

## HOW TO CATCH A FISH

A poem by VPK Titanji

Someone came to ask me for a fish.  
I'll do more than grant your wish,  
I'll give you a line, a hook and a sinker  
You'll have a bait, in summer and winter,  
When best to cast your lines.  
I'll show you the vital signs,  
For a good and hefty catch,  
How to seal your latch  
And maintain your watch.

When seasons change and shoals abound,  
You need a plan subtle and profound,  
To swell your catch and keep you gains.  
That's why I'll take the pains  
To show you how not just to weave and cast a net,  
But how to spice, dry and keep your set.  
What you don't need, you sell for cash.  
E'en what you cherish give out as dash  
Thus asking for a simple, modest favour  
Lead indeed to a great endeavour.

### II

Looking for fish or food to eat and live  
Is seeking wisdom to grow and thrive.  
You come to the Varsity with your hopes,  
She takes you up the slopes,  
Of transforming theories,  
Outstanding past histories,  
And navigating complex memories,  
Teaches you to think straight:  
Thinking through daunting traits  
How to stem floods and straits.

Do not only learn how to memorize,  
Nor should you be content to theorize,  
Analyze, summarize, but also dramatize.  
Like the good fisherman, make your own net,  
Know when to change the hook for the dragnet,  
Live with your times always remembering,  
To shun off the noise and thundering.  
When the catch is great, it ought to be shared,  
For sharing is the only prize for abundant mirth.

Bali, 18th March 2014.