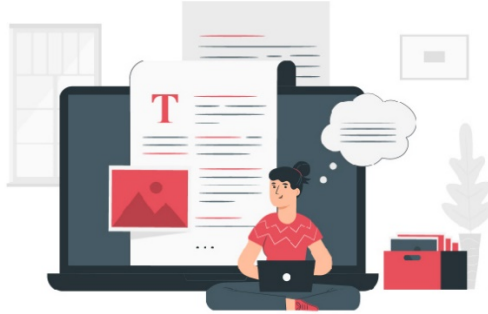


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“The Tyger”

Hilal Habib

Silence! Silence! Silence oh Tyger!
Listen to the screams of the silence,
Espy the air of venom and wild rigour,
All buds are unsubtle and wavering.

Watch the frenzy drama across the frontiers
And ken the shadowy gossips and gimmicks.
Smell the stinking aroma of pygmy proxies
And the abjection of featherless files.

Shield the endangered vale of lambs
For they are worried and despairing;
Lost inspirits and baked in numbness,
Beguiled and alarmed in frenzied folly.

Rise now thou hale and robust creature,
Pierce thy rage and rinse thy dissent,
Toss out the hemless gown of serfdom
And hum and haw the hymns of freedom.

Neither arms nor charms are to yield,
But lofty ideals to exalt in the field,
Hold the grip that strengthens thy wrath,
Not the political fame but an unbent faith.

Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright with forged fun,,
Winding and howling of wolves are likely to shun,
Muffle their discordant sounds, heal thy wounds
Fight thy cause even if threats are like hounds.

You alone and alone can make the way through
If you don't bargain between fair and foul,
You can catch the hover of ugly cloud, Oh Tyger!
Let them not rub your eyes with their dust.