

# Republic of Hope

## Anthology of Poems



Dept of English & Publication Wing  
**AL SHIFA COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCE**

(Run by Shifa Medicare Trust & Affiliated to University of Calicut)

Perinthalmanna, Kerala.

# **Republic of Hope**

## Anthology of Poems

**Dept. of English & Publication Wing**



**AL SHIFA COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCE**

Run By Shifa Medicare Trust & Affiliated to University of Calicut



# PREFACE

The collective human community had to face many complicated challenges, particularly in recent times in the 6000 year old history of civilizations. The two World Wars, the threat of Atomic weapons, the incursions of terrorism, frequent wars using advanced weaponry, biological warfare, and the recent onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic are to name a few. History bears witness to the fact that in the wake of such crises, humanity as a collective whole had to roll with the punches and they have done it with gusto. The spirit of 'hope' has been a major driving force in overcoming such hurdles.

The recent outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and its unprecedented ramifications have engendered a fresh outflux of related deliberations. This is a spontaneous response in view of the fact that life as we knew it changed in all respects overnight. There's hardly a person left unaffected in the aftermath of this deadly disease. Many formidable nations and their economies have tumbled down while millions of people have lost their dear life. Eventually, humanity has moved to the "new normal", acknowledging the certitude of having to live with the virus.

It is in this context that a humble attempt is made to assess the role of 'hope' in restoring mankind to its nonchalant path to contribute to our collective wellbeing. This anthology aspires to celebrate the elan vital of hope mustered from camaraderie and complementary cooperation found endorsed in the post pandemic world.

The anthology comprises poems delineating themes such as the use of online platforms to connect with the world, the anxiety during quarantine, the fear of the virus, loss and survival. The budding poets have captured the quintessential spirit of endurance during the distraught times.



# INDEX

A ROPE OF HOPE	4
MOVING FORTH	5
CLOUD IT BE OUR HOPE	6
STRANGER	7
LET'S STAND AGAINST THE WALL	8
IN HOPE OF SUNRISE AND STARRY NIGHT	9
HOPE	10
THE LIGHT THAT LEADS US	11
RAY OF HOPE	12
THE MERRY HOPE OF LIFE	13
HOW TO GROW WILDFLOWERS CALLED SMILES	14
CLOUDS	15
GOD'S WORD	16
STRIDING THROUGH THE BLACK WATERS	17
THE RETRIEVE	19
BEGIN AGAIN	20

# A ROPE OF HOPE

Two years of a virus bloom  
Too many days of doom  
I lived in a state of gloom  
In my little room

A life without goals and dreams  
A journey without destination  
I lurked in my world of imagination  
Like a polar bear in hibernation

Despite the days of wailing  
Something kept me going  
What was that?  
Is it a fact or tact?

No, I found a rope  
A rope of hope  
A rope to hold on  
And move on

From the days of pain  
To days of gain  
I hung onto my rope  
My rope of hope

When your days are rough  
And nights are tough  
And you fall in a pit of fear  
Without anyone to hear  
Be your own rope of hope



Treesa Rose. T  
Second MA English  
Vimala College (Autonomous),  
Cheroor, Thrissur.



# Moving Forth

Vast deserted waters  
were the first thing She glimpsed.  
Nowhere to make a stand,  
She flew back  
devoid of hope.

The small casement opened again.  
Away She went,  
for the air was getting congested  
and the Confined were choking.  
With an offering  
She returned.  
An olive branch.  
Renewed hope.

Determined not to fly back,  
Once more She made her way.  
Having found herself a place,  
a nest of her own,  
She paved the way for others  
to escape from this pandemic.



Akhila Joshy  
First MA English  
Vimala College Autonomous, Thrissur



# COULD IT BE OUR HOPE?

They are asking!  
When can we break these locks?  
When can we hear the rhythmic bustles?  
When can we see the heartwarming smiles?  
When can we breathe freely?

They are asking!  
Is this captivity worthy?  
Are these barriers worthy?  
Is this distance worthy?

They are asking!  
Are we not humans?  
Questioning our ethics and keeping  
our life at stakes?  
When can we embrace our loved ones?  
Could it be today? Tomorrow?

The same old clouds  
Retreating back!!  
Letting a glorious rainbow to shine  
Could it be our hope?!

The sunlight is gleaming happily  
Seeing our unity leading to victory!  
Every sapien thanking the angels  
For their unconditional heart.

Ooh! How fascinating it is!  
A tiny virus taught us how unity  
leads to peace and  
contentment.  
All we should do is hope, and  
hope and hope



Karthika Sreepathi

Plus Two Student  
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Vidya Mandir,  
Nadavaramba, Irinjalakuda



# STRANGER

One day,  
He came  
By majesty  
As a stranger  
And said I'm an intruder  
Interrupted all,  
Then, became known to all,  
Parted the crowd,  
Hopefully.

Next day,  
He lose  
By the fire of eyes  
As of hope  
And gone  
Beyond the thoughts  
Then crowd came  
To gather  
Hopefully.



Naina Muhammed. M  
Second MA English  
Language and Literature  
Noble Women's College Manjeri



# LET'S STAND AGAINST THE WALL



Rifa Fathima Kallan  
Second BA English  
Escola International,  
Malappuram, Kondotty.

Let's stand against the wall,  
The tide is on your way;  
Rise, rise 'coz it's your call.

You are not alone - to fall,  
It's just another stormy day  
Let's stand against the wall.

The Pandora's box is never your hall  
Come to the stage and do what you may,  
Rise, rise 'coz it's your call.

Ride forth amidst your goal,  
Because the ball is in no one's bay,  
Let's stand against the wall.

The lively scenario is open to all  
And it's high time you laid down the hay,  
Rise, rise 'coz it's your call.

The candle still flickers at the King's ball,  
It's up to you to choose where you lay,  
Let's stand against the wall,  
Rise, rise 'coz it's your call.



# IN HOPE OF SUNRISE AND STARRY NIGHT

Crammed in a room with windows shut  
Sealed doors and joyless curtains  
Unable to reach out or breathe zephyr around  
I lived my life in mails, messages,  
G-meets and zoomcalls  
Muting my confidence  
I went online nevertheless

Social distancing birthed anxiety  
A pinch of depression and  
Passionless routine followed.  
With lost hope of betterment  
Came in acceptance  
Innumerable loses  
Souls and finance  
Compassion with lost composure

Yet, rainbows bloomed anew  
Prism of promising life  
Stormy night cleared the night sky  
Awaiting morrow, bright and shine  
With masks intact, sanitizers in hand  
I stepped out, venturing into the known  
Holding a newfound courage of survival

I forgave those cloudy nights  
In hope of sunrise and starry night  
Hope is not a flower hanging within reach  
That withers with time or rots like lime  
Hope is a wildflower blooming in creeks  
Free, resistant, resilient... held together



Amruta  
Second MA English  
Providence Women's College  
Calicut



# HOPE

One day, the sky will become clear  
After a heavy rain and thunder lightning  
The world can breathe air of newness  
Petals of flower lead poem of happiness  
The sun rises with full of resilience  
Birds sing with full confidence

Sounds of ocean waves are with conviction  
Wings of butterflies says positive quotes  
River flows with an impact  
Windy blows with dazzle

The entire nature says :  
There is a hope so, there is a happiness  
There is an expectation, joy and peace  
There is a courage, strength, boldness  
and Confidence  
Instead of fear, instead of tempting us  
to quiet

Hope is the best medicine  
To cure the pandemic gloom  
Let's together hope against hope  
To get rid of the pandemic doom  
It's a hope of impact that,  
We can emerge from the pandemic



Shidha.p  
Grade 9  
G.G.V.H.S.S Wandoor





We were thrown into the sea of darkness ,  
As deep as death ;our ships wrecked ,  
The storm tired us , but we shall not fail ,  
The land , though far away , awaits us.

The wave drowned us , darkness feared us,  
We lost fellow sailors - loved and cared , To  
the fury wave . We cried in pain, but We shall  
not stop , for the land waits for us

We had nothing but a light , that the wave  
Couldn't kill nor could the storm.  
The light flickered , but it never failed,  
For it was glowing within us.

Though far away , the light showed us the land,  
Though uncertain , the light showed us the path,  
Though gruelling ,the path was to be taken,  
For we shall not fail

The sea of death was uncertain,  
The waves tried to blow out the light,  
The storm tried to sink our zest,  
But it never could, for the light was within us

The sea was cold , the light kept us warm,  
The waves were mighty , the light saved us,  
The sea was dark , the light showed us the way  
Gave us the grit to cross the turbulent sea.

We still cross the sea,  
I see land , far away , but clear The path still  
uncertain and perilous,  
But we shall never quit , blowing the light away.

Though perilous , we shall never stop the voyage,  
Though toilsome , we shall never leave the path,  
We shall never blow out the light of hope ,  
For if it is gone , we bury ourselves in the waves.



Niranjana Ramachandran

Plus Two Student  
Kulapati Munshi Bhavans Vidya Mandir,  
Pottore, Thrissur

THE LIGHT THAT  
LEADS US

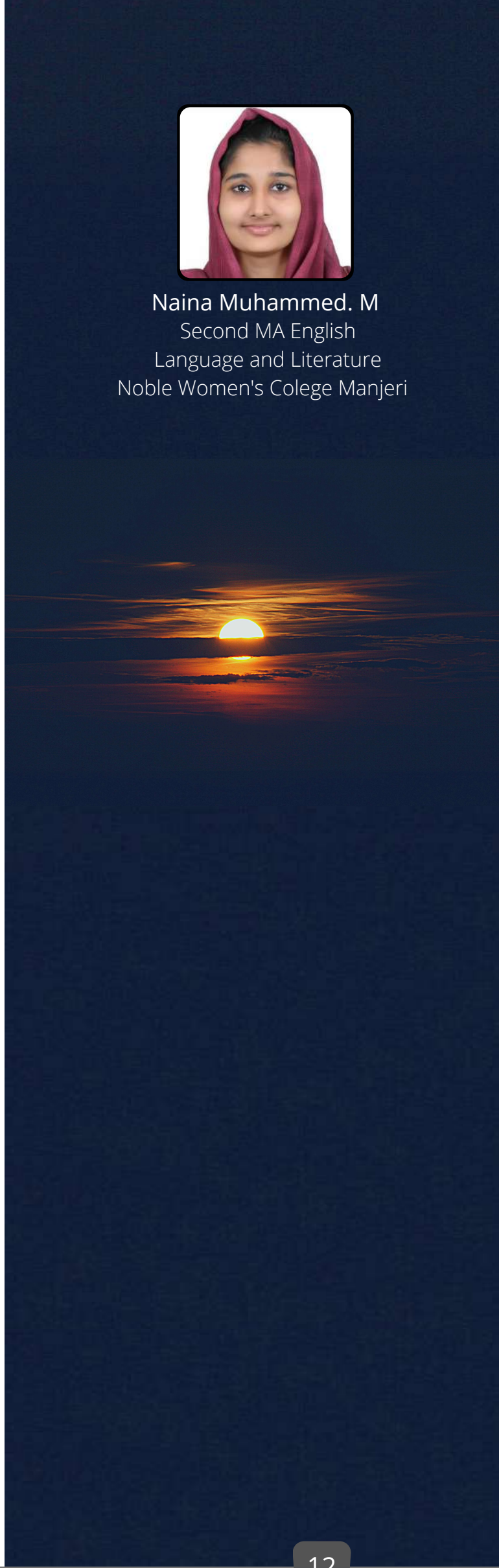
# A RAY OF HOPE

Up,  
In the dark and stark  
Sun lights its ray of hope  
Stars to the hopeless  
As a sign of life.

Down,  
They searched  
To show some mercy,  
To cure the pain  
Goes in vain  
Again searched  
To gain the HOPE.



Naina Muhammed. M  
Second MA English  
Language and Literature  
Noble Women's College Manjeri



# THE MERRY HOPE OF LIFE

Life's not obvious,  
But you can, trust the timing,  
It will embrace us!  
Could you recall yesterday?  
Arms, hugging sorrows;  
Thrown at us?  
Still living quietly,  
Away from the world,  
Moulding dreams,  
Inked in gold!  
While gazing at the sky,  
The one to rely on,  
Daring and defending;  
Still smiling at every provocation,  
And suddenly,  
We have now come to cherish it,  
Started to love it,  
Finally we have found our shores,  
Oh hope,  
It's you!



VILEENA P VINAYAN  
S6 BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
AND LITERATURE  
VIMALA COLLEGE  
AUTONOMOUS THRISSUR





# HOW TO GROW WILDFLOWERS CALLED SMILES

Negating self, I wandered in quest  
One of identity and worth  
Never looking inside my soul  
Once happy, now mourned innocence  
Without a knock, jostled in adulthood  
Those strenuous thoughts followed tedious nights  
Sleepless and dazed, dead yet breathing

Tears were never a choice  
Amidst all the chaos  
Life became a task  
Sensory pain and sensual torture  
White noise and blooming lilies  
Taunted the haunting laughter  
But then I learned to fake  
Dreams, expectations,  
Imaginations, escapes

Pretence became a choice,  
A chance at life anew  
Like righting the broken glass vase  
I pasted a broken smile  
Pretending laughter,  
My intestines giggled  
Vines grew on my ribs  
Creeping into my soul  
Mending broken with fissures  
Roots held tight a canvas called skin,  
Blooms hung, escaped from eyes

A serene peace, no interruption  
My smile whole and full  
Pretence became real  
Righting a broken smile  
A wildflower bloomed  
At the crevices of broken lips  
I pretend in hope of real  
Aware that real awaits my hope



Amruta  
Second MA English  
Providence Women's College  
Calicut



# CLOUDS

There are some instances  
when you feel hell  
but don't know how you fell,  
Along with the rain my heart is in pain

Along with the darkening sky,  
my mind too darkens with sorrow.  
In my heart I deeply burrow,  
all the agony and tears.

Along with me  
cries the sky  
Oh sky, are you in affliction?  
are you in distress?

Along with the lightning  
my bravery sparks  
After all it's experience  
That made me strong !



Fadila Musthafa

Grade 8

GHSS Vazakkad

# GOD'S WORD



Dhilsha. E  
Second year BA English Language  
and Literature Student  
DGMMES College Mampad

Hold on! Hankering wipes your agony,  
love  
You left me in this crowd of solitude.  
But I ain't gonna remain supine, my love  
I lost you, you hugged the pathogen ,I  
yelled  
"call it a day my love "you whispered  
Deathbed? huh?  
Jesus, you steeped my aurora.  
He bid adieu.  
He did.  
Longing for an idyllic day is unfeasible  
But don't you glimpse a pluviophile in  
you?  
An astrophile aged thirteen?  
A thalassophile with a gleeful face?  
Not a lover.  
Hunt for the blissful girl in you. Not a  
wife.  
Existence is worthy of hope, my child.  
You are loved.  
Don't go to sleep until dawn,  
Then dig into the bible verse:  
"for God so loved the world, then he  
gave his only son,  
That whatever believes in him should  
not perish  
But have an eternal life"  
Now it's time to sleep with God's word.





# STRIDING THROUGH THE BLACK WATERS



Devaki. J

Grade 10

GGHSS Cottonhill School,  
Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram

The streets are lonely,  
The cities are locked down,  
Schools are closed.  
No one is there except a buzzing bee.  
The seas are calm and shores are desperate,  
To see the world in a pandemic.

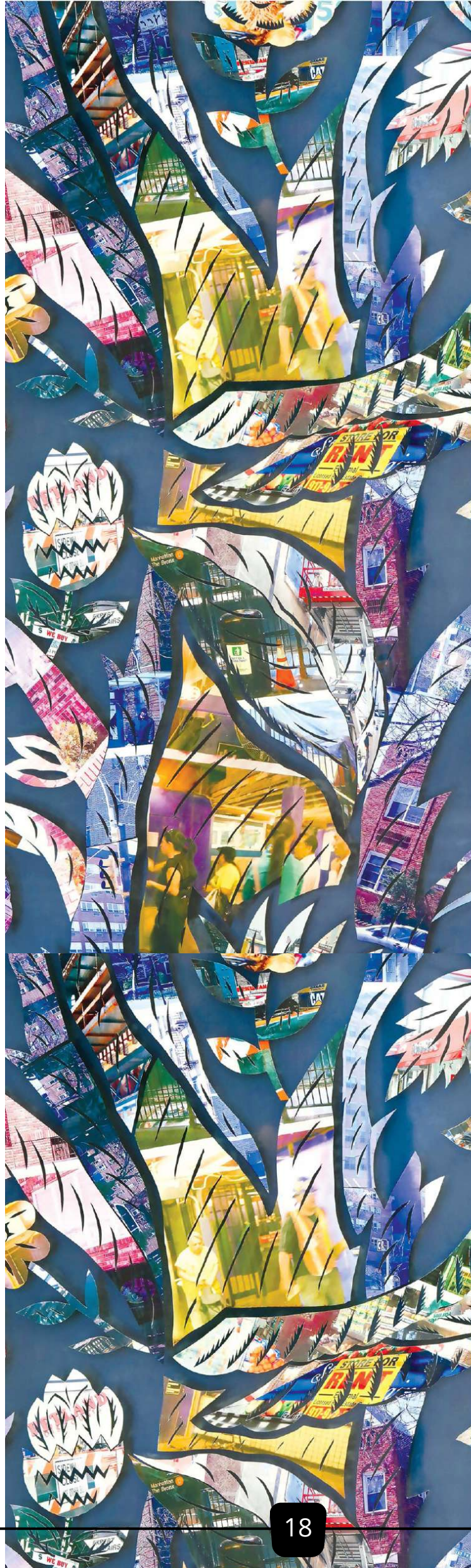
Once the shores filled with tides,  
Once the cities were crowded with beings.  
But now except a buzzing bee.  
Oh ! , but dear mother,  
The hospitals are flooded with patients!  
“Is the world going to end?”  
I thought of looking at the scene.  
Then my mind said, “no the world’s not going to end!  
We are going to kill that virus!”

But even when the streets where calm,  
It was accompanied by swans and otters  
And the city began to feel wonderful.  
When men are gone,  
Nature takes its place there.  
How magnificent!  
But I think this virus maybe a messenger  
from nature to the world  
to teach us a lesson.



Penguins come to visit their home,  
Dolphins own its space in Italian docks.  
Seals wriggle through the streets which they owned once,  
Malabar civets roaming in the road.  
The swans belonged to the canals.  
The otters belonged to the rivulet.  
Now they are into the urban, human world.  
Cherry blossomed in Japan with no partying.

We can wake up this humble world,  
We can rise up like a phoenix,  
We can bring a million minds together,  
Without the margins of religion and beliefs.  
We can fight this mega virus,  
Yes, we will stride through the black waters!

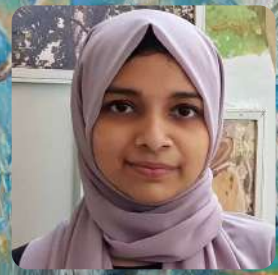






# THE RETRIEVE

When nature put us to test once again,  
When we were barred away from what we took for granted,  
When we had to pay for air,  
When the land refused to carry us,  
When our homes became our prisons,  
We realized we are not wanted, we don't belong.  
We fought back hard with all we had,  
We gathered together what we left unpolluted,  
We started to worship capeless heroes.  
We stuck together by staying apart.  
We lost lots.  
Yet we survived.  
We felt helpless.  
Yet, we made it through.  
Because, we are humans.  
Masters of hopes and dreams.



Anahida Mufeed

Grade 8

ACE Public School, Manjeri





Nafisa Islam  
Masters in English

The Bhawanipur Education Society College.  
Sreepally, Bhowanipore, Kolkata, West Bengal.

# ***BEGIN***

# ***AGAIN***

I paint the walls,  
Like it needed mending,  
Oh! the smell stings  
Like something new in welding

Deadly Dust is swept  
White washed doors,  
Faithfully Stood unlatched  
Finally Longing to be trespassed.

What took you so long?  
The room's untouched again,  
Wilting flowers in every vase  
Two years had been in vain.

Oh! The wails! the heaven's shaken  
Flowers didn't reach the graves,  
Now floods the reopened markets  
Nature's awakened.

It says, for all that was there is not  
And all that is there will not,  
Time tells the tale of the fallen  
Some rise again, not forgotten.







# AL SHIFA COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Run By Shifa Medicare Trust & Affiliated to University of Calicut

Keezhattur, Perinthalmanna. Ph: 04933 271 367, 9446 544 473

[www.alshifacollegeofartsandscience.ac.in](http://www.alshifacollegeofartsandscience.ac.in) | [info@alshifacollegeofartsandscience.ac.in](mailto:info@alshifacollegeofartsandscience.ac.in)

*A Different League!*