## DIRECTION

'The Hanuman temple street is one way now come from the old pond side, its right opposite the big Banyan tree'

Chandru wanted his mother to close down the old house and move with him to America, she wanted to give me a pair of traditional brass lamps, a heirloom piece, so come and take it

It was not the old familiar place any more In less than two kilometres I had lost my way four times. Asking for directions is a woman's preoccupation they say

The auto driver was quick, 'Oh, it's right next to the next road hump, just slow down and you will hit it

I missed it.

The traffic police was more helpful, Just go back and it's at the first signals'

It was the same one I had passed

The doctor in a fancy car was more specific Take a right. It's right next to the superspeciality diagnostic centre, you can't miss it'

His right was my left.

Surely they were on a weekend picnic the SUV was full of sweat shirts and football It's behind the gym auntie, just drive on'

What gym?

I am going on the other beat, this is the old number, The postman, I thought would lead now all that has changed, 88 comes after 97, ask anyone

The priest, aha, he will definitely know the Banyan tree, there must be a temple and the old pond near the tree What pond? There is no pond here, all water has dried up. I take my holy dip under a tap, it doesn't even wet me whole, this is the house next to the Xerox shop, the old lady rents out a portion of the garage for my son, he will show, tell him his father is going to the market, will come later.

I just stood there wondering which way to turn

Someone was frantically waving out from a window.

The asbestos sheet roof super speciality diagnostic centre, It was grandmother. I looked around. next to a corner called gym, behind number 97, opposite to the signal without lights turning right to the hump, a small tree sort of a trunk cut into half, an old temple hiding behind a giant billboard calling out freshness, my old ancestral home that was going to be pulled down to make way for a mall.

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