

## Three postcard poems from *To Punani Camp*

### My Antidote,

Can scorpions climb walls? Only that can explain another one in our kitchen today. This was a baby scorpion, so I escorted it to the garden with idala, covered it with an old aluminum tin, and even placed a stone on top. Didn't take five minutes for the tin to fall! And the little thug was still creeping out of the fallen tin. This time, I hurled my prisoner to the other side of the stream. No wonder it's called "gonussa," ~~the one capable of lifting horned deer~~. Do you remember the day a giant one fell out of your army boots and some devil possessed me to stomp it to a pulp with my feet? When I shrieked "No hospital," you took me to the bed and monitored my temperature with forehead kisses. You risked desertion and stayed two more days. Later you said that episode made your love for me surpass human levels and I said it's something I wouldn't do for a human. At least, I was right about that monster not stinging me. Maybe it did, and I have too much poison in me that scorpion bites are a raindrop in the ocean.

Your Shoe-Checker

## Proud Father of Niduk,

Low whining noises came from the roof and a crow circled in an odd way. Your mother didn't let me climb, but I used your ladder when she started her morning Lord Buddha worship. We have a few more mouths to feed. A cat has birthed five babies on our ~~half done~~ roof and abandoned them. Naatu dog didn't make any noise the whole night, so I don't think a villager left them there. I started feeding them milk with oil lamp wicks and Niduk has taken over since then. Our son feeds them like handling gems. Sumana Akka said cats and dogs leaving their babies behind has become common of late. As much as I'm shocked by their mother abandoning them, I can't but feel she left them because she's starving herself. Then again, I'm bursting proud of our son and so should you be! We know it's a matter of days before the kitten will succumb to their fate, but Niduk will learn from this that love can let live and delay death.

Niduk's Proud Mother