

The Life of a Leaf

By Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi

It burst (out) from the stem
Like a red spot on girls' skin.
A flat, thin body lay bare in light;
And changed its attire-
Brown, crimson and green-
And got maturity in its teen.
In monsoon, it bathed in rain.
In winter, dew drops gave it crystal tan.
In summer, it sweated heavily.
In autumn, it shed prematurely,
Only to pay homage to the tree.
Finally, a dried skeleton crushed by thousands
Put this little leaf's existence to an end.

Sun

By Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi

Sun will also rise,
When there are clouds,
Cool shower and stiff breeze,
And when there is cold and shadow.
I will also rise,
And shine my soul then,
I will write poems
Till you read them,
And my sun will also rise.

Broken-Mirror

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Past

Butterflies, in my garden-yellow, pink and grey,
Fluttered around in a wintry sunny day.
A ray of hope touched their colorful hues.
They used to spread joy and brightness new
I had seen a new zest and my soul had taken rest
In a divided humanity, in the heaven's nest.

Present

Now, on their sides, they fight for black and white.
For a piece of land for that only death will chide.
And they slaughter brother, and they cry
Until this madness evaporates and their bloods turn dry.
Now, Heaven became hell's gate, and deaths now play.
Flies flutter around today- yellow, pink and grey.

A Fairy Land

By Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi

Early morning a miracle happened
Near to the door
A tree in the garden sparkled
Into thousand splendid suns
Like a fairy tale
Dark clouds formed
The parents' room went up in smoke
Many things disappeared in this magic
The children were in awe
Or perhaps they were numb
They saw shiny fruits dripping from a distant tree
They waited for a fairy to come
But a carrion crow flew in a faraway land

Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi bio: Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi is university faculty and assistant professor of linguistics at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, India; and author of two books on lesser known Indian languages: *A Grammar of Hadoti* and *A Grammar of Bhadarwahi*. As a poet, he has published around fifty poems in different anthologies, journals, and magazines worldwide. Until recently, his poem "Mother" has included as a prologue to *Motherhood and War: International Perspectives (Eds.)*, Palgrave Macmillan Press. 2014.