

UNIT I:

WHAT IS HUNGER?

...Hunger is a curious thing: At first it is with you all the time, waking and sleeping and in your dreams, and your belly cries out insistently, and there is a gnawing and a pain as if your vitals were being devoured, and you must stop it at any cost...then the pain is no longer sharp but dull, and this too is with you always, so that you think of food many times a day and each time a terrible sickness assails you...then that too is gone, all pain, all desire, only a great emptiness is left, like the sky, like a well in drought.

from *Nectar in a Sieve*
by Kamala Markandaya