

### 3 Poems by Asha Viswas

#### A Hopeless Longing

We are hopelessly  
out of date  
And three thousand  
miles apart.  
My me is not his her  
and certainly  
His him is so different  
and negates  
positively my him.  
Our monogamous polygamy  
downright rejects  
communication.  
Why do i still write to him?  
and why am I  
thinking of him now?  
Why does he still haunt  
like half forgotten  
familiar dream?

## **The Misunderstanding**

I was learning  
the grammar of his face  
in the sentence  
of his body.

Paraphrasing the clauses  
of his looks,  
analyzing his gestures  
synthesizing his moods.

Seeking synonymy  
of chemistries,  
and proximity of physic(s)

But he saw  
a deeper semantics  
and a newer meaning  
in my voice  
and meanings.

He raised a big structure of surface  
ambiguities

That left us unfortunate  
parallel lines.

## **Edges of Life**

In this slum of the holy city ,  
named after a saint ,

there is a reek of 'beedi' smoke  
mixed with the cow dung  
and giggling of girls .  
A teenager exchanges  
obscene instructions  
in human passion  
while a six year old  
picks discarded cigarette butts .  
Men , too old to be of any use ,  
narrate , who eloped with whom  
last Sunday night .

If you feel bored with the banal scene

Come to the Ganges  
and transform the edges of life  
into frames of white space  
till they turn black again .