

POEM

MY PEOPLE



Preparatory activity :

1. a) Write the names of the professions:

- * *A person who mends shoes.*
- * *A person who stitches clothes.*
- * *A person who makes ornaments.*
- * *A person who represents people in court.*
- * *A person who works in the field.*
- * *A person who sells fruits and vegetables.*

b) Do you know any other professions? Write them down and discuss the nature of work.

2. It is said, 'The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer'. Do you agree with this? Discuss your views in groups and present them to the class.

Now read the miseries of people in the poem "My People".

They carry stones for building sites

They get kicked until they swoon

They die from hunger,

My people

They excavate gold, but they don't get a meal;

They weave cloth, but they go naked,

My people.

They plough the field and they sow the seeds
They cut the crops and they are baked in the sun,
My people.

They come home empty handed
They heave a deep deep sigh
They live in misery,
My people.

They build the shops and they raise the bungalows
They get into heavy debts,
My people

When they collapse on the street, they don't cry for
Help, they suppress their cries,
My people.

They pay interest through their noses,
They become ash in the fire of fiery speeches,
My people

For the God-loving men who eat their fill
They prepare foot-wear,
My people.

They fall at other's feet, and they get kicked
They are so devoted,
My people.

They listen to anything said to them

They live on air,

My people.

Dr SIDDALINGAIAH

Translated from Kannada by Dr Sumateendra Nadig

Glossary :

<i>site</i>	:	<i>an area that is used for building</i>
<i>swoon</i>	:	<i>faint</i>
<i>excavate</i>	:	<i>dig up</i>
<i>weave</i>	:	<i>make cloth on a machine</i>
<i>plough</i>	:	<i>a large tool used by farmers to turn over the soil before planting crops</i>
<i>sigh</i>	:	<i>make a noise when you breathe out, often when you are sad.</i>
<i>misery</i>	:	<i>sadness and suffering</i>
<i>debt</i>	:	<i>an amount of money that you owe some one</i>
<i>collapse</i>	:	<i>fall down</i>
<i>suppress</i>	:	<i>hold back, restrain</i>
<i>ash</i>	:	<i>the soft, grey powder which remains when something is burnt (ಬೂದಿ)</i>