

The Lynched Man

Feneena S Mohamed

It is with me-
that one loaf of bread
for which they lynched
Him,
called him a thief.

It is with me-
that one loaf of bread
which I could not gulp
which I could not push
down my sad silly mouth.

It is with me-
that one loaf of bread
the ill-fated bread
of humiliation

of betrayal.

It is with me
that one loaf of bread
that soar bitter bread
of power
of possession.
Despite the hunger- panic
I fled,
shameful, defeated
humiliated.

Now, I know
the lynched man's
shame,
the perfect abjection,
His body's boil for
one loaf of bread.

Feneena S Mohamed works in the Department of English, Union Christian College, Alwaye. The poem is her attempt to convey the horror of the floods that rocked her small town, Aluva, on the banks of the river Periyar. Caught in an ugly political struggle, the old dam of Mullaperiyar raises issues of safety and security.

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