

Assamese poetry by Guna Moran

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Title: So vast is the sky

Abstract: There has been a long tradition of translating from indigenous languages. The original poem from Assamese language receives a translated English version here. The poet talks about the vast and incomprehensible patterns of the universe that has an option for God to descend (as a part of some mythical human beliefs). The narrative talks about the impenetrable nature of the firmament, and even that sad stupor when the sky becomes cast with layers of cloud. It is a fine blend of symbolism, yearning to know the enigma called universe.

Keywords: Translation, Indian English Poetry, Poetry, Modern Poetry, Symbols,

Original Version¹:

আকাশখন ইমান বিশাল

গুণ মৰাণ

আয়ে মোক কৈছিল

আজিকালি বিপদত উদ্ধাৰ কৰিবলৈ মধুসূদন স্বৰ্গৰ পৰা নামি নাহে

তেওঁ হেনো আকাশতহে আসন পাতি আমালৈ চাই থাকে

প্রতিটো জয়-পৰাজয়ত অজানিতে আকাশলৈ চাওঁ

নিজকে অস্ফুট ভাষাৰে কিবা এটা বুজনি দিওঁ

সত্য আৰু অসত্যৰ জীৱন্ত সাক্ষী

এই আকাশ

সুখ আৰু দুখৰো লগৰী

আকাশৰ তলত ছাতি

ছাতিৰ ওপৰতহে আকাশ

অসাধাৰণ কৃতিত্ববোৰে বিজয়ৰ দুহাত মেলি কৃতজ্ঞতাৰে আকাশলৈ চায়
সুখী আকাশখনে সুখী হৈ নেদেখুৱায়
পৰাজয়বোৰে অপৰাধবোধেৰে আকাশখনলৈ চাই তলমূৰ কৰে
দুখী আকাশখনে দুখী হৈ নেদেখুৱায়

জীৱনত কাৰোপৰা সহায় নোপোৱা মানুহটোৰপৰা সহায় বিচাৰিছা
মই দধীচি হৈ তোমাক উদ্ধাৰ কৰিলোঁ
তুমি বাকৰুদ্ধ হৈ মোৰ মুখলৈ ভেবা লাগি চাই আছা
মই বিশাল আকাশখনলৈ চাই ভাবিছোঁ
সকলো লোকৰ প্ৰথম আৰু শেষৰ দৃষ্টিৰ গৰাকী
এই বিশাল আকাশ ।

Translated Version²

SO VAST IS THE SKY

Mother told me
These days God descends from the Heaven
To help those in distress

He stays seated in the sky to observe us

We look up to the sky
At every win or defeat

Pacify ourselves with some unintelligible language

This sky
is the living witness of truth and untruth
It is the sentinel of joy and grief
Umbrella below the sky
Sky hovers over umbrella

Memorable successes look up to the sky with gratitude
Extending both arms
The happy sky do not show to be happy
The defeats cast its eyes down
with a feeling of guilt
Seeing the sky

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Section: Poetry

The sorrowful sky do not show to be sorrowful

You sought for help from the man
Who did not get help from anyone in life
I bailed you out transforming into Dadhishi*
You are looking at me dumbstruck
I am pondering
Gazing at the endless expanse of the sky

This endless sky is
The owner of the first and last look
Of every person

Dadhishi* - A sage from Hindu mythology who laid down his life through meditation and offered his skeleton to be made into Vajra, the lethal weapon to kill a demon who was otherwise invincible

