

# National Poetry Month

## Two lands

By Anushka Shenoy

There are two lands  
held together by only a rickety  
bridge.

A land of pink girlhood,  
full of white roses, so petite,  
a land so innocent and sweet.

On the other side lies  
the land of womanhood,  
full of black magic, and  
covered in a red fog.  
It holds you, chokes you,  
and you cannot escape.

You are pushed  
on to the bridge.

Wait! You cry  
I am not ready yet.  
I still belong here,

in this peaceful place.

Please, not now, please  
not yet.

I am not strong enough  
to pull through.

But you are pushed onto the  
bridge.  
Hurricanes roar, storms galore.  
There is no hard ground:  
You are forced  
ahead.

There is nowhere to go, but on  
and on, and on  
through the everblackening  
blackness.

All the way  
to the land of the red fog.

## Tired of being Sick and Tired...

By Savon Lindsay

Nothing but  
horrible,  
horrible,  
incredible  
pain...!

Feverish shakes, bowels ache  
and creeping, crawling veins.

And now it's about homi-  
cide or suicide!

And round about now, you  
wouldn't care if your Mama  
died...

A Spiritual Death,  
nothing like it in the world:  
possessed by a drug, some  
call crack others call it girl.

King Heroin, the Beast of  
the Feast...

but he'll get you too...to say  
the least...

Residue  
a rock or two...!

And the more you smoked,  
the less you knew;

on hands and knees crawl-  
ing for a cibble or a bit,

and a "Dopefiend's

Scream..." for his next hit...!

Whether you're a Gangster  
or  
would-be Ho!

Teacher...Preacher or  
Sports Hero,

'Bet money on the Spoon...'  
that Dope - thang will take  
you Dead to your Doom...!

Twenty-four-seven,  
around the clock...!

Like the walking-dead,  
searching, lurking for that in-  
cestuous rock

'it's Life or Death' and  
nothing in between;

and the reality of things are  
just

blown away Dreams...

For too many years,  
you used to live and lived

to use;  
smoked crack cocaine, shot

dope in your veins and drank  
plenty of

Booze,

and then came the  
soup-lines, the dirt and  
grime; and it was  
always the same ole  
thang, time after time...

But it's a New Day, Y'All!  
And we can have a  
Ball without Drugs and  
Alcohol...

So just say; Nope to  
Dope...!

And give your broth-  
ers and sisters your Love,  
Strength and Hope...

And remember  
what God said...!

that Faith without  
Works is Dead,

so come Hell or  
Highwater...Live or Die!

when you really get  
Tired, of being Sick and

Tired!

Tired,  
of being Sick and

Tired!  
Tired, of being Sick  
and Tired!

## A trace of tree

By Tracy Tree

I am a simple tree, simply  
me.

With nare a trace of self  
doubt

I trust this mystery com-  
pletely.

Mystery weaves me, un-  
ravels me

Weaves me again.

We dance, it bites and ex-  
cites

asking nothing of  
me...save

To notice this moment.

To be passionately aware  
Of each magic moment;

Thereby, remaining in a  
constant

State of bliss, in Discovery.

I surrender my thoughts,  
my tiny tunnel vision.

I hear not pathetic fears,  
my hopeless hopes.

Vigilant am I at the gate  
of thought;

Allowing not, longings  
and aversions

To creep unnoticed into

imaginings.

My imaginings are not  
wasted

pretending to know  
what I crave or condemn.

My imagries are the wings  
which rock me to and fro

adventure to home, again  
and again.

I feel a kindred spirit  
to the little Aspen tree;

too wild to fear, too inno-  
cent to bow,

trembling in the cradle of  
Mystery.

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