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The Refugee's Song

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I

I am the Fire
Shining, when the world around me ceases to inspire.
The early bird watches its prey
And believes it can survive yet another day.
But the human heart when faced with trouble
Seldom helps itself or others.
It feels lost, or buried, or dead.
I inspire him and take him higher.

II

I am the Wind.
I do not let the world shape me.
I shape the world, fleeing evil with great care
Taking the tempest and the maelstrom within me
To the new land where I aspire to create
A new Home, for my children.
The winds of change are by my side
I will, by all means, survive.

III

I am the Earth.
I am a child of this soil.
Like the early bird I want to fly,
Not for joy or pleasure, but compulsion

Because I am rooted in a troubled land.
But I spend my childhood here on this soil,
And the meadows still call my name.
My mother lived here once, and so shall I.

IV

I am the Ocean.
I don't know whether to leave or stay.
Perhaps like the water I must shape my way
And create a Home elsewhere.
The love for my land could lead me yet
To a much Darker Day.
To survive here is neither pleasure or pain.
For us, mere survival is the name of the game.

V

I am the Rain.
I have fallen on parched lands
Sharing my stories with the people there.
But seldom am I praised in my new home;
My children and I are objects of gaze.
No matter how hard we try to acclimatize
We belong neither here nor there.
We are not the kind of rain people wish for.

VI

I am the Mountains.
Strong in my resolve to survive and belong.
I will fight till the very end
For acceptance, kindness, and compassion
And all the rights that Human Rights can offer.
I belong here to my new Home.
My children will live better lives than me
Until death pushes us into oblivion.

Profile:

Prof. Raj Das completed his Master's Degree from the Department of English, University of Calcutta in 2018. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in 2016, topping his batch and standing First Class first, for which he was awarded the *Rathindra Nath Majumder Memorial Prize* by New Alipore College, Kolkata. He is a two-time winner (2013 and 2015) of the *All India Essay Writing Event*, organized by Shri Ram Chandra Mission, Kolkata in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan. He sat for the West Bengal SET in 2018 immediately after completing his Master's, and cracked it in his very first attempt. He has contributed a chapter to the book *Values: Concepts and Perspectives* (pp. 232-239) [ISBN: 978-93-88207-78-2]. He is currently employed as a member of the English faculty at the Department of English, Maheshtala College, Kolkata.