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RATI AGNIHOTRI

The Night...

The night
Cooks up tales
Of false bravado,
The roads
And pavements
On which the moonlight
Is blushing and blushing
Paint an orchestra
Right in the heart of the city,
The night is an anxious seamstress
Trying hard to sew back
The gone clocks of time,
The lovers are like two imposters,
Like incoherent chords of a junky guitar
No one wants to hear,

The night becomes gentle, morbid,
Infinitesimal, everything,
All fuel tanks of peoples' cars and bikes and scooters
Go empty all of a sudden,
The lovers stand locked in a hypnotic embrace
Almost psychedelic
Surrounded by the fuelless cars.

Someone spilt sugar on the pavement,
Some say it was salt,
The night
Cooks up tales
Of false bravado
And the roads and pavements
On which the moonlight
Is blushing and blushing
Paint an orchestra
Right in the middle of the city. ..

Calculus

Ghettos
Of human understanding

An eye for an eye
Won't work

Set the stage
with technicolour automations
Digital clones
of a boring, non-digital species

count the audience ,
please provide them with metallic badges
and metallic pills to go comatose
(temporarily of course)
Before they begin to watch the performance

Make sure their eyes are well stitched to their faces
Lest they fall off
And all the bodily movements and functions well controlled

That legs and arms don't go off in different directions
In series of humoleptic seizures
Please see to all that...

Let them give reactions to the performance
Let them change facial expressions too.

All that is good

But please keep them in a controlled environment.

The Moon

The moon
Is a cinder
Its choked innards
Making music, melancholy
catharsis and passages of time

Is the moon
A hyperbole
Dancing to diverse histories
Lip synching hysterias
Playacting collective amnesia?

Now, walk on fire
Create cinders with your feet

Close your eyes
Write with your feet

The moon would do the masking.



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BIO-NOTE

Rati is a bilingual, poet, writes in both Hindi and English. Her maiden book of English poems 'The Sunset Sonata' has been published by Sahitya Akademi in 2018. Rati also runs a poetry group 'Moonweavers – Chaand ke Julaahe' in the city. She is currently working as a broadcast journalist for CNC World TV, an international news channel.

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