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## One Lipped Song

Shiva Prasad Sharma

Of the dispossessed I sing,  
With that warped lip of mine, I sing!!  
Songs not about the dancing earth, or the blue sky and the green grass,  
Songs not about the fire, but the clouds, I sing!

The smiles of the still born,  
Ripped apart from their mother's womb  
Songs of sunshine amidst the cankerous showers of AFSPA\*  
from the laps of snow clad Kanchenjunga and the Nilachal\*,  
reverberating in the gorges of Sohra\* and the placid loktak\*

About a homeland, where mothers parade naked, I sing:  
*Indian Army Rape Us* - writ large on their miffed bosom  
Of hamlets burnt down in a frenzy of cocainated nationalism  
Of cholera strewn tea gardens,  
Sweet taint of burning flesh, of the youth lured by the mirage of liberation,  
Of the youth who lit pyres on the roof of his homeland and danced under it,  
Liberation is a Duswapna\* - a nightmare

I sing amidst armed escorts  
Words breaking apart from my song  
Like the red falling apart from the Krishnachura\*  
But not without anticipating a new dawn.

## **Notes**

1. AFSPA – Armed forces special power act of 1958, allows supreme power to the armed forces of India to interrogate, detain and even shoot a suspect without any proper explanation, It is in place in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as some disturbed states of the north east India. It has been grossly misused and has been responsible for the death of many innocent citizens of the country.
2. Sohra – Sohra or cherrapunji is a picturesque destination in the state of Meghalaya, India, It had been accredited with the honour of world's wettest place earlier, but now the distinction lies with Mawsynram in the same state of Meghalaya.
3. Loktak – Located in Manipur India, It is the largest Freshwater lake in the north east India. It is famous for its inhabited floating islands, popularly known as phumdis in Manipuri language.
4. Duswapna- An Assamese word meaning a Nightmare.
5. Krishnachura – Assamese word for the flowering plant known as Delonix Regia.