

Sita's Fire

Dissolve my body in the flame!

Sita screams. Before collapsing
behind the wood smoke soaring up-wards. The heat
and the explosion of burning fat, a canon shooting
fireflies to the sky. A typhoon of flame reddening the azure . . .

Lips bitter. A million eyes tearing me apart
screaming the curses of the gods.
What sin have I committed?
Strong ash-colored arms. Immoral desire.
Wink of hated destiny. And spring
cleverly teaches me to make love.

There is no more fear. Holy war is in vain.
As is revolution. But why do I still hear
a revolver shot in the ribs. A bitter trickle
is released. Shattered I fall from the embrace
of the rough man who'd achieved what he longed for.
Deadly passion. Later when the eagles from the gulf
flutter wildly clawing at the ghosts of soldiers,
troops who've burnt god's incarnation, scatter
my soul in your pain, Dasamuka.

We reincarnate as a pair of dragons
hunting the moon in the sky.

NOTES

At the end of the great epoch of Ramayana, after king Rama defeats the ten-faced demon king Dasamuka (Rahwana) and rescues his kidnapped wife Sita, his subjects welcome Rama's return. However there is concern about whether Sita has been able to remain pure and faithful to Rama. Sita is put to the test of fire.