

Thus spoke Eve...

Sanghita Sen

I was asked not to look at the tree
Where knowledge grew.
The instruction to Adam was also the same.

One day we both touched the tree
Ate the fruit
Received knowledge forbidden.

Adam was banished from heaven
I was banished too.

I was given an additional punishment
Of tremendous pain at childbirth.

In sex Adam was privileged, in spite disobedience
My pleasure followed pain.
I obeyed you -
I obeyed Adam -
For his spared rib.
For seeking the knowledge forbidden
For seeking the knowledge for the privileged
For leading Adam to it.

We both came down to earth
To create a world of our own
On our own.

Our world of togetherness
Our world of partnership
Our world of equality.

With time equality changed into inequality stratified;
Eve, the partner was turned Eve, the subordinate

Adam wanted me not look at several other things
Adam followed the norm created by you.
I made to obey Adam since then.

Eden is no longer mine
And the world belongs to Adam.

Apocalyptic Exodus

It is six decades and year one!
The roads were smeared with blood –
Bruised were their minds –
Families left with fewer members –
Those members were killed.

Women – pregnant wife and widow mother
Men – the toddler son and husband
Things – some clothes, few utensils,
 one gold chain and a nose-pin carefully wrapped
 in the corner of a crumpled saree.
Money – a few pieces of paper currency
 Soon to be declared useless like their owners.
Clothes – one coloured saree, the other worn by the wife
 White saree for the widow mother.
 Sarees for the fortunate and the unfortunate
 Sarees that never touched each other
 Were packed one above the other – without taboo or fuss
Few shirts for the son
No shirt for the man
Shirts are luxury in forced departures

Land – left behind with ripe cropped waiting to be cut
Fish – left behind in the pond ready to be caught and eaten

The train waits at the station
The train with human shield
The train appears no train
The train turned terminator.

A family was forced a departure
From the land they thought was their own!

A Dream

Breaking the bleak beaks of barrenness
life unleashes itself.

Sun still shined
Earth spun
Water flowed
Birds chirped.

But moon marooned
And stars stopped shivering from afar.

I waited for a glimpse of the known world
of the imagined world
and the world to be.

Existences cease to exist
Words remain
And some dream

The ownership of my words
I bestow upon you.
If they remain
They'll tell you

*Once upon a time there was a lass
Who day-dreamt ...*

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