

## Poems by Saima Afreen

### Blue

Time has become too old

Even for history

Here -

Dust it off

From window pains

Polished planets

Have played

Chinese Checkers

For too long!

From an empty

Glass square

A rusted season

Has fallen on

The wrinkled

Log hours

With bullets

for fruits

and shelter

in dead leaves!

Climb! Climb!

Up! Up and up!

Pluck the rainbow

Even though

It is half of a circle...  
Open its Blue  
Carefully  
For your  
Sky is Lost  
Find it in the long winter sleeves  
Of your *pherans*

ice will soon cover you  
The red explosions  
Will turn you  
Into  
news-bleached  
Bricks.

### **For Shakuni**

Below the reign of pollen  
Is a staircase where an  
Ampersand awaits.

and i throw the bones  
of my forefathers  
On the dusty Game Board

The dice cracks  
o p e n – an atlas where

history

b  
l  
e  
e  
d  
s

Cartilage boils to your whispers  
Carthage and Hastinapur wake  
In the slipping satin from  
The tips of Time

And in the nucleus of sapphire  
King Priam was already r i d i n'  
on the minutes dripping  
From the veins of crown  
Shedding jungles of gold  
Now a cluster of anemone  
You decorated the slave girl's  
Hair with.

Did the moving stars not tell you  
Termites will be the wise ones  
with screeches of chariots - lost  
digested, safely  
In their bellies?



**Saima Afreen** defines herself as she does not know much about herself. She has not yet reached the field where she can find herself and write a bio. Calcutta is where she grew up, smelling *shiuli* flowers and chewing different syllables.

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