

## SEARCH

An encounter<sup>1</sup>  
Amidst the houses front to front!

Bent upon giving his life,  
He forces me to fight  
Night – long tussle  
Stretches over half the next day

What joy could killing  
A terrorist give,  
When my son-like Bhanwar<sup>2</sup>  
Died a martyr

From the search of the terrorist's purse  
Were found  
Some hundred – rupee notes,  
Two letters in Urdu,  
And an old black and white photo  
Of senile father and sightless mother  
One more coloured photo,  
Perhaps of the beloved

Bhanwar's purse too  
(Since it had to be sent to the martyr's home)  
Contained those very things  
Only instead of the beloved in the photo  
Figured his wife  
Along with two kids of tender age

And a letter, half written