

## Khagen Saikia's Poem

### Dialogues

It seems as if the frail-looking Gandhi  
would trip over and fall down somewhere,  
As if his handstaff would loosen from his grip,  
Yet he happens to be an ideal figure of this world,  
A strong man  
This is a view, a flawless discernment of nature  
An enriched dialogue rummaged about by human thoughts  
The flow of a supreme motion  
In the bosom of which glow the inexhaustible flair of time.

All things aren't always pleasant  
At times they remain dangling half-cuddled as bats  
Episodes, encumbered with distress, may take shape  
The roar of the ocean cannot be disarmed or put beyond query  
I may not find the epical form or the pathway of time  
Everything spreads piggybacking upon time  
As a banyan.

No matter whatever be mentioned about melody and rhythm, the intents take possession of their own spaces  
As any piece of granite they cannot be broken apart  
This could be the sign of our defeat or incompetence  
Perhaps there'd be a re-assessment  
With the query -- whose dialogues were these ?

The ambrosial dialogues carried forth by time  
Come to an abrupt halt beside the insensate Buddha,  
The question of consciousness again  
If the ladder of ascent were to collapse again midway ?  
Perhaps a re-assessment or a new uplift of life-radiant messages  
Would resonate beside us.

*Translated by* **Krishna Dulal Barua**

**Khagen Saikia** is an Assamese poet, novelist and writer based in Nagaon, Assam. He has six collections of poems and six novels to his credit.

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