



Undying Embers

A Collection of Poems

Abu Siddik

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Don't Ask

Don't look at my thinning hair
 Don't ask if they are dyed or not
 Don't ask if I am adding weight
 To my fragile frame
 Or visiting a dancing bar in evening
 Don't ask if I am walking over the path
 The haloed had once crossed
 Don't ask if I have bought a home in moon or Mars
 Don't ask if my good neighbours cheat
 Or our guards drink at night
 Don't ask if the steel columns by my sides
 Still rising to touch the sky and burying my sweet home
 Don't ask if Ph.Ds are applying for post
 Of peons or palmists or protectors of atms
 Don't ask if my peasant brothers are ruined
 With overused, poisoned fields
 Don't ask if our milkmen are injecting cows
 For stealing last drop of milk from calves
 Don't ask if our promoters
 Are filling up lakes and building
 Palaces to add to tourism growth
 Don't ask if our academics are copying
 Their big brothers of the West
 Don't ask who are selling lands to big houses
 Don't ask who are destroying forests
 And driving the foresters out of their ancient lands
 Don't ask who are languishing in jails
 Don't ask who are looting our lands
 Don't ask who are selling our girls to brothels
 Don't ask who are lynching whom
 In the name of religion or race, caste or kin