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PAULAMI SENGUPTA

Battle

Can I end something by pressing a button?
There are wisps of fear floating about me.
Take a shower.
Take tablets.
Don't touch newspapers.
After learning this is all we can do.
Switch off.

Copybook

'To walk is to love'.
My words stick to your eyes like homemade jam.

Our laughter is ripe
cracking open in the mountain air.
We take the next right, then left, and then right.

The cemetery is charming.
Tombstones spread like stale slices of bread
tickle our bellies with fear and warmth.

'To love is to walk', on a trip to the hills.
We cross the cottage
a few cafes
and houses meant for guests.

Thinking of the bags
Waiting to return to
our disparate longings.

BIO-NOTE

Paulami Sengupta is a publishing professional based in Kolkata. Her poems (in English and Bangla) and translations have been published in *Kabi Sammelan*, *Nether*, *Cold Noon*, and *The Sunflower Literary Collective*. She has co-translated the Bengali edition of *Salome: Woman of Valour* by Adeena Karasick (forthcoming, Boibhashik Publications). She has a collection of Bengali poems titled *Jiwhai Barbar Fire Ashe Laban* (2007).

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