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In the Good Old Days

Sarfaraz Nawaz

In the good old days
men were heroic
they worked and worked and even fought terrible battles
the mud houses echoed with their deeds.

They were least adventurous
but they planted seeds in fields
when it was suitable to do so
infavourable times.

There hangs
a photograph of my great-grand father's father
we are so fond of heroic tales
and handmade photos.

He wears the skin of a lion
we are proud to be a generation of fighters
in fact, warriors!

They had great skills
in treating snake bite and scorpion sting
They knew fixing disjointed bones with hands
They knew all herbs in their own dialect
They were born doctors.

Following them
some of us practice Ayurveda
and have learnt to powder wooden sticks
But more than the medicinal paste
The stories, most of the time unbelievable, do work.

The guests in the drawing room
nod to what we recount
as they relax on the sofa and sip tea;
They inhale the fresh mint laden air
and repeat with us

In the good old days
men were heroic
really.