

## **Sujana Upadhyay**

### **Water**

It was only when the world around  
Muffled when under a shower.  
Later, when the echo surrounding  
The swimming pool distorted every sound.  
Later yet, when the gentle lapping  
Of the waves hid calmly a wild rage  
Did she fully accept  
Water to be her friend.

She had tried befriending paper before.  
Though easy to glue, it was too keen  
To bloat in all the ugliness.  
Stones and bricks eager to soak it all in.  
Metal too arduous, too reflective.

But, Water - diluting, drowning, out-screaming  
Water - faking calmness, numbing.

It was then she first started  
Cocooning herself with the refracted  
Version of reality.  
Stayed submerged, hearing only  
Now and then a distorted, lonesome syllable  
Escaping vicious tongues, as if from  
A long forgotten dream.  
Found comfort in her weightlessness  
Knowing she was no longer shrinking  
Under heavy, hurtful, diminishing words.  
Too deep and too remote  
For anybody to see and tell her -  
Neither was she growing