

COMPARATIVE VIEWS ON POESY

By Kiriti Sengupta

It has indeed been a mind-blowing experience as I read “Blaze” by Zack Strait on the website of *Poetry* magazine (November 2015). Here is the link:

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poem/251174>

The poem begins with two interesting lines: “*we were riding out to an abandoned farmhouse/ on his pearl black Triumph.*” Strait induces more zeal as he writes, “*and now we were the jailbirds serving a lifetime/ sentence without parole.*” The fire cautions us in: “*but while I was gathering the wet straw/ I smelled smoke/ and slid back down the ladder.*” The climax sets in as John's “*figure was muscled with flame and I kept silent/ as he reached for a head of grain.*” No doubt, “Blaze” kept me engaged in thoughts with its lucid narration and captivating plot.

Like other forms of arts and literature poetry too invites comparisons! A comparison inevitably takes birth in the mind of a translator especially if two poems (or more) share the same title. Of late I had the honor to translate selected works of the distinguished Bengali poet Bibhas Roy Chowdhury, and one of his poems was titled “The Blaze,” which first appeared on *Literature Studio*. Here is the link:

<http://literaturestudio.in/the-blaze/>

In his poem Roy Chowdhury wrote: “*I'll be born such, the ants will rejoice/ in the tiny holes in earth;/ the horizon is set ablaze/ no birth anywhere around.*” And finally the poet put down his longing for eternity: “*And like death I'll be born eternally/ time and time again.*”

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Since the dawn of civilization fire or light has enjoyed an exclusive literary association with our understanding and realizations! Both “Blaze” and “The Blaze,” irrespective of their varied demographic origins, lead the readers to the inner sanctum of honest poetry!

Bio:

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