

**BROKEN
DORRAGON
& OTHER POEMS**



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Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, 19 October 2020

*12:02 pm – the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

October mid-morning
cheap ball pens tied
to his walking stick
a Rajasthani man selling
them at the traffic lights

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Monday, October 19, 2020
8:44 am - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh*

Nippy October morning
passing through a VIP lane
during my morning walk
I look to my left & right
at the nameplates

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Monday, October 5, 2020
19:22 pm - At home, Sector 16, Chandigarh*

Sunny October afternoon
on my way to an open air gym
a labourer passes by
holding a long cigarette

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, October 9, 2020

18:48 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Sunny October afternoon
gardeners in Shanti Kunj*
planting the flower beds
with new plants

**A public garden in Chandigarh*

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, October 19, 2020

15:15 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Sunny October afternoon
taking a brisk walk
in the Rose Garden
a bunch of gardeners in a
circle
each with an ice cream

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, March 29, 2021

16:45 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Morning & evening
just before opening the door
our maid announces
in a melodious voice
मैं आ गयी*

** I have come*

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, October 26, 2020

15:05 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

buying homeopathy
medicines
a salesgirl on her way
to the storeroom
I suddenly notice her silver
anklets
beneath her palazzo*

**Palazzo pants are long women's pants cut
with a loose, extremely wide leg that flares
out from the waist.*

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Friday, October 2, 2020,
10:27 am- Inside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

Cool, sunny November
morning
with a pre-recorded message
a vendor on his scooter
selling Kashmiri walnuts

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, November 6, 2020

12:25 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Nouveau riche brother
refurbishing his house once
again
the crudely written numbers
on the house number plate
escape his eye

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, November 20, 2020

13:12 pm – at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

November morning
sitting in a bank
written on the wall
'waheguru'

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Saturday, November 20, 2020

16:55 pm - At home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

November afternoon
chill wind blowing
a deranged young man
stands stock-still on the road
smoking a beedi

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Saturday, November 28, 2020
14:29 pm – at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

glorious November morning
I can't say if he is the same
street sweeper
but either gone mad or drunk
today he is touching
everyone's feet

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Saturday, November 28, 2020
10: 29 am – the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

My neighbourhood's street
sweeper
she too wears sindhoor
as she returns holding
the empty refuse bin

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, April 1, 2021

10:55 am - near Darja, Sector 17, Chandigarh

Sitting under a peepul
with his beggar mom
water sticker tattoos on the
arm
of the boy

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Saturday, November 28, 2020
10:19 am – the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

a 3-yr-old kid
all set for his walk
in the Rose Garden –
a backpack
holding a balloon
& wearing sunglasses

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Saturday, December 12, 2020

10:27 am - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Sunny November morning
after clearing the sidewalk
of wild grass

Tamil female labourers have
their meals
on the roadside

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Saturday, December 12, 2020

10:27 am - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

November morning
a domestic servant's daughter
stands outside the gates
with a broken Doraemon

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Sunday, December 13, 2020
10:35 am – the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

November evening
a 5-yr-old vendor kid
comes to her mom crying
and says: “mom, I was unable
to do bohni* today

**the first sale of the day*

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, April 5, 2021

12:00 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

p
pleasant April evening
5-yr-old daughter of a vendor
selling strawberries
her LED light sandals - blinking

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, December 28, 2020

17:39 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Cold December evening
while passing by in my car
I see a bicycle mechanic
wearing a greatcoat

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, October 5, 2020

19:16 pm - At home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

October afternoon
again & again
mynas descend from a tree
& take a dip
near the water hose
watering the public garden

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, April 5, 2021

*17:05 pm - in the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

April afternoon
walking behind his beggar
mom
in Sector 17
a kid sucks up the ice cream
from the pointed end
of the cone

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, October 9, 2020

18:41 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Sunny October afternoon
a young pregnant woman with
her husband
picnicking in a park

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Wednesday, January 6, 2020

11:38 am - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

January morning
still dark
a toiler in a market corridor
neatly folding his bedding

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, January 21, 2021

*12:20 pm - with Mistri (bicycle mechanic),
Sector 16, Chandigarh*

Sunny January morning
water maintenance workers
taking turns
to dig the road
to install a water pipe

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Saturday, February 6, 2021

*10:13 am - outside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

Sunny February morning
a street sweeper in bridal
finery
sweeping the plaza

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, February 8, 2021

*10:33 am - inside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

Sunny February morning
a bidi between his teeth
a driver at a taxi stand
cleaning the car

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, February 8, 2021

*9:51 am - outside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

February evening
wearing a silver anklet
a tall Sikh lady
along with her husband
enters a grocery store

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, February 8, 2021

17:08 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Sunny February afternoon
daughters & their mother
dressed in expensive clothes
posing for pictures
beside the Sector 17 fountain

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, February 8, 2021

20:54 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

an evening with a cobbler
mid-way into our drinking
he tells me that vodka
is for girls

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Friday, February 12, 2021

*16:30 pm - outside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

February afternoon
a middle-age Sikh lady
sitting next to me
begins her talk on the phone
with 'wahe guru ji ka khalsa,
wahe guruji ki fateh'

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Sunday, February 14, 2021

*10:06 am - inside the Indian Coffee House,
Sector 17, Chandigarh*

a beautiful girl in the Indian
Coffee House
with her belly button exposed
reading the menu
in front of my table

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, February 18, 2021

*13:12 pm - near the Post Office, Sector 16,
Chandigarh*

February afternoon
while chit-chatting
with a pharmacy salesman
I notice his three-piece black
suit

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, February 18, 2021

19: 55 pm – at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

In a bookshop
a girl in expensive clothes
browsing self-help books
settles for Think Straight
by Darius Foroux

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

*Thursday, February 18, 2021
19:34 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh*

beside an under-construction
house
a labourer's 2-yr-old kid
playing in the centre of the
road
his kohl-lined eyes

*Saturday, February 27, 2021
18:35 pm – at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh*

February evening
inside Sindhi Sweets
a class –IV employee
on his way home
eating gulabjamuns*

**Gulabjamun is a milk-solid-based sweet from the Indian subcontinent, and a type of mithai, popular in India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Maldives, and Bangladesh, as well as Myanmar.*

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Monday, March 1, 2021

*11:35 am - near Neelam cinema, Sector 17,
Chandigarh*

Our new cook
after making the dinner
asks me
if she should lay the table

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, March 4, 2021

9:32 am - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

Early March morning
a Nepali car cleaner washing
the car
on his helmet
Che Guevara sticker

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, March 4, 2021

12:20 pm - at home, Sector 16, Chandigarh

On my morning walk
a girl with hip long hair
standing at the bus stop

Broken Doraemon & Other Poems

Thursday, April 1, 2021

10:48 am - near Darja, Sector 17, Chandigarh

the tinkling of her faded silver
anklets

a beggar woman with her son
walks in the backside
of Sector 17 market