

Susmita Paul

Weight of black holes

On the steps of the terrace farm I stared

At a blizzard striking the earth, opening

Up the stars in the cauldron of space:

Untimely.

My toddler looks up aghast, scratches through some,

Proudly defining them as his constellations.

I do not have the heart to tell him

Maybe they are dead,

That, he can't call them his own.

He wouldn't believe me anyway.

In front of my eyes, he leaps into them

And his form is lost

In the call of that eternal being

That exists

In the smaller than the smallest.

To my yearning he is lost

As he leaps-

Into the cosy cocoon of the helix

That exists

In the larger than the largest.

No more I stand in front of Yama

Asking him to return my Nachiketa,

For he was never mine to ask for in the beginning.

Yama: The God of Death in the Hindu Mythology

Nachiketa: 10 year old son of Sage Vajasharavas in the Hindu Mythology. His conversation with Yama is part of the *Katha Upanishad*.

Truth

smaller than the smallest

bigger than the biggest

In the mirror it is

Visually aligned to the principles of physics

Quarks shift and don't shift

In the water it

Bends and breaks while

Energy condensed in it grows roots

In your eyes it calms down

Spiralling into a tunnel tool

Ebbing up and down

smaller than the smallest

bigger than the biggest

It is a star that has blinked to death

And you see it shooting by.

Translation

In forms and shapes crucified,
 I don't know what can be said
 So that
 In the middle of the heavens
 a horizon emerges-
 Dazzling intentions of
 Agitated light ways
 Cheekily go forward
 One step-

Allowing the swords to perspire
 Will lead rust to trickle as cream,
 Unfailing bowls will
 Survive one more empty birth
 In Bedouin's indifference
 Will take another step forward
 To become Hiranyagarbha†

† Wikipedia defines Hiranyagarbha as “the source of creation of the universe or the manifested cosmos in Vedic philosophy”. Hiranyagarbha is a Sanskrit word literally meaning the golden egg/womb.

Susmita Paul is a bilingual writer who writes in English and Bengali. She has been published in *The New Amritabazar Patrika*, *Plato's Caves Online* and *Headline Poetry and Press*. *Poetry in Pieces* (2018) is her chapbook of English poetry and *Himabaho Kotha Bole* (When Glaciers Speak) (2019) is her Bengali poetry collection. She is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Pine Cone Review*. She is also a Zentangle-inspired artist and an independent researcher. Her website is: www.susmitapaul.org.