Tint Journal

POETRY

How a Mother Ages

by Sushma A. Singh



"The Shape of Existence" by Marjan Habibian (www.marjanhabibian.com)

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In bits, in steps
 heavy with things
named-unnamed; her tender
 tilt on a twirling earth.

In the lake
of her aura, with light
 and shadow
 unfolding their rhythm.

In the little hours
clocking a bottle
       mouth sky, nicked
    with   stars.

In dolls...
not opening-
       shutting   their
              hooded eyes.

In the grasp,
her hand slipping often,
to reach
   over your head as
the splayed wing
of   a   guard bird.

In season-
 sipped skin — satin, your
 baby finger tips
 skimmed — rippled
 to sandstone,
stringing her together.

In the curl of
your arms,   how
her sagging heartbeat
fills like hymns in
the temple air — the pockets
    inside   of you.

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