

1990

## The Streets of New Delhi

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### Recommended Citation

Bagga, Kamaljit K. (1990) "The Streets of New Delhi," *Calliope (1954-2001)*: Vol. 1990 , Article 30.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol1990/iss1/30>

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## The Streets of New Delhi

I sit on the unpaved road  
matted with day-old cow remains.  
A golden-hooded cobra sways  
to the melody of the charmer's flute,  
attracting ten-year-olds  
like the jingling icecream truck  
in the States.  
I watch Jeet Aunty hanging the wash  
on a clothesline covered with fleas--  
like a rotten peach.  
Cows moan, coming toward Aunty.  
She slaps their buttocks  
as they attempt to eat her petticoats.  
I lay on my woven bed  
sweat trickling from my chocolate forehead  
cotton skirt sticking to me.  
Looking down I notice  
the bed's bamboo poles,  
holding me up unstably on the unpaved road  
matted with day-old cow remains.

Kamaljit K. Bagga