

Poems

Phinder Dulai

In conversation

your guile smile
gentle and deadly
the way we mustered up our savvy
the way you reminded us
between each curl of smoke
you had done the long path
mine the short path of you

your life, my catharsis

you smiled benevolent abbreviation
i smiled tactile observation

you smiled the allure of cool
i was cool to a point

how your hand held your lover's back
each back and her depth in you

i smiled the course of my commitment
i stood... you stood

your confident frailty
my frail confidence

your romance of aesthetic

against the somber potential
of our known solitudes
on the train in a summer's glow
you braved the exit forward

i jolted upright
in seeing you
you beckoning me back to the seat
the tragedy of self knowledge

each to his own
how we never spoke of this
the lone being the solitude
our solitude of being alone

even in relationship
even when the stolid ground
gives way

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seven veils of surveillance

project and mediate this

passage to home

the anesthetized cave

eyes conclude in blistering light

the glare of one's own color

situate the battlefield

and ask who why and if ?

a season changed

fall gloam

light end
of end light

a rainbow disappears
pale light leaves
streets become pedestrian

thick grey clouds
wrap cell towers

radars transmit to tall listeners
did not see this coming
opened their faces
listened for war mongers

radio this in:

*rain stings wet metal beams
splatter leaves concrete pockmarks
those who see
dive under nearest car
towers bleed
black tears ripple down
cars groan
groans join cries
those trapped beneath
feel skin drip from body
entrails bubble over rib cage
turn viscous
rush to drain that opens outward
each drop dissolves asphalt*

this is how

the world takes

its own life

Phinder Dulai

Phinder Dulai's most recent poetry collection is *dream / arteries* (Talonbooks); and he is also the author of two previous books of poetry: *Ragas from the Periphery* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 1995) and *Basmati Brown* (Nightwood Editions, 2000). His most recent work is published in *Here Magazine*, *Cue Books Anthology* and forthcoming anthology *Along Together*. His work has been published both in Canada and abroad and he is a co-founder of an interdisciplinary contemporary arts group The South of Fraser Inter Arts Collective (SOFIA/c).