

Introduction: The Magic Mix

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For several years, I knew Mohammad Zaman only as the courteous and unassuming physician whose clinic I would visit for allergy shots. Steady exposure to a concoction of mold, dust, pollen, and other allergens gradually opened my constricted bronchial tubes, providing relief during the allergy season. Although I ceased to visit the clinic, I continued to cross paths with Zaman on social occasions. Recently he shared with me the poems that make up this debut collection.

A poet, like an allergist, practices alchemy, only with different ingredients, mixing wonder, love, mystery, and reverie to open portals to unsuspected dimensions of existence. Such is the case in “I Rise To Undo My Death” whose cosmic perspective and intimacy define a father as an address and a compass in a universe that is at once dark and luminous:

When the heart is broken and spirit down
when the sun is setting and welkin painted
I sit on the river bank and drink
my glass of wine, my eyes closed,
I set my spirit free.

I am the son of my father.
I am the light of a billion stars.
Fireflies light the garden of night.

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