

Survivors

by Dilip Mohapatra (August 2016)



The serpentine candle march
slithers along the streets
near *Jantar Mantar*
with pent up emotions
flowing in silent tears
even after two years
tears which have not yet dried up
reminding us of the black day
of sixteenth December
when *Jyoti* was rechristened
Damini or *Nirbhaya*

and a victim with a new name
the survivor.

And eons ago
not very far away
in the courts of *Hastinapura*
amidst the lustful eyes
of the lecherous men
while her legitimate protectors
bow their heads in shame
attempt is made to
disrobe *Draupadi*
but in vain
and the victim becomes
victorious
another survivor.

The ink has dried on
the pages of Mahabharata
and the candles have died
but the sparks within
live on and smolder

that may leap into flame
and become an inferno
and the *Shakti* within
each feminine heart
will resonate with one another
with an indomitable spirit
undaunted
unadulterated
undiluted
and undeterred
when the presumed survivor
becomes the conqueror
when the so called vanquished
becomes the victor.

Dilip Mohapatra (b.1950), a decorated Navy Veteran started writing poems since the seventies . His poems have appeared in many literary journals of repute worldwide. Some of his poems are included in the World Poetry Yearbook, 2013 and 2014 Editions. He has four poetry collections to his credit published by Authorspress India, and one non-fiction, a book of wisdom titled Points to Ponder. He holds two masters degrees, in Physics and in Management Studies. He lives with his wife in Pune. His website may be accessed at dilipmohapatra.com.

To comment on this poem or to share on social media, please
click