

EGGHEAD ZEN

What can I do
if my baby cries in the night?
Can I alleviate that suffering?
What can I do
if my baby starts to demand
and complain and squeak?
What can I do
since I love my baby so much?
It seems that I'm helpless.
Yesterday I arrived in a different town
with shockingly new faces
shockingly new world
and millions and billions and trillions
of babies crying
and I am so helpless.
True to myself
True to my guru
True to my family
Being helpless is my diamond ring.
If I appreciate how wonderful you are
If I scold you and browbeat you
with artillery of the Regent's guns
If I am sympathetic and kiss you
If I am aloof and cold
Still, still I'm helpless.
Baby tears are genuine to me
and I feel that the world
is my friend
Please have compassionate thought
for those of us who struggle.
Please let go completely.
With great pride, I thank you
for your hospitality.

March 21, 1979
Washington, D. C.

VROT/bt