**KASTTEKAR**

Working for my landlord centuries rolled by Tilling and toiling for my family under the blazing sky Standing at his door, for my share of drink at the sunset Humbling myself and collecting the food that was left.

Sweated and toiled and a few coins I saved With seven thousand rupees bought the land, and a small house I raised Envy and jealousy filled the hearts of the GANUKARS Onlookers gazed with pride called KASTTEKAR the BHATTKAR

Alas! A big blow to the pride of the BHATKAR My head held high, and with joyous heart I welcomed my three daughter-in-laws with “vistid” And my last son I would get married to a “mistis”.

Boastfully the suit has replaced my KASTTI Cattle and fields left behind, now trodding with a walking stick Gone are the oil-lamps “petromas” adourn the varandas I left behind my humble KOTTI, as “macieira” has filled my home-bar.

Two big tasks, I have yet to accomplish, The world should forget, I was a KASTEKKAR tilling the land And my neighbours should call me BAB, till my journey’s end To prove my power, readers please show me the way.

Mumbai, 11-2-50 Melquiades Rodrigues

NOTE: The words in Uppercase letters are Konkani words and the words in inverted commas are Portuguese words.

KASTEKKAR => In olden times in Goa, farmers and poor people used to wear a cloth called Kastti around their waist. So a person who wears a Kastti is called a Kastekkar.

BHATTKAR => Landlord

GAUNKAR => Villager

KOTTI => Coconut shell

BAB => A word used to give respect

“Vistid” => Dress worn by a female

“Mistis” => A person with mix blood(Goan and Portuguese)

“Macieira” => Portuguese brandy

“Petromas” => Lamp used in olden times which used to burn on Kerosene.