

Janet Shainheit

Mum Kidnapped by Hari Krishna

Mum and Dad wander round London, a city
they've loved long distance since the Big War.

Today, in Piccadilly, joyful, chanting, jingling,
Hari Krishna gather for a march to Hyde Park.

Mum balances on the curb; Dad's right behind her.
She taps her toes, claps her hands, keeps the beat with

whirling marchers swirling past. Then one
young monk reaches out, scoops her
up,

and there she goes, dancing down Regent
Street, a bit of blue raincoat in a saffron sea.

Dad told us about it, said he wasn't worried,
but figured he might as well follow.

Caught up with them as they swept from
Oxford Street into Speakers' Corner, where

the young monk, with a flourish, released her hand.
Madam, so pleased to have made your acquaintance.

Janet Shainheit, a retired school librarian, happily lives and writes in Worcester, MA.