

Impressum

Ashutosh Vardhana:
When Yasin scorned, Naresh asked silly questions

Length: 155 lines

e: ashutosh.vardhana@rochdalewriters.org.uk

© 1998 Ashutosh Vardhana

Date: 18 July 1998

Mk1.4

	<p>Ashutosh Vardhana:</p> <p>When Yasin Scorned, Naresh Asked Silly Questions</p> <p>A Didactic Poem</p>
<p>Yasin:</p>	<p>Idolater, you pray to lifeless statues, to elephants and monkeys, have you no better sense? Why do you follow this primitive religion? Is not God greater than your animals and artefacts, is not God greater than all human beings, is He not spirit as our Holy Scripture says, and that of Jesus and of Abraham?</p>
<p>Naresh:</p>	<p>Forgive my simple-minded loving ignorance, which I have inherited from my mother. I've always felt very close to God. I like to see her, touch him, pamper him and love her that way. But you say, all this is sinful aberration and idolatry,</p>

	<p>and I'll be punished on the day of doom? You make me much afraid.</p> <p>Now you tell me, I should no longer worship Ganesh and Hanuman, beloved friends, no longer keep close company of Rama and of Krishna, of Shiva and of Devi, our mother, of Amba Mata, of Sita and of Sati, of Uma, Lakshmi and Saraswati, who accompany me everywhere, in spirit, and give me strength in all my enterprises. I should forsake them all? You tell me, righteousness requires that I miss all these comforts?</p> <p>Will I not be lonely if I must pray only to Allah, who is spirit, who is infinitely great and who is so far away. I'll find it hard to bear.</p> <p>I find it hard to give up MY god if you do not help me to find YOURS. Therefore, Friend, tell me where is Allah? Is he above me in the sky, below me in the earth, does he stand on my right hand? Or on my left hand (which God forbid)? Does he float behind me (which God forbid), or do I search for Him in front of me?</p>
Yasin:	Allah is everywhere, my Friend.
Naresh:	But where is Allah, outside me or inside me?
Yasin:	Allah is everywhere, my Friend.
Naresh:	Look at the dustbin there across the road. I know now Allah is outside it.

	<p>Surely he is not inside that thing, that vessel of wrath and filth.</p>
Yasin:	<p>Oh no, my Friend, Allah is everywhere, even in that filthy bin, and He will sanctify it, as He sanctifies all things.</p>
Naresh:	<p>Friend, now you perplex me. Your omnipresent Allah causes me unease. I have another question. Forgive me if it seems offensive. But I have to ask it, to be sure and really get your meaning. The matter is important. As you say eternal bliss or infinite damnation of my soul depends on it. I must get it right. So please forgive and answer. Surely there are three places where Allah is not found, firstly not in this bowl of excrement and second not in all that is contained within the covers of The Satanic Verses and thirdly not in Salman Rushdie's heart. Admit that Allah is not there.</p>
Yasin:	<p>You press me hard, my Friend. We do not really like to think and talk about extreme examples, constructed and displeasing as they are. But since you press me thus, I must admit, Allah is everywhere, even in all those places, which you named. They are disgusting only for our simple human minds, but Allah far transcends such petty feelings of disgust and does not truly like a petty tyrant care if his subjects indulge in pretty</p>

	<p>poetic mockery, provided they mock well and with esprit. He likes a good laugh, and he more than we is capable of laughing at himself. If He is angry, He's not really angry, He only pretends to be and plays with us.</p>
Naresh:	<p>Thank you, my Friend, for being honest. I think you are close to converting me. I like this Illat or Allah of yours. Take off your shoes, Allah is in the room we are about to enter, and in the carpet we will step upon. Here is my Ganesh, my dearest loving friend. We are agreed, Allah is in this room. But surely He is not within this statue, to which I pray and which I worship and which you have so often mocked.</p> <p>Surely not.</p>
Yasin:	<p>You're a tease, my Friend, but I'm at ease with you - and Allah is everywhere.</p>
Naresh:	<p>I rest my case. Let's go and worship Him together.</p>

^eof