

Sagar Mal Gupta's Poem

The Inevitable Garam Masala

Once up on a time
A war broke out
Between the spices from the south
and those of the north
like a volcano.
'We are the great immunity-boosters
and taste-makers', said the cloves,
black pepper and cinnamon.
Curry is dull and insipid
without us.
The spices from the north did not lag behind
'Nobody can even think of
making a curry without us',
ejaculated red chili, salt,
Coriander, cumin and aniseeds.
We exert a cooling effect on the body
and not a heating effect like you.
Seeing the war, the garam masala
interrupted very calmly,
'Calm down you all
The union of the south and the north states
Makes a great India
So does a combination
of the south and north spices.
Look at me
I am the product
of that combination.
Balance and harmony
is the secret of happiness in life
Without it, there is always a strife
as you between both
So give up ways uncouth.

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Educated at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Hawaii, **Sagar Mal Gupta** earned his Ph. D. in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii USA. He has fifty-six years of teaching experience of English language and Literature in India and abroad. He has published four books of poetry in English and his poems have been published in a number of national and international journals of repute.