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## Selected Poems

Danny Dover

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# Selected Poems

Danny Dover

## Dipika's Walk

*for Dipika B.K. and the People's Revolution  
Nepal, April 2006*

Eight years since this moth  
flew too close to a cooking fire  
melting her baby feet into candle stubs,  
a finer flame burns in her hot fierce face  
each new morning as Dipika walks,  
scraped and bruised, stiff and clumsy,  
with a perilous gait across a gravel yard.

But also watch the warm  
beam of her hazel eyes  
dance a gleaming leaping stride,  
bouncing beyond rooftops  
this morning,  
as Dipika walks.

And if this were night,  
Dipika would glow her bright-blinking  
breakfast-anytime neon smile.

Step inside now under that smile,  
as if settling in a warm booth  
with fresh coffee  
and home-made pie.

You might never see her again,  
might never again visit this city,  
might even miss  
down-street an entire nation  
stumbling out of fire onto its feet  
this morning,  
as Dipika walks.

## On the Immigrant Train, NYC

The Queens-bound subway  
known as Number Seven  
boards deep in a dusty cave  
below Manhattan's glossy  
mountains gathering  
speed on screeching rails  
submerged beneath a tidal  
river bursting out into  
brilliant sunlight like a well-  
kept secret boldly revealed  
as you ride and ride  
hardly noticed  
for your pale dull skin  
amid a pressing mass  
of faces gleaming every shade  
of black or brown like polished  
driftwood saved from shores  
of a hundred nations

This is their ship  
of gambled dreams  
a pack of pilgrims  
swaying over  
shifting ground  
a lurching vessel  
laden with all we've been  
or shall become twisting  
on an ancient track  
across the swirl  
and sprawl of flim-flam  
streets and asphalt  
rooftops they now  
call home



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## Another Country

When living  
in another country, listen  
for the murmur of child monks  
running late for lessons  
with their song  
of slapping sandals  
by an early morning window

Follow the weathered gaze  
of the old woman walking  
deep in prayer around  
a white-washed temple  
Wander in the dawn-lit  
trails of her canyon'd face

Spread this mountain village  
through your fingers  
braiding its lustrous strands  
into a thick cloak  
of cedar smoke wet slate  
and mustard oil

Soak in every moment  
Let your skin of paper  
dissolve  
in a steady warm  
drizzle of attention  
to the ten thousand  
sensations

**Danny Dover's** first full-length book of poetry, *Tasting Precious Metal*, was published by Antrim House Books in 2014 <<http://antrimhousebooks.com/dover.html>>. He also has a chapbook, *Kindness Soup, Thankful Tea* (Dhotarap Press, 2006). Dover was a 2013 Pushcart nominee. His poems have appeared in *Oberon*, *Blueline*, and numerous issues of *Bloodroot*. Dover received a B.A. from Antioch College in 1971. He was the piano technician at Dartmouth College for seventeen years and continues servicing pianos part-time. Previously he worked as a folk singer, contradance musician, dulcimer maker, pattern maker, and surveyor. He also serves on the board of Hands in Outreach Inc., a small non-profit coordinating educational sponsorships for children in Nepal <<http://www.handsinoutreach.org/>>, where he has traveled frequently since 1995. Danny lives with his wife, Mary Swartz, in a remodeled schoolhouse in Bethel, Vermont.



**Fernando Cinquegrani, *Pashupatinath*. Ink on paper, 2012.**

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