

## CALCUTTA NIGHT

They came and said, 'I am hungry; I am starving, homeless, and leprous.

'It is Christ.' I was told.

But then

'Send them away, not today,

They will steal from you; trick you.

You are gullible, you don't know the poor'.

They pick through the garbage and lie on the streets

Who are they? Where have they come from?

Alone on a stormy night, on the Park Street roof,

I saw a gaunt man illuminated by lightning.

He sheltered, ragged, on his haunches in a doorway.

You are vowed to serve him and vowed to obey.

'Go here, go there!'

'Go where?

Go to a door you know will be shut?

'You cannot have people always coming here,

It is a training house.

The work will be duplicated.'

'Hunger and dysentery.—.we know, we have lived here for years,

Shut the gate.'

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