



Some people find them strange, but Amir Vazir approves of charity galas, where one gets to make a contribution to uplift the less fortunate without having to actually go visit them. We are talking, for example, about the luncheon our friend Mohnish Pabrai is having with Warren Buffet. Our *dhandu* investor is paying \$650,100 for the privilege, which will go to the homeless in San Francisco (the money, if not the privilege).

We ourselves enjoy attending the occasional charity art auction, where we sip chardonnay, appreciate the paintings and the thrill of the bid, knowing all the while that the organisers have arranged for the proceeds to go to a good cause, somewhere far away.

Earlier this month we attended a party at Zenzi organised by our young friend Ramesh Tainwala, to felicitate the street kids who had made drawings of the Eiffel Tower , Burj Al Arab Hotel and such like for a recent ad campaign for his brand of luggage. One of the ten year olds named Toufiq Khan even gave a little speech, where he spoke of a dream he had the other night, where he was actually visiting the Statue of Liberty with his family, like the ad copy implied he was. We're not sure if the kid was intentionally pulling the collective leg of socialites gathered there for the event, but we were highly amused. We are sure he will make a trip to New York some time in his life.

The original drawings were put up for sale at the party by Aseema, the NGO for street children responsible for the project, along with a line of suitcases featuring the drawings. We charitably bought on for our next holiday, in the happy knowledge that it might make for a great conversation piece.

AMIOR VAZIR
The Economic Times
13 July 2007

