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The Story

Mohammad Zahid

Did you hear the story,
lost travelers tell each other
to kill time in endless forests
while in search of a road
to take them home eventually?
I had told someone, was it you?
or was I telling it to myself,
the day when you left
there was no road ahead,
nor one to retreat
I lay on the crossroads,
face up, arms stretched East West
nailed with persistent penitence.

Patience looks hard in the beginning
harder midway, but fruitful in the end
likewise I turned into a compass
on the crossroads like a milestone
telling it was a long road ahead
longer even to retrace
unending on the right, infinite
on the left, still,
I worked like a compass,
showing North, Upwards.
The shortest distance was escape!!

And then, the whirlwind came
turning the compass into a weather vane
the tempests of Fate!!
lost in the foggy forests
North, was everywhere.....
There was no escape!!

The story ends,
unfinished....

Author's Bio:

His first collection of poems *The Pheromone Trail*, (2013) is published by Cyberwit. He presented poetry at various international poetry festivals in India, Guntur International Poetry Festival 2012, and Hyderabad Literary Festivals (2010, 2013), Poetic Prism Vijayawada 2016. He features in *TIMESCAPES* a poetry collection of 22 Indian poets by Unisun Publications and Reliance Timeout. His second book *Kashmiri Language and Poetry* a translation of Abdul Ahad Azad's significant critical work *Kashmiri Zuban Aur Shayiri* was recently released by the J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages

His poetry has appeared in peer reviewed journals *The Four Quarters Magazine*, *Maulana Azad Journal of English Language & Literature of MANUU Hyderabad* *Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Arts*, *The Ghazal Page*, *Muse India* and *Poetry.com* . He won the Unisun Publications Reliance Timeout Poetry award in 2010 for his poem *Amante Egare*. His maiden collection of poetry *The Pheromone Trail* has bagged the Best Book Award by the J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages for 2015.

He is a translation editor for Kashmiri language for *Muse India*. He is also a translation editor for *Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Arts*

His poetry has been translated into French, Malayalam and Urdu