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CLARA JOSEPH

The Cart

On way from school I see an old man Running pushing a cart He's old and thin Yet runs fast Then swipes his hand Across his arse To fling the running shit aside Still keeps running To boss or home I never know But help he did not get.

I reach home Am served my tiffin I see the food, the yellow curry Know I'll throw up So ditch the food behind the dining-room door The ayah might wonder for a minute And then sweep it off.

Today I'm old An old, old, woman The tears it runs Down my eyes I swipe my hand Across my face To fling the running shit aside Still keep running To boss or home You never know But help I do not get.

Clara Joseph teaches in the department of English at York University. Her poetry has appeared in The Toronto Review and is forthcoming both in Mother Earth International and The Toronto Review.