ESBB Volume 8, Issue 1, Jaishree Shanker

Jaishree Shanker

Life Shrouded in Secrecy

The multitudes on this planet

Have all in their hearts

Unseen chambers of secrets.

Some guarded, some unguarded.

The unguarded ones, seeking an outlet now and then,

Find their way out,

Sometimes in silently creeping drops of tears

Sometimes in put-on smiles, half revealing, half concealing;

Or in the ferocious frowns on the forehead,

Or in the changing contours of the face;

But the guarded ones know full well

Their promise to the heart housing them;

They never mind the suffocation

Of an everlasting silence,

Buried under the unfathomable depths,

Never ever to see the light of the day.

Yet they do wonder at the essentiality

Of keeping them bundled and throttled

In the innermost recesses of the heart;

They do marvel at the reasons for that essentiality.

Is it a promise made some day to someone?

To a son, a daughter, a sibling, a lover or a friend

And an unyielding commitment to oneself of not betraying their trust

Or is it a distrust caused by an utter failure of words

To convey properly or be understood properly

Or by the sheer success of words in piercing ruthlessly all tenderness

May be, it is a staunch belief in the absence in this whole world

Of a heart to which secrecy can be entrusted

Or maybe, secrecy honours its own existence

Most reverentially

For reasons best known to itself.

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The Invisible Sky

The vast azure expanse above

Is ever alluring

With its mesmerizing mysteries

And varying moods and colors

The glistening rays of the rising sun imbue it with

A charismatic crimson colour

The setting sun suffuses it

With an orangish aura

And the darkness of the night

Trails behind enhancing the beauty

Of the brightly shining stars

Sometimes a heavenly bliss

Permeates its vastness

In the multi-hued rainbow arch

Sometimes its blue serenity metamorphoses

Into a monotonous grey

With clouds behaving benevolent or malevolent

For the earth, as they wish

Sometimes thunder and lightning make it

An angry red, presaging calamity

The sky and its ever-changing moods

Are visible to all

With its mysteries unearthed

By man's never-satiated curiosity

And ever-growing scientific capability

But oh! What about the invisible sky

Existing within the human heart

With its limitlessness,

Its mysteries,

And its mercurial moods and hues

That largely go unseen, unnoticed

Dangling sometimes between happiness and sorrow;

Hopping off and on from hope to despair;

At times feeling full and satiated

At times struggling with an unknown emptiness

And a complete, unfathomable void;

Some moments naïve with a childlike innocence,

Some knavishly betraying all faith,

The list is as limitless as the inner sky

Will man and science ever succeed

In gauging its enigmatic infinity

In mapping the inner expanse?