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## Winter

Nayeem Ahmad Shah

Ideas get frozen in the mind  
With no breakthrough at all  
Icicles hang like piercing arrows  
And the veiled sun plays truant  
A ray of sun emanated from somewhere,  
Cleared the frosty stuff of my imagination  
And illuminated my murky thoughts-  
Out came the lifeless images  
Of the yesteryear's killed youth  
And Hibba, deprived of the vision,  
Pallets hit her eye, was she the culprit?  
What harm had she done to anyone?  
I saw a Hawk quivering badly  
Losing its squeaky little creatures  
Death waved its arms frantically  
Callous and merciless, devouring lives  
Nature runs its course howsoever harsh  
But leaves some work for the oppressor-  
Who is bold enough to face the Nature  
Or to render the oppressor impotent?

**About the author:** Nayeem Ahmad Shah hails Bandipora district of J and K. He earned his Master's degree in English from University of Kashmir in 2011. He has also qualified SET in 2013 and UGC NET in 2014. Besides being a regular contributor to "The Criterion", he has many newspaper articles, book reviews and poems to his credit. He is presently serving as Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Higher Education, J&K.