

Two Poems by Biren Gogoi

Smile in the Face of a Stone

The bright green of the hills and mountains
Was once under the control
Of the forest alone.

Stone faces were smiling
Pictures were seen in their eyes.

We cried out
And we heard
The raging storm of the sky and the wind
Streams and rivers overflowed
Trees and the brushwood sang.

Smile in the face of the stone

Boat of the body, the body's companion
Can one stay away from the other
Land and water?

The stone smiles taking into itself
Happiness and sorrows
Of a hundred years.

Flowers Know When to Blossom Forth

Flowers Know
When to blossom forth.

The child knows
How to laugh in joy
And to cry in pain.
With lips and hands
It measures love
In the mother's breast.

We are helpless poets
Digging day and night
Into the heart of time
To see flowers bloom and drop off.

Many people do not know
What the flowers know
The time to bloom.

Yet many others donot know
For what sorrows
The jasmine blooms and drops
During the night.

Translated by **Ananda Bormudoi**

Biren Gogoi is a contemporary Assamese poet based in Dibrugarh. He has five collections of poems to his credit.