

Renée Sarojini Saklikar

Locator: *pacifica*

from *thecanadaproject, volume 2*

Invocation: these permeable borders

[in the year of the reign, 2014]:
On the night in question,
ten migrant workers, all male
were found to have—

An immigrant woman
acting as citizen
her mother also—

Observations, surreptitious.
There was the walking.
A perimeter. A city park.

that evening

“n: Sing. Do not sing.”
Shunned, also.

*The past is a continuance: June 23,
1985—* Descriptor: her hand
appears as interlocutor, against
a background. Place as before,
and after. Time—

“



”

Before is also a place: third season, in the year of the reign 2014

If technology
a year provides
disengagement, driving
explained the initiative
and looking forward
discussion prevented
surrounded. totality

[“Informant to N: ‘you will need to—”]

Is actually formaldehyde
Witnessing eagerly
per person per day
acronyms in action
towards separation
neglected to answer
worked as follows

[Informant to N: you seem obsessed]

per day per entry
Univac 490 strictly
controlled and on loan
did not neuter
the numbers against
stolen or belonged
on this occasion
just seven seconds
as always the challenge
more directly invested
mechanisms repeatedly
and loudly, retracted
Instead of waiting

N's Accompaniment

And so it came to pass
Now, in that place
Once, upon time
She had undertaken
Working carefully, she
With care and attention,
the moon.

Her cyclical persona
There were, of(f) course,
Different personal epochs
Embedded in the names
Outside any center

Where they buried him
the stone glowed
its own concrete
imagining
immigrant to
citizen. Perimeter,
a park. A graveyard.

The means of production

To the city then they came
Approach, said the Inspector
A calamity borne in minute traces
Toward what disaster, amid plenty
No lack, a fullness
This capacity, surreptitious, a watching
Conventions dictated that she must
What is in a gaze? To be looked at
Edifice, means of transport, greenery
Seated, there were no tables or chairs
Seated, they missed the old oak pews
An Arborist of the time-before, a place
Sing(h), discern, separate, the peoples
All tender, the leaf, a stem, saved.

After, that is, before, there was arrival.
Disputed terror. Also, colour. Skinned,
 history. Aware. Those men.
 Turbans not mentioned.
River demarcating, what, exactly?
Perimeter, a statement of polis.
Always, the start of something.
Walked. Park, not graveyard.
The names. Saved for later.

Jaldi! Jaldi!

Carry-over and trace

“N: What will always be missing?

n: Sing. Do not sing(h).

...

N: Sing of the days just after the bomb. Do not sing.

n: Shunned, also.

N: So many details to withhold. Tell them. Do tell them.

...

n: Why not consult the record that is the saga of the bombing of the plane?

N: It is all there. There is nothing.”

And space, a field
these exclusions

...place began
years earlier,
before each incident.

To Canada, arrival
marked by inoculation.
N entered that grade, citizen,
only years later.
Perimeter is the not spoken. Aligned,
The lines become—

There is no mention of the modes of transportation.
There is no mention of numbers.
There is no mention of accent,
where language
is a place.

Before is also a place: third season, in the year of the reign 2014

As close to perfect
Pay no attention
Make no impression
A year before
The idea is
Yet doesn't seem to
the long-ago

Which began on
In other words
To the heroic
And handed in
However futuristic
However familiar
In the business of churning

[The essence of witnessing
Is the placement of others.]

how can it be, that there is communication.
and it is
about intonation.
There is
sameness. Inside history, implication
we never speak of it

Un/authorized interjection:

“ ‘objecting to any mention of a bomb’ ”

N's Accompaniment

So, then, place
as political. Side
by side, and for want of better
she had taken out these

letters.

Inspector to migrants: Approach.

She was merely observant.

If approached in the correct manner

That evening, the perimeter

She, being shunned, could not

If approached in the correct manner

Every tree became as letter

Conscious of being different

She was merely observant,

Of their language and its workings.

The essence of witnessing

Is the placement of others.

Renée Sarojini Saklikar writes *thecanadaproject*, a life-long poem chronicle that includes poetry, fiction, and essays. Published work from the project appears in journals, anthologies, and newspapers, including, *ti-TCR / a web folio (The Capilano Review)*, *Literary Review of Canada*, *The Vancouver Review*, *Geist*, *Poetry is Dead*, *SubTerrain*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Ryga*, a journal of provocations, and many more. The first completed book from *thecanadaproject* is *Children of Air India, un/authorized exhibits and interjections*, (Nightwood Editions, 2013) winner of the 2014 Canadian Authors Literary Award for poetry and a finalist for the 2014 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Award. The poem “trace” and the collaged image first appeared in *Children of Air India* (Nightwood Editions, 2013).