



## *Stick Figures*

*Those sticks the taut lean triceps hold, are taller and fatter,  
Steady on hay-haired growth retarded heads,  
Abdomen and cheeks, concave mirrors of their daily meal platter,  
For generations, their loss doesn't count, living or dead*

*The arguments on normal standards of ours vs the West,  
For BMI, Hb and for general well being,  
End in 10 grams-"I do not care", 9 - a 'maybe' heard at best,  
Small is not stunted, it is genetics per our short-sighted art of seeing.*

*The AI broadcast from ivory towers,  
Vitamin A, bananas or eggs be given or not,  
A million parched eyes wait for such showers,  
While subsidized and junk foods can be easily bought.*

*Fortified rice, wheat or maize and sugar rations for them  
Diverse, organic, hefty portions for us,  
In a 100 years many nation heights have grown by 20 c m  
And of theirs, barely any plus.*

*The TB bacteria laugh silently,  
"Health industrialists are to conquer us by year 2025 to 30!  
People! How can we leave these hungry mines of bounty,  
Where 2 square meals a day, unimaginable and wages, if they come, deplorable?"*

*"Oh! The happy-go-lucky poor, they are slim and trim.  
They eat pure free food and breathe fresh air."  
Chatter in 'parties' of the unduly privileged portrays grim,  
As a frail pregnant cleaner scurries invisible to their stare.*

*- Vasu R.  
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