

ONE Morning ... AT This STADIUM Hotel

In a way what does this plain-looking,
square teapoy matter?
An ordinary piece of woodwork, merely in
place.

In a way what does the vase
which stands on it matter?
Yes, it does contain a few fresh, light yellow
flowers.

But flowers are usually found in vases.
And then this standing cascade of the wind,
touched to gold by a fragile blink of the sun
Streaming down on the square teapoy.
Well, even this tinge of sunlight is rather
common.

The place is dotted with it.

But all these things
and the four, unoccupied chairs,
tallying with one another,
have turned into a strange, soothing design,
completely still.

There is so much confusion in my mind
I like it when things are neatly arranged.
No idea ... who may turn up and take a
seat.

To think that better days may lie ahead,
how implausible it all appears to be.

—*Translated by Muhammad Salim-ur-Rahman*