

***CAREFUL PLEASURE AND OTHER POEMS***

**By Gopal Lahiri**

Tonight is too methodical,  
too antiseptic, too tight lipped  
in that sense,  
the careful pleasures  
shimmering with a faith  
now largely abandoned.

In search of  
penance for the moral  
decline and gruesome excess in the society  
the west wind understates everything.

At the end of every vista  
The curved moon and starry sky  
two competing symbols  
make their peace with the inhabitants.

Walking on the narrow pavement

I feel the empty faces,

Who are at war with the occupiers

still different enough to matter.

***LIVING VOICES***

A few fresh petals

Each a growing thing

Sometimes to be shed, someone else

Make them heard

In the morning walk.

Much for others, others

Who may be silenced,

Mutate to white wings

And bird song is riddled

With long and short questions.

Somehow numbed, erased

The footprints are still asking

For living voices

As if in a dream, listening

Consenting, time to fill in alone.

***BLINK***

I am not the same,

blinking inside

The green water of the garden pond

And the beautiful curve of the moon

Your face, a brick field

Spewing fire and venom to burn down

The joyful moments.

Under the summer sky.

The promise is sinking through

The soft glow of the jelly-eyed night

Before the solitary star  
comes back to claim me.

**Bio**

Gopal Lahiri was born and grew up in Kolkata. He currently lives in Mumbai, India. He is a bilingual poet, writer, editor, critic and translator and widely published in Bengali and English language. Anthology appearances (among others) includes National Treasures, Indus Valley, A posy of poesy, Concerto, Poet's paradise, My dazzling Bards, The Silence within, East Lit, Indo-Australian Anthology, The Dance of the Peacock, Illuminations. His works have featured in journals Indian Literature, Taj Mahal Review, CLRI, Haiku Journal and electronic publications Arts and Letters, Eastlit, Grey Sparrow Journal, Underground Window, Muse India, Poetry Stop, Debug, Coldnoon diaries He has had three poetry collections and also jointly edited the anthology Scaling Heights. He was awarded Poet of the Year, 2015 by Destiny Poets' International Community of Poets, Wakefield, U.K..