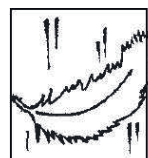


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### OZONE: A REFLECTION



When I was in high school,  
Knew nothing of ozone at all,  
Let alone its shielding layer  
Up above in stratosphere  
Throughout the whole globe  
Protecting us from the hazards  
Of the UV-C and UV-B rays of the Sun  
By simply absorbing them, like  
Lord Shiva swallowing the poison.  
But we created a Biiiiig hole in the ozone shield  
By inventing the fridge and the AC  
To save our food and keep ourselves cool  
And enjoy a bite of ice cream too.  
To run fridges and ACs,  
We took the help of CFCs, which  
Alas! Didn't stay put, but escaped  
To air, true to their nature.  
Once free, they cruised to the stratosphere  
And mingled with ozone. They split  
By solar radiation to chlorine, which  
Broke the ozone molecules  
And destroyed a portion  
Of its blanket over Antarctica,  
Exposing everything below it  
To the harmful solar radiation.  
The result is all there to see  
With the earth warming up,  
Polar ice and glaciers melting down,  
The seven seas rising up,  
A flood here and a drought there  
And the forests flaring up.  
If this continues unabated,  
In no time most life forms will be wiped out,  
And we will not be spared, we are part of it.

– G Nagendrappa

