

Those Days

*Water in a camel's hump
those days
keep me alive
in the desert.
Musk in the deer's navel
those days
perfumes my desolation.
Like snake-jewel
those days
glow in my darkness.*

*When morning awakens
behind the tulsi shrub
under the guava tree
on the garden couch
settle those days.
They light their pipe
read their newspaper
lather and shave
over their shoulders drape
a towel
and stride towards the bath.*

*I stand in the courtyard
an ocean wells up:
In the verandah
in a brown coat
stand those days
rose in the button hole
fresh are those days.*

*When I step out
a world in themselves
they walk with me
those days
shade in the sunlight
sunlight in the shade
those days.*

*With them overlooking
I study and teach,
tones of mellow sweetness
in my throat
those days.
People may face me
it's them they see,
like sugar in milk
within me
those days.*

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