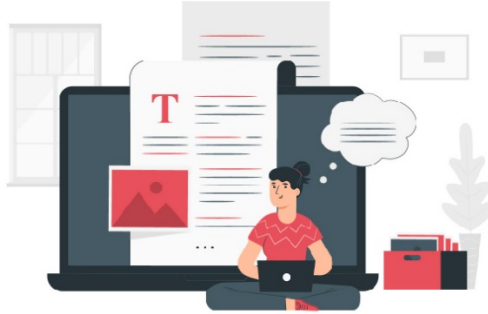


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Crystal Anniversary of a Caged Girl

Rajib Bhaumik

For fifteen years I am
tolerating this torture
How much one can endure ...
why shall I endure?

My father didn't find anyone...
And I'm tied to a rotten rope...
a scavenger could have been a better one
to give me peace of life..

How I often thought the oven on which I work
should burn me to death..
It doesn't happen...
I'm sad it doesn't happen.

Even if I try...
I see my kids' eyes
and halt.
Who will prepare for them
Milk and malt?

I know why women hang themselves ...
for such women who are the enemies of women...
Even if I die ..hang or burn...I will spare none ...
Not even you!!
You are not a human to me ...a statue,
Lifeless slave to your blood, timid, a dead bone...

My eyeliners, nail polish
my younger days
with my lovely mother
and my dear father...
have been reduced to mere ashes...

fifteen years ago
I entered a new house...

full of predatory rats and lizards eyes ...
who declared
they are the parasites,
sulky and dreary,

under colours and roses
I discovered it well
It's instead a slaughter house-
Here death remains alive
Here death cannot die.
Here death sips blood and ...
lives deathless
until I die
bit by bit
On a floral pyre.