

Banker For The Poor

His round cheeked, high boned presentation
of kindness is not deterred
by the doomsayers' claims
that women are possessions
and poverty is with us for ever.

He found the economists' theories
to be no more feasible than
attempts to contain water in a sieve
and only as humane as
the idea that greed may be a virtue.

His disbelief led him to believe
that even the most fatalistic
could do what could not be done,
could receive loans though not entitled,
could know hope when drugged by hopelessness.

He courts the banks and business
with all the humour of a lover
intent on his errand of offers
difficult to refuse 'cos the courted
sense novelty coupled to excitement.

His offers contain a request
to insert selflessness as a basis
for business and for living -
the resource beneath the surface,
waiting to be drilled and distributed.

He is the ever optimistic confounder
of all the myths preached by wise men.
He is the challenger to all the golden statues
that have never been pulled down,

so the suits queue to hear
that if human rights are universal,
the violence of poverty
must surely disappear.

*On the occasion of Muhammad Yunus'
appearance in Sydney on March 8th 2010*