

## Pulling Blue Ether

A.M. Bang

I called out in all the earthly directions  
The faint echoes whispered back  
Akaal

Never once told me you loved me  
Never returned my embrace  
Not even as they lay your body down  
How dare—

I hold myself in the darkness  
Filled with your emptiness  
You broke my heart

I have learned to sow  
To stitch the ground back together again  
You gave me no answer  
Only a note burned  
Before I had a chance to read  
I had to learn  
To study philosophy  
To make my own mind  
To fill in the blanks  
You beat me with your muffled words  
Your fists of absence  
How dare—

I toughened my skin and thickened my blood  
I forgave imperfections  
Unfurled the burden buried in a chance taken  
Made ashes into magic potions  
Poured out the vessel of tradition and obligation  
Walked into the desert at dusk  
Drove a stake down in MY name  
Not yours

You left me here alone  
To fetter out this world  
How dare—

I waited for you on sidewalk steps for  
Hours, days, years  
Until the temple of assault turned to dust and blew away

HOW  
I called out in all the dusty directions  
The wind whipped the word across my face  
Akaal

To forge as a pioneer  
To keep on wanting  
Waiting room after waiting room  
Wanting ME if only in kind  
How dare—

You defied the prognosis  
Of age and circumstance  
Of specter and time

You made a break for it  
Protecting the remains of a battered soul  
Maybe even mine  
From that raging war  
Its violence turned in to eat itself once  
Only safe shores remained  
How dare—

My will was not strong enough  
To kill you or keep you  
Someday's not soon enough  
Too soon for resolution  
Enough

How dare time soften my image of you  
Accusation becomes reflection on  
The surface of my skin  
To ask for prayers instead of answers

How dare you  
I called out in all the earth's directions  
But the dust is now settled  
The ground still  
Akaal

Louder  
Persistent  
AKAAL  
AKAAL  
AKAAL

I dare to love the way you couldn't  
To stand firm on this ground  
To build a temple here of our own creation  
To build a monument full of roses and lilacs  
Fill the halls with sweet fragrance beyond regret  
Perfumes of love and devotion

How to dare—

I dare you now to  
Come back home  
And sit down quietly at the altar of yourself  
And pray for me

How dare you  
How dare you  
How dare you  
I demand

How dare you?  
—The echo whispers back