

***BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE***

**By Nalini Priyadarshni**

The most beautiful people are those who can dip their fingers in  
Their sadness to create brilliance so heart shattering that  
You cry unabashed for your own heartaches buried deep  
Until the last tear has flown and you are ready to heal  
Opening your heart to new loves and light  
Then they turn around and flood your life with a love  
So wonderful that you wonder if it is real...  
If they are real

The most beautiful people to be around are those who  
tell you to live and love always, in all ways and  
be exactly whatever and whoever you want to at any point of time.  
They peer into your eyes and darkest nooks of your heart  
light up and you discover the beauty you didn't know you possess  
mirrored in their eyes. For once you know you are beautiful too.

So rare are these beautiful people that when you find one  
hold them close and cherish them every moment they are there.  
They cannot be owned or possessed. Their presence is a gift.  
When they hold your hand, you know you won't be same again  
and the world is a better place for your meeting.

*HOMING*

Drawn towards your flame  
I keep returning to your body  
To blow on your embers  
And lose my wings  
To their white heat

In moments of lucidity  
Between this business of  
Living and dying  
I untangle the shadows  
We step into, now and then.

Stripped off the flesh we had  
Rubbed with sandalwood oil  
And washed in rose water  
Conundrum of time and distance  
Ceases to play on our minds

Riding on widening ripples, we  
Let ourselves be blown away  
And find our way back  
To the home we had never left  
The home we had never left

*WHERE WERE YOU?*

I almost left it unsaid, again  
The unthinkable, the unspeakable  
Blasphemous it sounds to my own ears  
some questions can't be throttled  
Even though there are no answers  
Just a long journey  
Paved with saline silence

"Where were you all my life?"

**Bio:**

NaliniPriyadarshni is a poet, writer, editor and amateur photographer. Her work has appeared at numerous magazines and international anthologies including Up the Staircase Weekly, eFiction India, Mad Swirl, Camel Saloon, Dukool, Tanka Undertow, Learning & Creativity, Locution Mag and Earl of Plaid. Her forthcoming publications include Inflight Magazine and Sacred Women in the Anti-violence movement Anthology. She lives in, India with her husband and two feisty kids.