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SANJULA SHARMA

The Colour of my Skin

Does it now matter
What colour it was?
That face you struck
Because it defied?

Does it now matter
What name I had?
As you whipped my back
Defiled my life to shreds?

Does it now matter
Where I lived?
As you strangled me
Mercilessly
Despite my frightened plea?

Does anything matter now
As I merge into the elements
Of the land that belonged
To both you and me?

This earthy canvas of black and white
No margins here on the ground
No race, no caste divide.

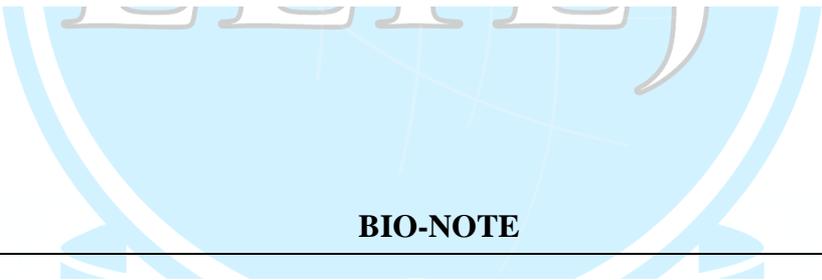
The vision blurred only in the mind.

Over years, over time, over now-
The colour of my skin matters.
It speaks. It hurts.
It's hues double up in pain
As it tells its sad story once again.
In places different, the same refrain.

The colour of my skin matters.
It hopes. It dreams. It wishes.
For a better tomorrow.
It feels a hundred desires
You claim as yours alone.

Let them go now...
Your hopes, your dreams,
Your joyful life stories
And watch them floating back to me

For the heart has no colour
And the soul is free to fly
Its unclipped wings
In a happy, dappled sky.



BIO-NOTE

Sanjula Sharma is a journalist by profession and writer by choice. She has published five books of poetry and two collections of short stories. She has also published her work in various magazines and journals. She has written extensively for National Dailies and worked with AIMA, Delhi as Consultant Editor for seven years. She is the Founder of Happy Minds, a creative writing workshop for children which she conducts regularly in the capital. She is an active member of the Poetry Society (India) and coordinates various poetry events in Delhi. She is actively involved with Tamana, a school for children with special needs.

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