

THE NUN WHO ESCAPED

After the images of Tibet
Who can feel proud to be human?
Forced to eat shit, poked in every hole
With instruments of vile torture
Our people forgive and forget.

Not me. For the rest of my life
I'll see those barbaric animals,
Even worse than the Americans,
Emptying their machine-gun rattle
On brightly dressed women and children.

You ask me what the Buddha thinks,
But the Buddha is not yet born.
He's only a twinkle in the eye
Of the Dalai Lama and the nun
Who escaped may be his mother.

Marcus Cumberlege