

||jg|b³d||

dlpLkr dhSĩα

sij> <sidn jh<<J D<b, xhdit yik mhr<J p<b,
ft<J qhrh ... Emin sm0, ahsI kh<n, bzrëik n0,
 itkitik ahr ahr<Sh I h<q bhk>h I hp|
m÷ mhpPh <ne <kh<n qhr, bhz<J kh<n qbo <bkrh,
sr vrh <se aixn <bsr, skh I -ib<k I -rhiw-dpr,
p÷ k<r ahr jq <mhr khzk I hp|

itkitik k0, “ahr<Sh I h <r! <khPh0 ahiJs vhe?
xI dit<q mhiq<0 svh igtikir ghn ghe|
bhsh0 ahmhr ahz <D<kiJ ahôI0<dr <vhz,
Phk<I ghnh, zm<b chnh - A0 ik Emn <rhz?”

cRmiR<0 g<q Q<k ahr<Sh I h<q ñk<n h m<c
 b I I, “dhdh, I জ id<I bR!
ghe <km<n phNit c<I ib¥r khz r<0<J H<I |
 Emn id<n an> kh<ro Br!”

“Brb kh<r? g%h fiRW, yi<xL<Rr Jh-o
ghe<b b<I vhoqh id<0 <vhr <P<k yBho|
qe bhJh <mhr <SZ vrsh, <d bhiR<0 Ahq,
ne<I ifir <kh<n m<c b I? Phk<b nh<kh zhq!”

“bIJ dhdh? sbhe fhik id<<J b<s, <kbI bhik
 ahime - <qhmh0 qir<0 id<q v<b?
 Phk q<b khz, rhcb ah<g snhm <qhmhr, rhg <brh<g,
 gq <P<ke ghñ ñin<0 s<b|”

<I zchin<q <Qy qil<0, itkitik <s k0,
 “m<Æ b<se gh nh <kn! ik<sr Eq v0?
 GtG<t Y gq <J<R ECiN qe xI,
 <rhSin vrh <vhzbhiR<q, zm<J d<I dI!”

“shB k<r ik g<q vñOh? ahkhS iG<r bhdI JhOh!
 ivz<I Dñnh Br<b iny<mhinOh -
 ppÆm0 mq>p<r,” ahr<ShIh k0 Aqhs s<r,
 “<dc<bth <k? vñb<I kh<p iAOh!”

“bhdI JhOh <khPh0 <piI! nI gg<n xhd
 <zñJnh <m<c, r<0<J <p<q Gm-qñRh<nñ fhd|
 a±? nh <qñr pRI Jhin? iTk ik ah<J qñr?
 <x´he xI, <dic<0 ahin mñdhiz Dhçñr|”

“ ‘<x´he! <s <khñ x<Ih <gh?’ sAs <mñr by, <m<0, <ph,
 y<Ót ñ<0 ix<x<b sb, ‘Ah0 <r Ah0!’
 shmhI <d<b qñ<dr k>hth? ahr<ShIh<dr A<rk I>ñTh
 ixØ A<I <fr ypr krh <bzh0 dh0|”

“<Ae bhbh <r! siq>? nhik, ids <mñ<r vRik?
 Ahzhñrth <qñr IRkh, ibib? s³drI IRik?
 nh, nh <r vñe, E<dr <J<R jñs<n kv ahr,
 ahimo inIhm <qñr ïi–r চৌকিদারির vñr!”

“rhm, rhm, rhm, iJ, iJ ah<r! itkitik<q ahr<Sh Ih<r
 phAhrh id<I Ahs<b <d<Sr <Ihk!
 Ahs<b mhiJ, ipp<R, <phkh, bI<b, ‘<dc id<<J <Bhkh!
 v<qr b>htho ahoRh<q xhO <åIhk!’ ”

“ik bliI qe? v<qr b>hth? kriJ ahim JI?
 ãB<jr bhB vñWiI Ebhr, xRI <kh<IètI|
 Ah<tr rēgl, kqe vig - s0nh Eq ahr,
 sb kt<k ah¥ ig<I krb piqkhr!”

qhrp<r Jhe ik <j <AhI, PhkI <k <j, <k <j <mh<Ih?
 Bhe-BphBp, BRmRmR, S® ñ<n bk BRfR,
 ahsI piIS Gir<O Ah<qr Dh÷h,
 bhziI bhiS, fhtI <bhmh, IRI yikI mk᳚mh,
 zmI <k sb, qII ik rb, qhre mh<H ahmhr ahzb
 g<,phchnh ziR<O kcn Th÷h!

kIkhqh, 18e n<vÆr, 2001||