

# Sarifa Khatoon

## Chowdhury's Poems

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### **Another River of Saline Water**

Another river of saline water is flowing upstream  
Unnoticed inside the river

The evening comes dropping like rain

There are clouds in the heart  
Like those in the sky  
Conversations  
Slightly yellow and like smoke  
The essence of an unknown sorrow spreads all around

A village far away

What is there far beyond

What is there on the other bank  
May be a discoloured song  
Or the picture of a forest  
Or the yearning of a river

In the silence of the sky  
Burns a bright star  
And nothing else

### **Being Turned into a Tree with Deep Shadow**

Words arose from my heart  
Making prevail pleasant stillness all around  
The desert wetted in forest fragrance

Intimacy developed with the words  
They prevailed upon all my belongings  
Almira, reading table, books and everything else  
The days passed on smoothly  
It was beautiful all around

Things happened unexpectedly  
One after another  
Painful and unbelievable

The gateway to another world opened  
Time delivered to me  
A blood stained book

I turned over pages in great astonishment  
And read tales merciless  
Of simple and plain autobiography  
Sighs and tears flowed on from the graveyard

The words nurtured with love and trust  
Changed hues and meaning  
Being speechless  
I raised a blurred terrible flag.

No word is beside me now  
All are dead

I am standing all alone in solitude  
Turned into a tree  
With a deep shadow

*Translated by* **Ananda Bormudoi**

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