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Born of the Same Earth

Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi

Brown, white, wheatish or red,
We were all born of the same Earth.
Borne by mothers, cared for
By them and by the Earth.

My aches, loves, shames and games
Are similar to yours
Though we have different names
And fit different frames.

My food and dress
Maybe peculiar to you
But I feel the same
When I think of you.

My blood is red like yours
And my breath is alive like yours.
We may be different to look at
But we feel the same.

I am happy when loved,
Hurt when hated,
Livid when angry
And curious like a cat.

My blood boils when I
See injustice,
Your blood boils when you
See injustice.

We have the same ancestors
But we speak different languages
Nor does it matter when
It comes to emotions.

Our emotions well up
When we are overwhelmed
Yet we have carved
Our territories, branded ourselves

Made ourselves different.
Should we not remember
We are bound by human bonds
That transcend borders and lands?

Should we not remind ourselves
We are bound by red blood
That flows in our veins,
And that it is never blue.

Born of the same Earth
Yet divided into bands.,
We make ourselves strangers

To those who were our friends.

Born of the same Earth
But separated at birth
We have carved and halved
Our beloved Earth.

Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi
Associate Professor
Department of English
Lakshmibai College
Delhi University

Bio Note:

Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi is an Associate Professor in the department of English, Lakshmibai College (Delhi University). An alumna of LSR and Hindu college; she has twenty five years of teaching experience. She has an M.Phil and PhD degree in literature from Delhi University. Indian writing, European drama and Women's studies are some of her areas of interest. She has authored a book on Post-colonial Indian writing besides poetry and articles for journals.