

# ODE TO D.T.C

Guide of my youth!  
Instructor of my age !  
Dare I address thee  
With this humble paean?  
Oh thou too-oft invisible deity !  
Thou who elud'st our grasping hands  
and flee'st  
The ever-longing soul—  
Thou who decree'st  
Our movements, and defin'st  
Our Delhi Standard Time, yea,  
even our lives.  
Oh deity omnipotent!  
Thou essence of ingenuity,  
Oh incomparable DTC !  
Alone ; in crowds ; at all thy  
scatter'd shrines.  
What ages numberless in trance I've  
passed  
Musing upon the manners of  
Mankind,  
That species so unique in body and  
mind.  
Their eyes—too lofty to behold a  
queue.  
Their voices—made all reason to  
undo,  
Their limbs—designed to block and  
push and shove,  
And oh their hands—all earthly use  
above !  
'Tis in thy precincts that we wonder-  
ing see  
How "Ladies' seats" all things to  
all men be,  
And stranger still, how all remaining  
space  
Becomes "reserved for gents" by  
God's own grace!  
Here, while we fight each moment's  
fresh attack,  
Besieged and threatened, thou our  
mind distract'st  
With humour light and charming  
innocence

\* Delhi Transport Corporation

Proclaimest "Eve Teasing Is An  
Offence" !  
And as we're abused, assaulted, trod  
on, jeered,  
In what sweet accents dost thou  
make appeal :  
"Please take the trouble to give  
seats  
To ladies, children and to old  
people"!  
But oh, how shall thy latest flights  
be praised—  
Lo, we're confined in a 3x2 feet  
cage,  
Made to protect or to put on free  
show ?  
Only the wise decision-makers know!  
Still day to day our baffled minds  
bemuse  
With the inventions and instructions  
new!  
Now partitions give two-thirds space  
and seats  
To men, while we through a narrow  
tunnel squeeze,  
And a conveniently constructed fence  
Allows their hands and leers a free  
access.  
Small wonder that the streets such  
death traps be  
The wandergrounds of maniacs like  
these —  
Crazy on foot, and crazier still on  
wheels—  
All public places merely their battle-  
fields!  
But sisters, think! how pleasant,  
violence-free,  
At least at night, would this our city  
be,  
How orderly its buses, roads and  
parks,  
Were men forbidden to step out after  
dark!

—Anonymous  
(who is always a woman)

## State Bank Of India Prohibits Employees From Taking Dowry

On June 19, 1981, the central board of the State Bank of India held a meeting wherein it was decided that a new sub-rule should be added to the service rules for all SBI supervising staff, officers and assistants. The new rule prohibits employees from giving, taking, or abetting the giving and taking of dowry. It also forbids them to demand directly or indirectly from the parents of bride or bridegroom any dowry.

Though the definition of dowry is stated to be the same as that in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1981, and thus allows the giving or taking of "gifts", yet this order is a significant step forward, particularly as violation of service rules can be punished by dismissal. This rule would be helpful to employees' wives or in-laws who may be harassed for dowry. We feel the SBI should send copies of this memorandum to the wives of all their male employees, and also post it up as a notice in all branches of the bank.



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