



POETRY: JUHI BHATNAGAR

Childhood Innocence

She spies a dog

On the road; a stray

A gurgle of joy,

She runs to pet it.

"No!" worried mother.

She stops, confused.

Looks back and forth,

Deciding. Mischievous smile

Runs forward, no fear.

Harmless caress, smiles spread.

She plays a game

Of hide-and-seek.

Mother seeks child

Hide under chairs

No! The table.

Search is futile

She avoids all.

Happy first, now anxious.

"Here I am!" Out of hiding.

Her grin is contagious.

She runs around

One trip: pain.

Tears fall, hugs comfort.

"Don't run so fast."

"No!" Pain forgotten.

Her being rejoices

When she runs

Carelessly, with

Abandon.

Explorer

In the making.

She greets a stranger

The child responds.

Friendship grows

Every passing moment.

"No! Don't talk to him."

She doesn't understand.

Religion, colour, status

Don't matter to her.

All are equal
In a child's eyes.

Moods of the Wind

I caress the shy
Embryos of colour
Tease them awake
To a visual spectacle.
Green bodies dance
To my tune
Yellows scatter with
A painful rustle.
Fluttering to my
Music, marvelously
Tiny beings play
With leviathan beings.
I mess up those
Painstakingly modeled
Keratin strands
In one fluid motion.
Irritation, laughter.
Fingers rush to salvage
The innocent damage

As I rejoice.

Moods change,

Seasons transition.

I metamorphose

Once more today.

My sharp jabs

Stab tender skin

My frigid ire

Terrifies all.

I galvanise oceans

To do my bidding

Titanic arms stretch

Engulf entirely.

I employ earth

To wreck havoc

Gleefully observe

My commands followed.

Reborn

First here, then there

Calm and gentle

Wrathful and violent

Try to contain me.

Juhi Bhatnagar has graduated with B.Tech. (Honors) in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT-Delhi. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the institute magazine, Kaleidoscope, and the Content Team coordinator for the Media Panel, an official social media channel of her institute. She has been active in the literary society of her institute, Voix de Literati. She has been composing poems since class six and hopes to continue doing so in the future.

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