

Thinking with Tagore

For 2023, we offer twelve songs by Rabindranath Tagore, a mere handful from over two thousand compositions available at present. Our selection celebrates nature, human emotions, including love, and opens up possibilities of exploring our location within the wider universe. These songs remind us about the rhythms of the seasons, space, life and death, change, transience, loss and renewal.

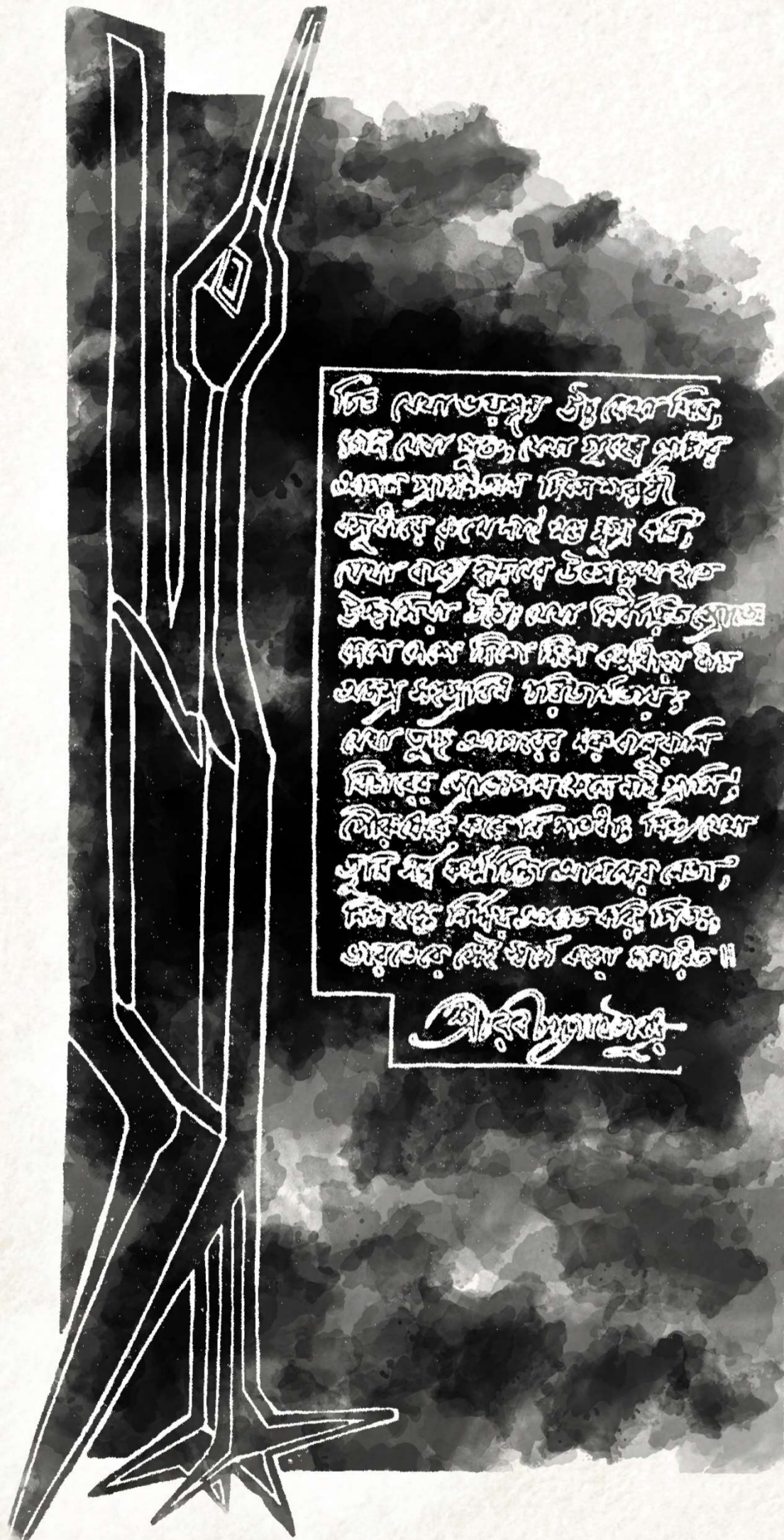
Those interested in further details about these songs are welcome to visit the channel poushphagunerpala on Youtube, where each rendition is accompanied by a brief commentary in English, the lyrics in Bangla and an English translation.



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JANUARY



AAMAAR MUKTI AALOY AALOY

*My freedom is in light, in the sky,
In dust and in the grass.
I lose myself in the distance, beyond
the limits of body and mind,
My freedom floats on high in the
melody of the song.
My freedom is in the depths of the
heart of all,
In accomplishing the difficult, in
sorrow and in danger.
May I offer myself as an oblation in
the sacrifice of the lord of the world;
May I attain freedom.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Makar Sankranti
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Republic Day	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

FEBRUARY



MEGH BOLECHE

“I will go,” the cloud declared; night said:

“I go as well.”

*“I am no more, as I meet the shore,”
is what the ocean said.*

*Sorrow announced: “I am the silent
imprint of His feet.”*

*The self said: “I am now one, and do not
crave for more.”*

*“It is I who bear a garland to greet you,”
says the earth.*

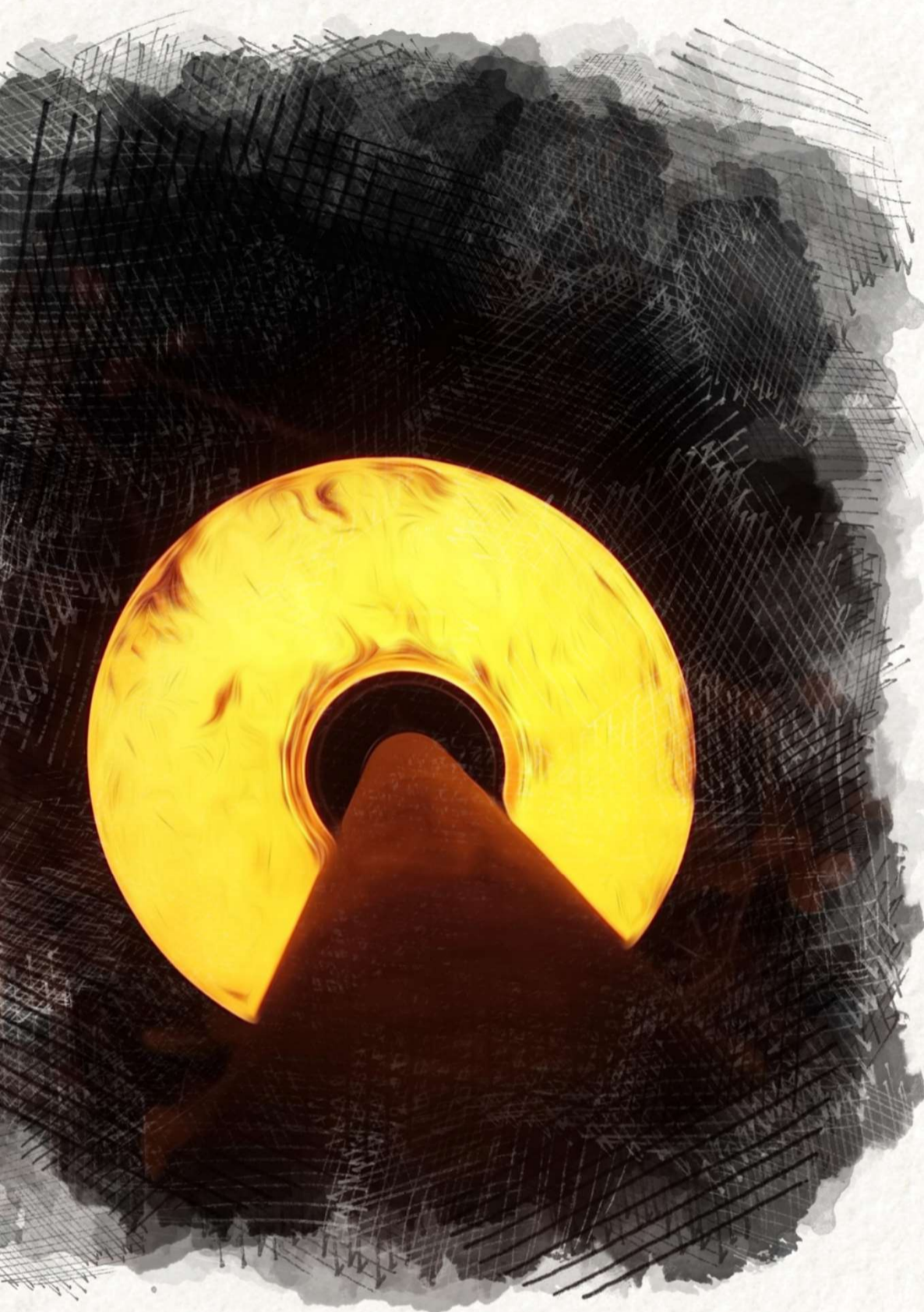
*The sky proclaims: “I light a million
lamps for you.”*

*Love announces: “It is I who remain
eternally awake for you.”*

*And death declares: “It is I who steer the
raft that is your life.”*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4

MARCH



EI UDAASHI HAOWAAR PAWTHEY

*I have gathered the buds scattered along
the path by the langorous breeze,
And offered them at your feet. Accept them
with compassionate hands.
They will flower in your lap
when I am gone,
And may your fingers, weary with the sweet
pain of stringing garlands, remember me.
The deep night is rent by the cries of the
sleepless bird, which falls silent at last.
Our whispered words, our ecstatic union,
Are washed away in the flood
of the moonlit spring,
Traces of these will remain, for days to come,
Entwined in the garland you weave in the
slow hours of the afternoon.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Holi	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Maha Shivaratri
19	20	21	22 Ugadi / Gudi Padwa	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Ram Navami	31	1



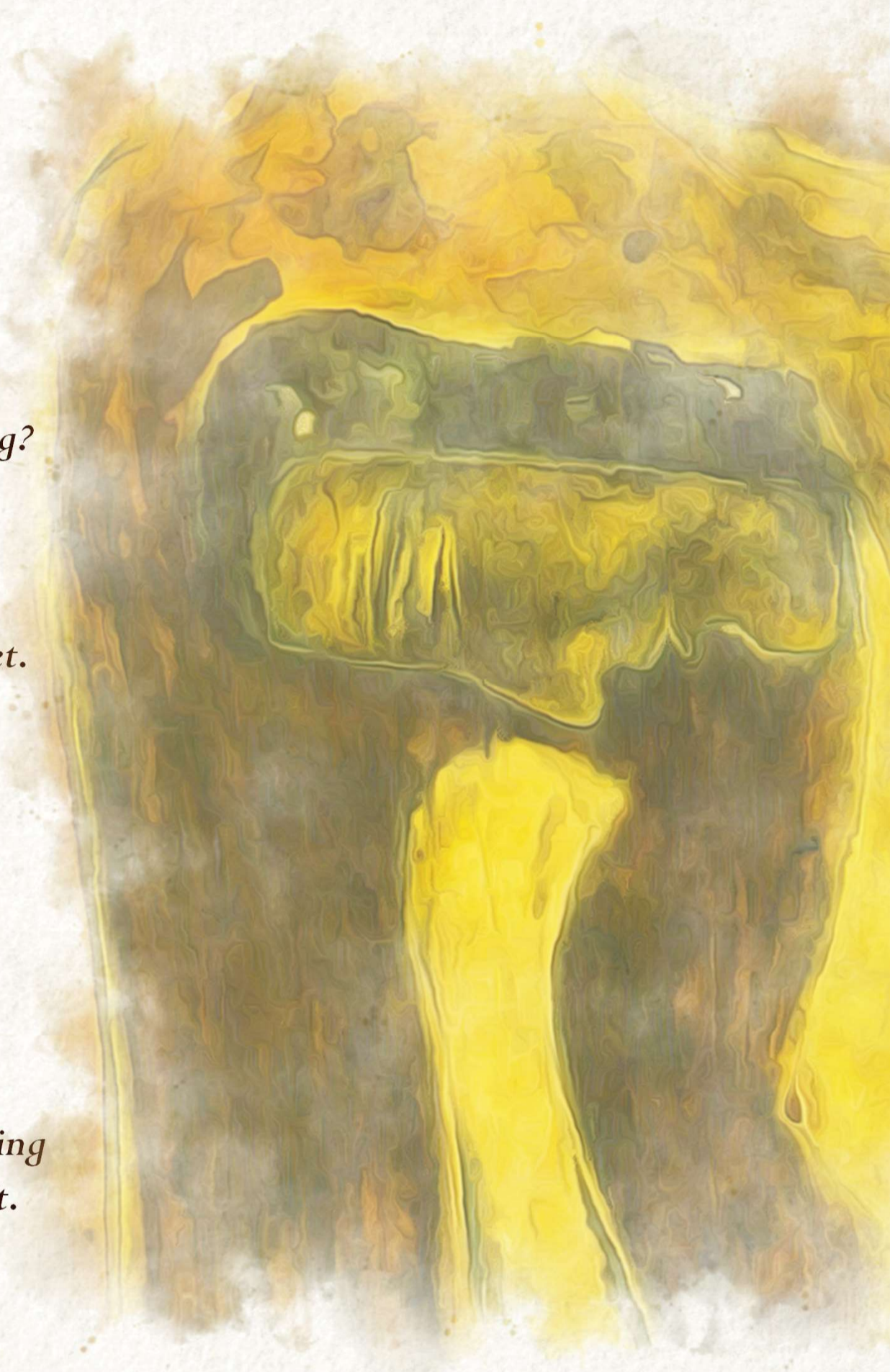
LIKHONO TOMAAR

*The words that you wrote have mingled
with the dust,
The syllables are now lost.
I sit alone in this night in spring,
wondering whether
The traces of your playful words appear once
more in the woods.
Do your old letters return, long forgotten and
unknowingly, in the fresh leaves?
The forest overflows with the fragrance
of the mallika,
Resonating with your name.
Your words, as gentle as your touch,
bring back to mind
Notes filled with the pangs of separation.
Your old letters sway on the branches
of the madhavi.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30 Ram Navami	31	1
2	3	4 Mahavir Jayanti	5	6	7 Good Friday	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Eid ul-Fitr
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1 Labour Day	2	3	4	5 Buddha Purnima	6

OGO KAANGAAL

*O destitute, you have impoverished me,
 what more is it that you want?
 O supplicant, O my supplicant,
 what is this melancholy song that you sing?
 I had hoped to gratify you
 with fresh treasures every morning,
 But alas, my supplicant, I
 Have in an instant offered all at your feet.
 Nothing more remains.
 I have clothed you with the cloth that
 covers my breast,
 I have emptied my world to gratify
 your every wish,
 My entire life, my freshly found youth,
 all lie within your grasp.
 My supplicant,
 Alas, if you crave for more, give me something
 at least, so that I can return it as my gift.*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1 Labour Day	2	3	4	5 Buddha Purnima	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



CHIROSHAWKHAA HEY

*O my friend through eternity,
never abandon me.*

*Be my fearless support
in the wilderness that is the world,
whether I am alone or in a crowd.*

*Be the wealth of the destitute,
the refuge of those who have none,
the strength of the weak.*

*And, O ocean of immortality,
rejuvenate all who are weighed down,
worn and weary with age.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Rath Yatra	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Bakr Eid / Eid ul-Adha	30	1

JULY

MEGH CHHAYE

*I am restless, lost in thought throughout
the day, in clouds, shadows, the rain-
soaked wind,
Enduring, alas, the dormant pain of the
smile that has vanished.
The petals of the bokul with which you
had garlanded me
Lie scattered; yet their fragrance remains
in my heart.
I know that you will never return,
as your path winds away in the distance.
And yet, you cannot leave me in a world
that is eternally empty.
For though you have borne away my flute,
you have left me with your melody.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29 Bakr Eid/ Eid ul-Adha	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Muharram	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

AUGUST

AAJI GODHULI LAWGONEY

*As twilight descends through
the clouds in the sky*

My heart beats to the rhythm of his steps.

Throughout the day my heart says:

“he will come.”

A mysterious ecstasy fills my eyes with tears.

*Was that his scarf, blown by the restless wind,
that caressed me,*

With the fragrance of the rajanigandha?

My heart says: “he will come.”

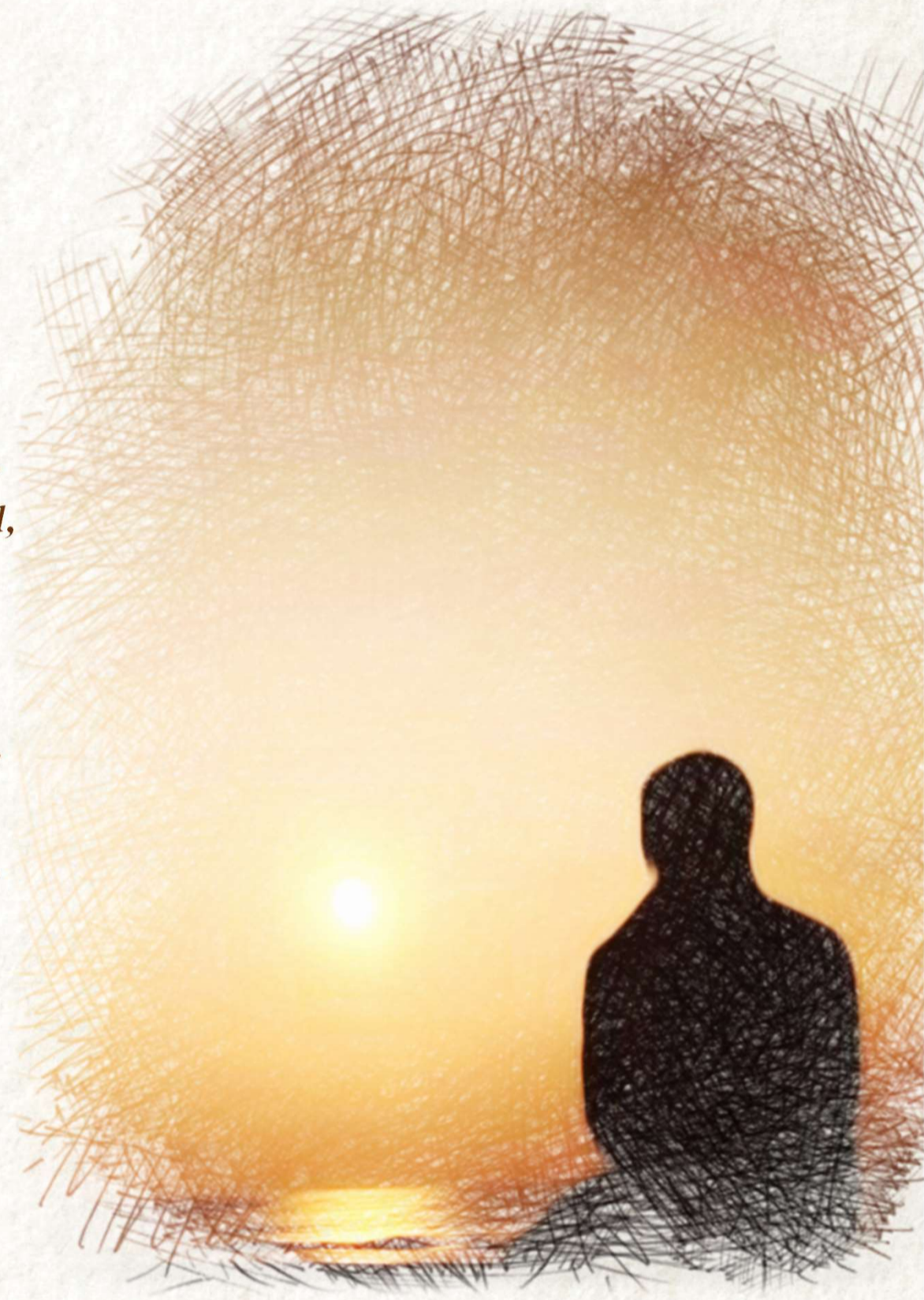
*An unending stream of words flows from the
heart of the restless malati creeper,*

The trees of the forest whisper and murmur;

*I wonder whether they too
have received a message.*

*The veil across the breast of
the celestial beauty trembles;*

My heart says: “he will come.”



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Independence Day	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Raksha Bandhan	1	2

SEPTEMBER

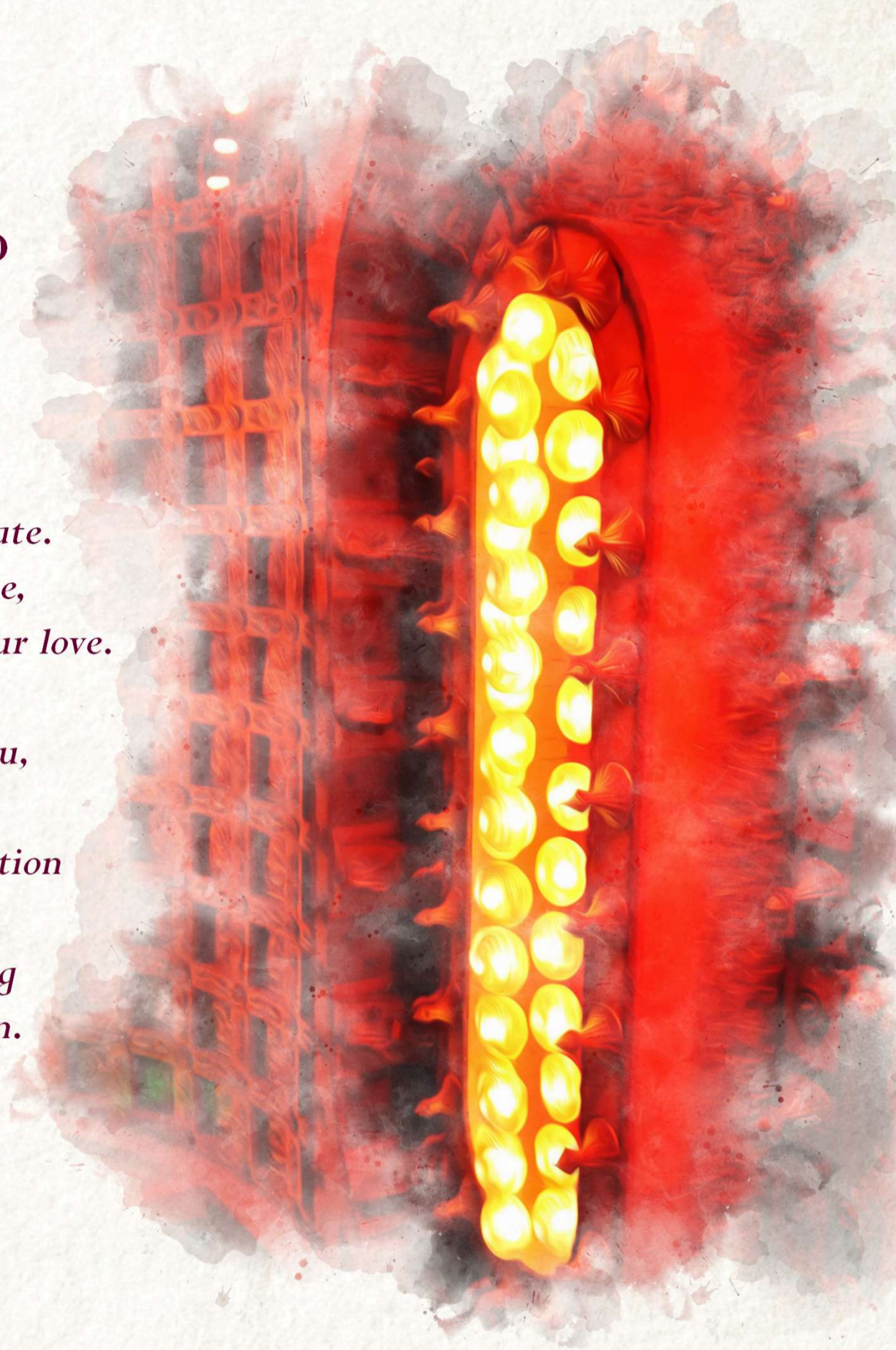
ANDHA JANEY DEHO AALO

*Enlighten those who do not see,
pour life into the lifeless,
O ocean of compassion,
may we receive the drops that resuscitate.*

*My shriveled heart is as hard as stone,
Moisten my dry eyes with the stream of your love.*

*Welcome those who have forgotten you,
Take care of those who stray afar,
May they drink the nectar of your affection
and attain peace,*

*Comfort the parched souls wandering
on the banks of your ambrosial ocean.*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31 Raksha Bandhan	1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Janmashtami	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Vinayaka Chaturthi	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Milad un-Nabi	28	29 Onam	30

AAHAA TOMAAR
SHONGEY PRAANER
KHELAA

*My beloved, O my beloved, I play
the sport of my life with you —
My heart is restless, I do not
think it will accept defeat.
Will you elude me, now that I
am reddened with your colors?
O lord, may your breast receive
my colors, as you surrender
willingly to me.
May your clothes be dyed with
the rose-tinted pollen from the
lotus of my heart.*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Durga Ashtami	23	24 Dussehra/ Vijayadashami	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

NOVEMBER

ROOP SHAAGOREY

I have immersed myself in the sea of forms, hoping to discover the formless jewel.

I will no longer drift along in my worn-out boat, wandering from one harbor to the next.

May the time for being battered by waves end,

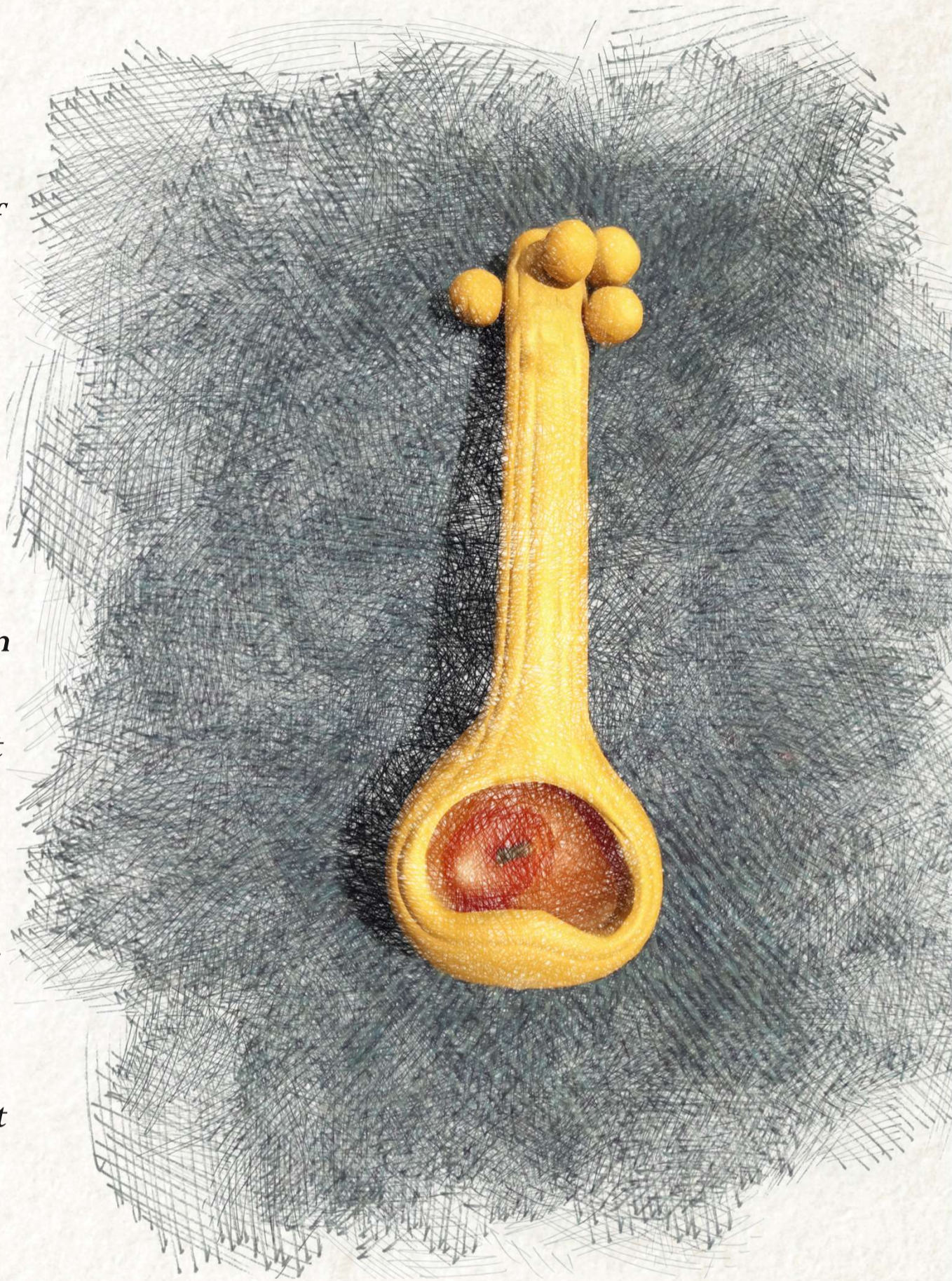
And, even as I die, may I, drowning in ambrosia, attain immortality.

May I take the lute of my life to that boundless assembly hall,

Where, unheard by the ears, music resounds constantly.

And, even as I weep through my last song, I will string it to the eternal melody.

May I offer my muted lute at the feet of the One who is always silent.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Diwali / Deepavali	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Guru Nanak Jayanti	28	29	30	1	2

DECEMBER

EBAAR AAMAAY

*Now you invite me
To the secret realm beyond the seas.
I have set my burden down;
take me along with you.
You quench my parched throat with
the gentle beauty of the silent night.
My friend will now enjoy the nectar
Of my twilight bloom.
The light from the lamp of the stars
will illuminate my heart,
And all the words that were mine will
flow into your song.*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27 Guru Nanak Jayanti	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6

*Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments
by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out
from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into
the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever-widening thought and action,
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake.*

Acknowledgements

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