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The Way to Head Forbes Rich List

A. P. Govindankutty

God of the celebrated temple,
Seated in meditative posture,
Bestowing peace
And freedom from fear
To millions of devotees
Climbing the hill, year after year,
To get a glimpse of Him,
Confided in His chief priest
His desire to endorse a product,
The way the super-stars do.

Making some instant reckoning
The priest said it can be done
Through a middle-man,
Himself bound by vow
From moving out of the temple.

Of all things presented to Him,
The Lord chose an electronic device,
That could read and display on its screen
Thoughts in the mind of anyone,
On whom its eye, a tiny light, is cast.

Testing the device on the priest,
The Lord read his greedy intent
To make this endorsement
A source of limitless gain.

The device in everyone's hand
Peace would reign in the world,
Thought the Lord, and told the priest
He agreed to endorse it.

The device, as expected, turned
Overnight hit, everyone,
Priests, politicians, astrologers,
Men and women of all stations,
Ages and vocations
Went for it in great haste.
With the device in everyone's hand,
All were truly equal,
Stealing or cheating no one did,

Nor did anyone tell
Even an iota of untruth.

The young inventor of the device,
The priest and the Lord
Headed the next list of Forbes Rich.