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একবার তুমি [TRY FOR ONCE]

Try for Once

Translated by Sumantra Baral
Original: Shakti Chattopadhyay

Try to love for once-
In the river you'll find stones falling from the heart of the fishes
Stones, a lot of stones and water, of river and sea
Blue stones turning red, red turning blue
Try to love for once.

It's good to keep stones in the heart-
You can get an echo of every sound
When every step is slithery, the stones, studded one by one
In the street become the liberty of poetry, like a wave,
Like an idol of Kumartuli, bespangled and embellished
I can cross miles to witness the door of the lifeless autumnal stars.

It's good to store stones in the heart
Letter-box doesn't exist anymore
but the hidden cracks of the stones may deliver the letters-
Though sometimes we want to build home.

The stones gradually change their address
From the heart of the fishes to mine
We need everything. We'll build home-uphold the promising mark of civilization
When the silver fish will go away showering the stones
Try to love for once.



SHAKTI CHATTOPADHYAY

Shakti Chattopadhyay was an eminent Bengali poet and writer.

He was born at Baharu village in modern-day South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, India.

In 1948, he came to Kolkata and joined Maharaja Cossimbazar Polytechnic School in class VIII.

Here he was introduced to Marxism by a teacher. In 1949 he established 'Pragati Library' and started a hand-written magazine, 'Pragati', which was soon changed into a printed one, changing the name to 'Bahnishikha'.

He passed Matriculation Examination in 1951 and got admitted to the City College to study commerce. It was the same year when he got membership of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

In 1953, he passed Intermediate Commerce Examination, but gave up studying commerce and got admitted to the Presidency College (now Presidency University, Kolkata) with Honours in Bengali literature but he did not appear in the examination.

(Source: Wikipedia)