

IGNORANCE

By Saima Afreen

What do the silverfish know
of wood-pulp
flattened into maps
each dot a tree, grows with
the number of divided rivers
that don't gush into the mouths of flags
they are ribbons: blue, green and silver
unpacking dead bodies on dark-grass
on Adam's bed in Eden;
that conspire with sacred words
for nesting on spines, like air
in-visible, passing through Nimrod's
nostrils, whispering *azaans*
on the birth of blasphemy
counting sins in peacock nights
as the herd of lanterns crosses
a toppled sea; split open
with jungles of Hebrew, Mandarin
a word from Jesus' crown floats
till Port Said,
enamels libraries
and fills their ceilings
with the sky of silverfish!

Bio

Saima Afreen's poems have been featured in The McNeese Review, The Oklahoma Review, The Nassau Review, The Notre Dame Review, The Foliate Oak Literary Magazine, Friends Journal, Shot Glass Journal, Visual Verse, Open Road Review, Muse India, Coldnoon Travel Poetics, Indian Literature (upcoming), Wordweavers, Nivasini Publishers, Ræd Leaf Poetry, The Asian Age, The Telegraph, The Times of India, The Guardian and many other publications. Her poems have been part of several anthologies. She is currently working on the manuscript of her first poetry book. She was invited as a poet delegate for Goa Arts and Literature Festival, Writers Carnival, TEDx Hyderabad, Aliah University, Nazariya - International Women's Film Festival of India and other poetry readings. She is also a fulltime journalist.