POEMS

--- Akshat Shukla*

1. Weathered Words
2. A Cesspool of Images
WEATHERED WORDS

Weathered words evaporate
Out of dusty books
Standing tall on a shelf;
Words obsolete, words obscure,
Ditched by the winds of change,
Words once adorned
On the tongue of poets,
Words once revered
For beauty and youth,
These words
On the edge of their existence
Creeping out
Of the grimy confinements,
Consummating with the winds,
Reshaping themselves
On the sacrificing altar
Of change.
Now, these words breathed in
Like oxygen,
Adopted like orphans,
Securing their place
Once again,
In the stories
Of futurity and infinity.
A CESSPOOL OF IMAGES

A cesspool
Of sinister images
That pall over my eyes—
My eyes reflecting the horror;
I wallow in the darkness
Of this cesspool,
Rumbling my way
Through the thickness
Of this ghouliness;
I hope to unearth the embers
Of the murdered light,
And swallow them down,
Letting my body smolder
Into the flames
Of a newborn light.

*AKSHAT SHUKLA is a research scholar at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, formerly Kanpur University, India. He is working on Ecocriticism for his research thesis. Most of his poems are philosophical musings; they reflect how he perceives things in general. He started writing poems in 2009. He is heavily influenced by Keatsian Romanticism. He has done Diploma in Creative Writing in English from IGNOU. He can be reached at akshatshukla2012@gmail.com.