

HOLLOW

Don't call

if there's nothing to say

stay empty

surface never reveals depth

lonelier in a crowd

than alone

these kisses could

bring about Zahhak's fate

No matter the number of lamps you turn on

night stays night

Zahhāk is an evil figure in Iranian mythology, who was a ruler. Ahriman (an evil spirit) asked to kiss his shoulders and at once, two snakes grew out of Zahhak's shoulders. The only remedy to let the snakes sate their hunger was by supplying them with human brains; otherwise the snakes would feed on Zahhak's own brain.

ESCAPEMENT

Burnt colors

hazy murmurs smoking

silence of coffee

sounds bitterest—last departures

deep echo

broken choo-choo

train passing

between stations

(without aim)

Stitches atop embankment

along border of connection

have loosened

woods skirting soil's corpse

lips of Zamzam

go slack

disconsolate wetting

flow of

a salty departure

there's no light of emerging well

or intimacy of thirsty heels digging

shoes mismatched

turning out two strangers

in parallel stride

towards eternity

The **Well of Zamzam**, according to Islamic belief, it is a miraculously-generated source of water from God, which began thousands of years ago when Abraham's (Ibrāhīm) infant son Ishmael ('Ismā'īl) was thirsty and kept crying for water. Ismail scraped the land with his feet, where suddenly water sprang out. Muslims believe that the Zamzam well is a contemporary miracle, never having gone dry despite the millions of litres of water attributed to the well consumed every year.