

Poems by Shobhana Kumar**frames**

I have none.

Of those mundane moments
Caught unawares—
Smiles, tears, anger, love,
The nakedness of longing
Birthday candles
Anniversary wines
Laughter, hugs,
Reunions and goodbyes
Of friends, long dead,
Acquaintances, faded
Or those anonymous passers-by

Flashes of solitude,
Trophy smiles,
Picture-perfect frames,
Or of long, lone miles.

Even those of
Seconds when
I watched
Life slither from me,
Or a much-loved breath,
Vanish, slowly.

I have none
In black and white,
Sepia or technicolour.

But they come alive
In my mind's eye,
Making my real life
A dream,
Turning dreams,

To real.

square feet

one day,
they were gone,
leaving weeping stumps,
their raw edges, gaping
in the bare sun.

around them lay scattered,
leaves, dying
twigs,
weeds plucked
and piled
in cruel heaps
for the poor to take
their fuel from.

the old farmer walked up
and thrust into my hand,
a bag of coconuts,
fresh from the last harvest.

we watched,
mute,
as bull dozers arrived,
to level the soil
and measure
cents for sale.

how many coconuts
could have grown
in one square
feet of luxury living?

Shobhana Kumar's first volume of poetry, 'The Voices Never Stop,' was published by Writers Workshop, Calcutta in 2012. Her work has featured in 'The Dance of the Peacock—An Anthology of English Poetry from India' edited by Dr. Vivekanand Jha and will appear in a forthcoming anthology of contemporary women's writing from India. Her work has also appeared or is forthcoming in several other journals in India, USA, Canada and the UK. Origami Poems Project 'has recently published her first micro-chap book, 'It's winter after spring.' She has authored five books of non-fiction. Her short stories are featured in New Asian Writing and will be part of the 2013 anthology. Her second volume of poetry, '*Conditions Apply' will be published by Writers Workshop in 2014.

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