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I Am Queer

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I am a man who wants a man
I have a body of man and I hate it
I am a man but want to wear a saree
Wish to wear dark rosy lipstick on my lips
Red bangles on my wrist
A red circled bindi
On the center of forehead
Dark eyeliner in my glossy eyes
And wish to have long hair
That can have different styles to form
I wish to become a beautiful bride
Who waits for a groom
Wants to live a life of feminity
A wife, a mother, a woman and many more
Thus consciously and unconsciously
I feel like a woman
Caged in the male body
Want to fly from its cage

I am a woman
I have a woman body
But I desire a male body
I wish to wear pant shirt
And a tie on it
Short hair as an army man looks
I wish to marry a woman
To a beautiful bride
And wish to live the life of
A husband, father and man

I am neither a man nor a woman
But both that depends on time
Sometimes I feel like a man,
Who desires a woman
Sometimes I feel like a woman

Who desires a man

I am not limited to romance
I am not limited to sex
I can never be fixed with one emotion
I am unfixed with my desire
My nature is fluid
Which shifts from one to other
Therefore I am sinner
In the eyes of hetero
Who are fixed
But I am the companion of bi, tri and others

I fought with hetero
When they questioned my existence
I said them -
I have as long history as yours
But never appreciated by you
Never discussed by you
Never admired by you
They asked -
What is your history?
Where are you from?
What is your existence?
I explained them –
I was Shikhandini, I was Mohini
I was Ardh-narishwar
I was Urvashi, I was Arjuna
I have a long existence in Hindu mythology
I was Artemis, I was Sapho
I am in Greek Myth
At many places in Homer's Iliad
I have my existence in Bible in many forms
I was sodomite
I have my existence ...
My existence has been repeated infinite times
In infinite myths
I have been worshiped many times in ancient time
In the form of God
In the form of Goddess

But in modern time
Biologically accepted
Culturally, socially and emotionally rejected

But who counted it at all?
Who investigated the pain of rejection?
Who acknowledged the crime of ignorance?
None of you

I am homo, I am invert
I am gay, I am lesbian
I am hijra, I am Chhakka
I am bi, I am Trans.
I am odd, I am queer

Biographical Note:

Soni Singh is currently working as an Assistant Professor at SRIMT, Lucknow and has five years teaching career. She is a Research Scholar and just started her carrier of creative writing. She has done M Phil in English on ‘Autobiographical Writing’ and currently pursuing Ph D in English on ‘Queer Writing’ from the Department of English and Modern European Languages at University of Lucknow. Her areas of interests are women writing, writing on identity, nature and existence. And the current poem is about the existence of queer identity.