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## Passage to the North

Mariyumma VK

The humanitarian corridor is open;  
A pause for a safe passage to the north,  
leaving the dead and half dead under the debris.  
"A BREAK OF FOUR HOURS ANNOUNCED THREE HOURS PRIOR".  
"Far too many Palestinians have died":  
'Blink's the spotlights in complacence;  
Eleven thousand is just a small depletion  
from a 2.4 million;  
The logic of numbers is clean:  
Clean is the livid whiteness in the eyes of the Masters too.

Vultures know, the taste of young blood  
and the magic of pogroms on children.  
Rooting out a banana tree,  
you need to weed out the young pups around it.  
Yet unlike the mandrake roots,  
the noise of wailing does not pierce inside  
the inaccessible depths of this rat's alley.  
'Hudhud' is beckoned this time, to send the word of doom  
while you and I are busy meddling with too much history.

Offering of 'a loaf of bread every three or four days:  
It's not easy to die of hunger.  
A shell or bullet shot might make it easier;  
deaths sans pangs of unwinding the roots  
been spun around the Olives of life.

Deaths of doctors before tying up the wounds  
on the patients etherised upon the table;  
death before slurping the ice cream on plump lips;  
Young limbs packed in the ice candy man's box;  
Living men await the knock on the door,  
clutching onto their dead children's bodies,  
with dreams of flying with them in the heavens.

From the pyramids of charred debris,  
the caravan of a muffled tribe is driven out.  
Sweeping in sand dunes with a broom,  
the wizard of the desert concocts his empire.  
Waves of violence swirl around like ripples in sand  
and new enclaves are born;  
Sand dunes to stand the test of time, devoid of history.

\*rat's alley is T.S Eliot's usage in 'The Waste Land',

\*Hudhud' or wood pecker was the messenger of King/ Prophet Solomon . Hudhud is the national bird of Israel.

**Bio:**

Mariyumma VK is Head of the Department, Department of English, at Noble Women's College, Manjeri, Kerala. She is also a Research Scholar in the Department of English, University of Calicut, working on Tropes on Honour and Shame in Select Texts. She has made many publications in journals. She is also interested in translation projects, other creative writing and podcasting.