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The Red Vale

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Research Scholar.

Heart renders shell-shocked,
People killed,
Maimed,
Immaculacy,
Maidenhood,
Contaminated,
Unabated...spree Alas!
Sobbing mothers,
Screaming sisters,
Explicate grief,
Bequeath forlorn sighs,
Young maidens,
Wail & groan,
Flustered,
Tears lurk from their chubby faces.
Corpses unattended,
Oozing plethora red,
Eagles hovering over,
Wait for suitable time to devour,
Fallen crown of creation Alas!
Father dragged,
Daughter beseechs,
Oh! In vain,
Butchered,
Cold-blooded murder.
Fragile, gray tufted,
Shoulder coffins.
Satchels submerged,
In a pool of blood,
Young buds muzzled,
Covered in shrouds,
Pale,
Lifeless,
Buried.
Graveyards filled,
Diggers burnout,
Spades broken,
Populace shrinks Alas!
Multitude of mourners,
Throng in never ending line,
Crying...

Women beat their chest,
 A state of gloom & despair,
 Natives frenzied,
 In romance with death.
 Kashmir-an abode,
 Widows & half widows,
 Spouses lost...
 Forced disappearances Alas!
 Kashmiri Pandits,
 Emblematize,
 Composite Sufi culture,
 Communal harmony,
 Bonded brotherhood,
 Inalienable limb,
 Alas! amputated.
 Forced exodus,
 Harrowing homelessness,
 Families segregated,
 Like,
 Tarot pack of cards.
 Houses desolated,
 Fat mice come,
 To be fed,
 Out of murky corners.
 A good chunk blazed,
 Wild ferns, nettles,
 Grow,
 On walls,
 Courtyards,
 Complete wilderness, oh!
 Temples ruined,
 Bells rusted,
 Yearn,
 Be tolled again, Alas!
 Kashmir mothered,
 Sufis, Saints,
 Exchanged tokens,
 Love,
 Peace,
 Tolerance...
 Labelled then,
 Paradise, yippee!
*“Agar firdaus bar roo-e-zameen ast,
 Hameen ast-o hameen ast-o
 Hameem ast.”*
 Now,

An amalgam,
Grief,
Horror...
Replica,
Dante's Inferno, Alas!

GLOSSARY:

*“Agar firdaus bar roo-e-zameen ast,
Hameen ast-o hameen ast-o
Hameem ast.”*

These lines are originally composed by Persian poet Amir Khusrau & quoted by famous Mughal King Jehangir during his visit to Kashmir. These lines mean that if there is a paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here, it is here, alluding towards Kashmir.

Biographical Note:-

Aarif Mushtaq hails from Uranhall, some three kilometres away from the heart of Anantnag district of South Kashmir. He has a deep passion for writing poetry..Currently he is pursuing his Mphil research programme at the Department of English, Bhagwant University Ajmer, India.