ABANDONED SHED.
HE LOATHED PEACE,
HE WANTED REVENGE;
ALL THE TIME HE
SCHEMED HOW TO AVENGE
HIS DEFEAT,
HIS RETREAT.

GATHERING POWER NOW;
WAR HAD BEEN.
AMONGST POLITICIANS;
HE WAS USUALLY SEEN.
POISONING THEIR MINDS;
HE HAD BEEN.

COME, SAID PEACE
LET US BE FRIENDS, PLEASE!
BAH! WAR SNARLED,
HOW CAN WE BE FRIENDS?
HE ASKED.

LIKE THE DAY AND THE NIGHT-
WE CAN, SAID PEACE.
BUT DEATH FROM MY REALM
I SHALL HAVE TO BAN.
YOU WILL BE TAUGHT TO RESPECT-
PEACE, AND EVERY OTHER ASPECT
OF HAPPINESS,
AND LOVE,
AND OF HOPE.

WAR RETORTED:
‘HAPPINESS AND LOVE AND HOPE’!
THEY ALL ARE TO ME
AS A GALLOW’S ROPE!
BEFRIEND YOU! OH NOPE!
SAID PEACE-
THE WORLD IS CONTENT IN PEACE,
THEREFORE, IT IS YOU WHO WILL HAVE TO CEASE
YOUR ETERNAL STRUGGLE
AGAINST ME.

WAR IN ANSWER SCREECHES:
HELL! THOSE MORAL SPEECHES!
THEY ARE TO ME
LIKE BLOOD-SUCKING LEECHES.
YOU HAVE NO WORTH HERE PEACE;
HUMANS THIRST TO FIGHT-
AND IT IS THROUGH ONLY MY MIGHT,
THAT THEY CAN QUENCH
THIS DEADLY THIRST.
AND BEHOLD THEN-
HUMANITY WILL HAVE AT LAST
COME TO ITS WORST!

SO BE IT, THOUGHT PEACE;
LET US COMPETE.
LET HUMANS DECIDE-
FOR THE RIGHTFUL TRUTH NEVER DOES HIDE.
LET HUMANS BE THE JUDGE
FOR THE RIGHT OR WRONG.

AT THIS DECISION WAR’S DULL EYES TURNED BRIGHT.
AT LAST HIS GOAL WAS IN SIGHT.
ON HIS FACE A MALEVOLENT GRIN;
WITH DREAMS OF A TRIUMPHANT WIN;
WAR FADED INTO THE NIGHT.

INDEED, PEACE IS RIGHT
HUMANITY HAS TO DECIDE
WHAT DOES IT WANT?
PEACE OR WAR?
LIFE OR DEATH?
DELIVERANCE OR EXTINCTION?
DOES IT WANT TO DIMINISH IN FIRE?
OR DOES IT WANT COMPASSION INSTEAD OF IRE?

THE PURE, UNDENIABLE TRUTH
IS THAT HUMANS WANT PEACE,
UNDoubtedLY THEY DO!
So now war has to go.

LO! BEHOLD!
War’s effect soon began to wane.
His bloodlust had been his own bane.
Peace’s effects had not been in vain.
She at last had war slain.

Peace is now what we need.
To her preachings,
we must pay heed.
Not war-whome we detest.
But now, thanks to peace
war is at last at rest.

-MANAN PARASHAR
IX-A
AIS, SEC-46