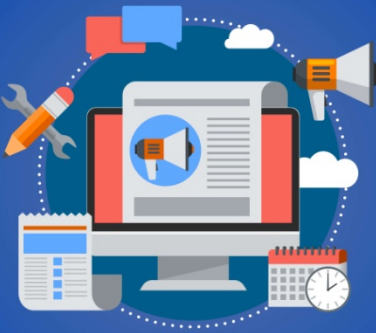


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Captivity

Tishya Majumder
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They say my mind is a prison,
Of thoughts that isn't their reality.
They say I couldn't be like them –
Darkness among chandeliers.

I walk through the golden corridors,
Year after year; smiles after shines,
Twenty-one winters and more to come,
I put on a smile and walk on.

I see their golden smiles and life,
Handcuffed in expensive time.
I see the lump in their throat,
Covered in flashing ice.

I hear their screams at night,
And songs in the morning.
Can the sunrays illuminate
The creatures of the night?

They see me as a disappointment–
A failure to their kind.
They fail to observe me,
I am nothing but their reflection.

When they look at me, they turn away,
They close their eyes to my being.
I believe they are scared to face me,
I am, after all, their prison.

Author's Bio:

Tishya Majumder lives in West Bengal, India and has published her short story 'Phoenix' in *Ardour – An Anthology*. She has qualified Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in English from University of North Bengal, India with First Class. She has received the University Silver Medal and the Kartick Ch. Maiti Memorial Medal for securing the second position in B.A. She has also received the University Gold Medal for securing the first position in M.A. and the Monotosh Bose & Ranjika Bose Memorial Prize, Certificate of Appreciation for scoring the highest marks in English among the Female Candidates in M.A.