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## **Maa**

**Lovely Dutta Prusty**

One year, twenty seven days  
I haven't heard my mother speak.  
Not that she hasn't tried.  
Guttural sounds, incomprehensible  
Tearing at my heart and soul  
Making me bleed silently.  
What would I not give  
To be able to hear her soothing voice  
Lullabies and old Hindi film songs .  
Tolstoy's stories, Shakespeare's plays, Tagore's poetry.

One year, twenty seven days, to be precise  
Since she wrote anything.  
Cheated by her hand that refuses to let her  
Pen down her thoughts ,  
And fill up pages of innumerable diaries  
that lay stacked in the corner of her old cupboard.

What goes on in her mind now is a mystery  
We cannot decipher...none of us,  
the children she had borne.  
Perhaps only he could have brought her back from the brim

The grim edge of life,  
But he is no more.  
And all we can do is pray,  
Watch, wait and pray.