

## An Unknown Girl

It is a cycle because first words are similar to last words. It suggests: coming and going, process will happen again and again.

In the evening bazaar  
studded with neon  
an unknown girl  
is hennaing my hand.

**Comment [i1]:** Repeated three 3 times. It divides the poem into 3 sections: girl/henna process: India and where she is: how she wants to stay.

**Comment [i2]:** Connotation of mysterious. It is mysterious like India.

She squeezes a wet brown line  
from a nozzle.

**Comment [i3]:** Suggests that it is temporary: she is trying to adopt Indian culture but it is temporary.

She is icing my hand  
which she steadies with hers  
on her satin-peach knee.

**Comment [i4]:** Suggests decorating, delicate, beauty, superficial but it won't last long.

In the evening bazaar  
for a few rupees  
an unknown girl  
is hennaing my hand.

**Comment [i5]:** Enjambment. Suggests everything is fast.

As a little air catches  
my shadow-stitched kameez  
a peacock spreads its lines  
across my palm.

**Comment [i6]:** Suggests exotic. It represents India; beautiful, needs to be opened up/explored.

Colours leave the street  
float up in balloons.

Dummies in shop-fronts  
tilt and star

**Comment [i7]:** Suggests fake. Indian people are influenced by the west, tourists who don't realise how beautiful India is.

with their Western perms.  
Banners for Miss India 1993,  
for curtain cloth  
and sofa cloth  
canopy me.

**Comment [i8]:** Connotation of awkward. She feels that they are out of place.

**Comment [i9]:** Fake. They are the worst example of western influence.

I have new brown veins.

**Comment [i10]:** Short sentence. It represents short definite and sense of pride.

In the evening bazaar  
very deftly  
an unknown girl  
is hennaing my hand.

**Comment [i11]:** Metaphor. It is a part of her body, her blood.

I am clinging  
to those firm peacock lines  
like people who cling  
to the sides of a train.

**Comment [i12]:** Desperation, doesn't want to let it go.

Now the furious streets  
are hushed.

**Comment [i13]:** Suggests that India is a lively and chaotic city.

I'll scrape off  
the dry brown lines  
before I sleep,

reveal soft as a snail trail  
the amber bird beneath.

**Comment [i14]:** Suggests that she is digging deeper into India.

**Comment [i15]:** Connotation of slow. She want the time to pass slowly.

it will fade in a week.

**Comment [i16]:** Sibilance. Suggests gentle and smooth.

When India appears and reappears

**Comment [i17]:** It suggests that no matter how hard she tries it will still fade.

I'll lean across a country  
with my hands outstretched

**Comment [i18]:** Image. 1. opening herself up 2. never get enough 3. begging and desperate to stay.

longing for an unknown girl

**Comment [i19]:** Suggests desperation.

in the neon bazaar.

**Comment [i20]:** Repetition of "unknown". It suggests 1. the henna artist 2. the unknown side of the poem. Also it emphasises mystery.

**Comment [i21]:** All lines are short and there is no stanza. It shows that India is spontaneous, non western. Also it also shows that she has a short time in India and she doesn't want to end.