

Masood Ashraf Raja

For Benazir

What should I write?
That you were brave, there is no doubt
Much of our hope was linked to your labour,
In you we saw a new resilience,
A resolve that comforted us,
Allowed us to think
Of a future without fear, despair, and hate.

Amidst generals and politicians,
Mullahs and their satanic hordes,
You stood tall
As if in those years of exile
You had learnt to walk
The path of a true leader.
And now that they have killed you
Have our hopes died too?
I wonder, on this winter day
If your death will be the beginning of something new.
Or is it the return of "jahiliyya"
When we killed our daughters for convenience
And called it custom.

Rest in peace, Daughter of the East
For your toils are over,
While ours have just begun.
And though in our collective madness
We silenced you
You live like a ray of light
In this night of stillborn dreams.