



## **Fragile Remembrances**

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Lying in a state of disarray,  
Entangled with the passing of time —  
O remembrances,  
I fall upon thee, quietly abuzz,  
In a state of restlessness,  
In drawers laden with dust,  
In a corner of my memory.

At the first sign of thaw,  
Before the onset of bloom,  
I decide to impose my order  
And come clean by dusting  
Each piece strewn all over.  
I choose to arrange some  
In a cupboard,  
And put the rest on sale

In a pawnshop nearby,  
Before the forest buried  
Within my remembrances  
Becomes a seam of coal  
That might at any moment ignite

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Into a raging fire  
That could last forever —

Engulfing my sanity,  
But not me.

### **Author's Bio:**

Pramod Rastogi is an Emeritus Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. He is a Member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences. He is the 2014 recipient of the SPIE Dennis Gabor Award. He is a Fellow of the Society of Photographic Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE), a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA), and a Distinguished Fellow of the Optical Society of India (OSI). He was Editor-in-chief of the international journal of Optics and Lasers in Engineering (Elsevier) between 1999 and 2019. He was an honorary Professor at the IIT Delhi between 2000 and 2004. He was a guest Professor at the IIT Gandhinagar between 2019 and 2023. He is presently an honorary adjunct Professor at the IIT Jammu.