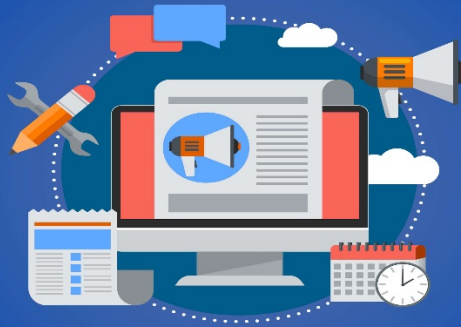


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The Woman into the Mirror

Mamta Dorbi

Looking into the seemingly static,
But watery canvas,
Sitting unaffected before,
The sickly-stray soul,
Gazing into it with her
Eyes quite cavernous,
Introspecting, what she was missing,
In the glossy pane, for so long.

Today reacquainting,
An all-pervasive stranger within,
Unnoticed, rejected often,
And beautifully ignored,
Since a score more,
To her existence of two decades.
For she, a slave to norms,
Always perceived the woman,
Appearing into the exact,
And the so-called truthful,
Four cornered pane,
Casted cunningly,
As a procession in continuum,
Through the eyes of the One,
That intimately familiar,
The absolute One.

Affiliating to the stranger within,
She asked the shiny frame,
Of the whereabouts of
The valiant, the guest-self,
To which the mirror said nothing,
But shed a deluge of tears,
The tears, the hopeful rosy tears,
A paragon of a ceremonial obligation,
To wash off,
The ardent emotions, preserved.

Biographical Note:

Mamta Dorbi is a research scholar from India, who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in English, from the University of Lucknow. A budding bilingual writer, who writes in Hindi as well as English. Her works of creative writing have been published on various e-platforms and journals including Muse India, The Criterion and Rhetorica Quarterly. Her area of research includes postgendered subjectivity in contemporary science fiction.