

**An Encomium to the Intrepid Victress**

**Placidly she stood amidst the tempestuous skyjack,**

**When a tetrad of desperadoes thwarted Pan Am’s track.**

**Assisting the aviators and mech towards a tapered ‘scape,**

**The chief flight stewardess on board stepped forward to help.**

**The rifled reverberations of the first contact convulsed her,**

**When an Abu-Nidal anarchist fired an American commuter;**

**And they coerced her to hand in all boarded passports,**

**Adeptly she cached the credentials of cosmopolitan cohorts.**

**As the abductors got manic in fending the commandoes,**

**She unlatched an egress for civilians’ mass exodus.**

**While succouring the impotent she was spotted by a crank,**

**He seized her by her locks and shot her point-blank.**

**She left behind the epitome of altruistic valiance,**

**Neerja Bhanot in our heorte has left an eternal essence.**

**-Aadityaamlan Panda**