

Why My Lord !
(Based on Robert Browning's My Last Duchess)
The Duchess to the Duke

By Seema Jain

“With dreams in my eyes
And roses in my cheeks
With smiles on my lips
And hopes of true love in my heart

I tied the wedding knot
With you My Lord
And entered into my new life
Little knowing I wasn't marrying the love of my life
But a nine hundred year old family name of yours.

Oh! How I wish I had known
I was stepping into a golden cage.
You didn't like my smiles my blush
To anyone except your High Lordship
You didn't like my extending thanks
To each and every 'officious fool'

But all this I learnt only much later
When your 'guards' were all set
To execute the given 'commands'

Poor men!! You should have seen their faces, then
Incredulous of my 'designated' fate
Aghast at my so-called 'crime' and 'punishment'
Praying to God to forgive them

My Lord!! Had you been man enough
You could have at least talked to me
But then, for that you needed to regard me
As a human being and not a mere artifact

I hope my life-like painting
The same as was done by Fra Pandolf
Still adorns your palace wall
Because I'm sure it doesn't bother you
Like its original
With the nuisance of its indiscreet smiles

In front of special visitors
As a part of your exquisite art gallery

Adieu My Lord!
I'm sure one day justice will prevail
And posterity will judge your true self.”