

# Noni Bordoloi's Poems

## **The canopy of thoughts**

(1)

On my barren bosom  
You'd penned  
A tender poem

A frenzied westerly now blows  
Within my heart.

(2)

I stood in front of the gate  
With my body covered by a wrap of darkness  
The winds rushed towards me and asked ....  
For whom are you waiting ?

I said

Love is supposed to arrive.

(3)

I try to be inebriated  
As the whirlwind,  
As a goblet of wine I want to guzzle  
Your unembellished love

Let the arid desert be soaked  
By torrential rain.

## **My hunger-stricken body and a paper-flag**

For five decades and more  
I've slept with poverty at the head of my bed

My entire life has passed in providing them with food  
In hauling their weights  
In carrying out their menial chores  
I've transformed my life into a rock  
Now I've grown scrawny, enfeebled is my mind

With the touch of coarse hands  
And with the gruffy tone of voices  
The world of love  
Is in utter terror, perhaps has absconded with no trace

It's impossible to curse God, after all  
He can't even be questioned  
I wonder why has the body been linked  
To an abyss called the belly  
Why has a merciless demon been created  
Called hunger

From the emaciated bodies  
I didn't seek too much of anything

I sought only a handful of rice  
Or a piece of chapatti

And heaping on my scrawny-stony body  
An undesirable pledge  
And tucking a paper-flag into my fist

They said—Cast your vote in this symbol

*Translated by* **Krishna Dulal Barua**

**Noni Bordoloi** is an Assamese poet based in Doomdooma, Tinsukia.

**Krishna Dulal Barua** is a prominent translator and writer based in Nagaon, Assam. He received the Katha Award for translation in 2005.