

3 Poems by Asha Viswas

A Lonely Tree

Autumn leaves
A calligraphy in ochre
On a blanket of sighs:
A sea of sibilance

The wind whipped tree
Holding a single leaf
The next gust signs off,
Like the trace of a dream.

The shadow of the tree
Rests in the backyard-
Loneliness- bleak and nameless,
Fear howls in the silent house.

Another Vignette

The moon glowing on the veins of a leaf
that moves against the stars,
takes the shape of animals
that often visit my dreams.

A line of trees hovering between
day and night, makes the land soft
as if hundreds of girls were lying
with their hair turned to the sky.

The air is full of moaning bees
and the purple flowers assume
a deepening shade of the dusk.
A spider web holds a heart on a string

And The Charade Continues

Mirror images of each other
the two sides of the story-
doctored pictures, paid men,
cadavers collected from morgues
and placed in deserted streets-
an evidence of massacre.

Choreographed men carrying
the wounded to the same hospital
again and again and yet again.
photos of burning houses relabeled-
proof of mayhem, witnesses bought.
No verbal refutation will change
the old images with new names.
No Daniel to prove Susannah's innocence.