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Jaydeep Sarangi

Poems

Playing 'Home'

It's difficult it is to leave
the home, once it is primed to
your name, your roles, your bed.

All small and big things are
remembered, and stored
in the heart's mystery.

A slow act of withdrawal, renewing
itself each day's end the same way
as on the previous day, you move on.

The choice is difficult
when mind is amorphous
spaces are not defined.

It's an open game you play
like seasons and rivers flowing
deep in uncertain hearts.

You play 'Home', 'home'
your kids imitate you
life grows on trees, green faces.

A Sense of Place

If you write my name I shall remove your wrist
I shall cry in my native tongue, odd and uncouth.
If I trace anything out of the line
I'll break the pen with which you write.
I have the state and the media in my both hands
I need just twenty minutes to swallow you.

When you are anonymous, nobody knows you
 Nobody reads your poems, nobody prints your poems.
 If you allow me to speak, let me say,
 No one is anonymous. People run after his name.
 All are busy with painting their houses.
 My home town, its green monsoons
 Red soils, ancient temples and fellow bards
 Near the banks of Dulung I hear the owl's late cry
 In the bare earth my ancestors rest in peace.
 I choose a place, call it native
 You are my brother. I am your river
 Of life flowing downstream. Carrying history
 Of our land, your land and my people.

Someone is Following Me

A silent order of alphabets
 in a progression beat by beat
 is returning to the spirit
 from yesterday to tomorrow.
 Today is just a stop gap
 welcoming all elements on board.
 The fear of the dark tomorrows is mixed with
 the smell of the newly bought paint.
 Black hands are out of joints.
 Not to even the tycoons of Time.

There is no time to lose
 painting my old dismantled self.
 There's always someone else in my ways
 behind me, flowing in her ways.
 Time's pauses.

Jaydeep Sarangi is a widely anthologised bilingual poet, Professor of English and principal at New Alipore College, Kolkata. He is the President of Guild of Indian English Writers Editors and Critics (GIEWEC) and among his recent awards are the Setu Award of Excellence 2019 (Petersburg, USA) and Sufi Literary Award 2020. He is editorial board member of *Mascara Literary Review*, *Transnational Literature*, (Australia) and *Teesta*, WEC (India). He has published eight collections of poetry in English, his latest being *Heart Raining the Light* (2020). With Amelia Walker, he has guest edited a special issue for the Australian journal *TEXT* (2020).
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