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At the Seashore

Dr. Syam Sudhakar

It was raining heavily.
Three of us came out from the restaurant.
I was the tallest.

A vice street was there under my tongue.
A sunflower was there in the girl's eyes.
Death was there in our friend's heart.

She dragged me through the rain.
I was laughing.
I howled that I saw butterflies in the blue sea.
I was lying.
I saw nothing but darkness.
She dragged me from there, crying.
She cursed the rain.
She blamed the wind.

Ignoring my resistance,
she checked my pocket.
From there, she retrieved a field
with a tractor full of labourers.
She walked with my friend
along a twisting red road across the field.
Detachment was in our friend's heart.

My mother was there
pointing her muddy finger.
Mom showed her the sky.
The girl viewed a procession of death under the sun.
She sang along with the others.

She offered me a white flower.
Placing my hand at god's feet,
she made me beg for forgiveness.
Sorrow burst into our friend's heart.

Suddenly grass sprouted around us.
We heard the sea flooding roads and streets,
nearing.

We three tired as we ran through the field.

We sat to pray.

Sitting on the shore of a dream

my mother also prayed.

Everything went well.

Vice street was washed away from my tongue.

The sea withdrew my memories.

A soaring song flowered in our friend's heart.

I asked her:

Can you be my sea?

Will you protect me until I die?

She became a sea so calm.

I, a little fish.

Bio note:

A young bilingual poet and academician, Dr. Syam Sudhakar teaches English literature in St. Thomas College, Thrissur.. He has quite a few poetry publications both in English and Malayalam, and has won the Vallatol Poetry Prize and the Madras Kerala Samajam Poetry Award for his contribution to South Indian poetry. He has delivered many poetry readings and lectures at different places both in India and abroad. Most recently his poems have been included in an anthology of young Indian poets in English edited by Sudeep Sen and published by Sahitya Akademi.