

## INKLING FROM THE DARKNESS

The poem “Inkling from Darkness” it is an English rendering of a Kashmiri poem “Pai Tche Zulmati Vuzan” by Rehman Rahi, a veteran poet and professor of Kashmiri and emeritus at Kashmir University. It is metaphysical poem focusing, most probably, on the age old concept of the apparent and timely triumph of “Evil or vice” on “Good or virtue”, but ultimate inevitable and everlasting victory of the good—the virtue.

The poem begins on a depressing and pessimists note with violence and bloodshed as its main features but ends on an optimistic note promise bright and beautiful future.

An eagle ( Symbol of tyranny and evil) is espied by the poet in his dream carrying a dove ( symbolizing innocence and virtue) in its tyrannous claws and its cruel beak busy in pulling out and shedding innocent victim’s feathers over hill tops together with blood dripping from its hapless body. He over turns his head on the pillow but is horrified still more by sighting a deep dark chasm. The horror of the dream drives off the poet’s sleep and he sits up in his bedpost resting his back against the wall with the chill of the winter settling in the marrow of his bones. It forces him to pull up the quilt to combat the cold but the *Kangri* gets over turned and its cold down ashes cover his feet intensifying his discomfiture still further. His horror is intensified when he looks up and finds a cat sitting upon the peg on which he had hung his Pheran before going to sleep. To add to the gloom and despair, he feels incomprehensible and unintelligible whisperings going on outside the windowpanes and an owl hooting “ O vow to you”. It sends a shiver of terror and fear through his spine and carries his discomfiture to unbearable limits.

Suddenly he remembers his son having gone to sleep while listening to his bed time tale about the travails of an oyster trying to bring forth a pearl. The poet jumped off his bed post, switched on the lights and heaved a sigh of relief on finding him in deep slumber resembling a mushroom on a mound with pleasing, innocent smile brightening up his face and drops of sweat shining like pearls on his forehead. He surmises that the child must be dreaming of oyster bringing forth the pearl. Thus the poem ends on a happy note with a promise of bright and beautiful future full of hope.