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POETRY

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**SHAMAYITA SEN**

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**Postpartum**

The sky breaking  
into ashen rain  
falling onto the laps of a mother  
whose thighs flap open like  
a head post an episode of  
traumatic release – the kind of mad  
no poetry anthology or  
Bollywood showcases,  
the kind where you  
begin by tearing off your hair  
first then the wallpaper,  
shamelessly baring your teeth,  
shattering your phone screen  
begging them to listen to  
untold feelings – one leading  
to another like a staircase  
unfolding itself in a dreamscape  
where the more you travel  
the less you know yourself.

\*\*\*

**Women**

Some days my tongue is a knot,  
on another, my hair.

Hair knots are easy to hold,  
while dragging her from one  
room to another. The husband,  
an enraged ball of purple haze,  
unwilling to think straight.

Some days I leave my bed  
warm, dripping with my child's laughter.  
On another, it's a piece of wood I must  
renounce. The difference between  
love and violence is

a distance from survivors  
huddling in snow to the  
hovering rescue helicopter  
whose random selection leaves a  
window too tiny for hope.

\*\*\*

## Dream

Without proper documentation  
of events, know you're  
in the middle of a dream,  
(or so Lacan began a lecture)

like silencing Partition violence  
or rape survivors  
is placing them back to a limbo  
they fought hard to be relieved of.

Dream is  
a moment of confusion  
about waking up within deep slumber,  
or is a Kafkaesque  
trivializing of memory  
to a momentary mishap, like

migrant labourers stranded in  
cities or run over by trains  
transfixed in  
their reverie under the sun.

Dreams sometimes also  
teleport the dead into life, but then  
can death be a dream too?

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**BIO-NOTE**

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Shamayita Sen is a Ph.D. research scholar at the Department of English, University of Delhi. She has been writing poetry since her Bethune College days in Kolkata. Her poems have been anthologised by *Muse India*, *WE View*, *Hawakal Publishers* and *Inner Child Press International*. Her first collection of poems, *For the Hope of Spring: Hybrid Poems*, is forthcoming (*Hawakal Publishers*, 2020). She is from Kolkata, currently based in Delhi, India.

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