

December 2016

Selected Poems

Danny Dover

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya>

Recommended Citation

Dover, Danny (2016) "Selected Poems," *HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*: Vol. 36: No. 2, Article 17.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol36/iss2/17>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

This Literature is brought to you for free and open access by the DigitalCommons@Macalester College at DigitalCommons@Macalester College. It has been accepted for inclusion in HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies by an authorized

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



Fernando Cinquegrani, *Patan*. Ink and watercolor on paper, 2012.
Permission for use granted through Creative Commons.



Fernando Cinquegrani, *Patan*. Ink and watercolor on paper, 2012.
Permission for use granted through Creative Commons.

Another Country

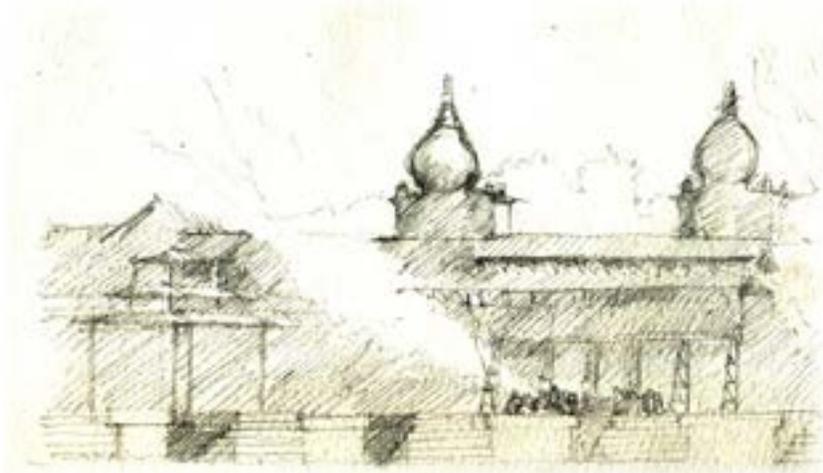
When living
in another country, listen
for the murmur of child monks
running late for lessons
with their song
of slapping sandals
by an early morning window

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.

Permission for use granted through Creative Commons.