

## Reports:

# How Easy it is to be a Patriot

Dr. A.V. Koshy

How easy it is to be a patriot  
All I need is a pic of a flag  
and a frame given free  
on FB  
and when I go out to wear white or ethnic  
and pin on a flag  
put it in front of my house for all to see  
and on my car or scooter/bike  
Say Bharat Mata ki jai and sing Vande Mataram or shout Jai Hind with the mobs  
Oh, yes, how easy to be an India-lover  
while under the bridge of the metro the woman of unstable mind  
is gang raped  
and the Muslim girl I saw carries her flag out of fear home  
fear of being thought related to Rushdie's stabber  
while the child comes up to me and begs silently that I buy her toy  
at the traffic signal, beseeching it won't turn green to some God she does not feel exists but all the  
same just in case  
her silent lips moving quivering  
or maybe it is just one more fear, of rejection and hunger or thirst making them tremble  
while the jobless wonder where they should go to find one  
whose legs to hold and whose feet to touch  
while every minute life stops its nose at the overflowing drains filled with sewage-black water and fecal  
matter due to rains flash floods waterlogging  
the stink of garbage  
the bald tar-peeled-back muddy pot-holed roads  
and the sloughs of water in which are hidden pits to which people suddenly fall in in two-wheelers and  
sometimes even die  
while no one else stops as the traffic is too much and at home a wife or a child or a maid waits  
while eunuchs clap to get a few coins  
and women cast anxious glances only to be picked up by men who will violate them for money  
ignoring the news feed flash of a child who died beaten to death by his upper caste teacher for drinking  
from a pot of water in Rajasthan  
no white for purity  
no blue for compassion  
no saffron for unity  
and no green for peace  
only the orange that makes you wait  
the red for danger and then 'the mad rush'  
and the fear that if you are called anti-national  
you will be killed or beaten to a pulp and left fore'er, e'en more behind than before

**Dr. Koshy AV**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Mount Carmel College**  
**Bangalore**