

Stand By

Millions dead in the genocides that have taken place  
In the world; a disaster caused by those who fail to see  
That diversity is good, and discriminate because of race, Or religion - If  
they did, these atrocities would not be.

We are startled at how many they succeeded to kill How, we ask was it  
possible? Why did they get so far?  
We listen horrified, thunderstruck, scandalized, but still  
Another question is itching our minds, like an internal scar

Why did we let it happen? Why did we not do more?  
We know there are enough of us who can see that it is wrong  
Because afterwards we are shocked by the terror and deplore The  
perpetrators and claim that together we are too strong.

But happen again it does, and we find out too late Condemnation  
cannot reverse the many lives lost And subject to such a brutal,  
inexcusable fate.

Realisation dawns on us slowly like an icy frost

Creeping up our bodies. We are able to understand  
Why people decided to let history take its course  
Not interfering, not fighting, not taking a stand  
Holding themselves back by choice, rather than by force.

It is easier to protect their families that way Certainly that is a very  
valid excuse!  
After all, they are only humans shielding themselves, I say.  
And now I think, those motives are not so abstruse

One of the most powerful, terrible weapons of genocide  
Is because of human nature, and the perpetrators know  
That they can do as they please and fear will make us abide  
And become bystanders, watching over the pain many undergo.

By Anisha Mehta  
14 years old

