

# Two Poems

by Ankur Betageri (June 2018)



*View from Heidelberg Castle, Wilhelm Trübner, 1873*

## **Adoration of an Eikon**

If his love has become a torment

it's 'cause he lacks faith in the illumination of the face

and, he wavers, the light persuading him to trust

while he distrusts—

Out of the photograph her eyes seem to peer

through the mask of his face, at who he is.

She had only looked at the camera-eye  
but that look, whose eyes did it seek?  
It meets his, and though neither knows the other  
the taut muscle of her neck tightens his.  
Spring trees blossom and swell his mind's streets  
he walks along their edge nervous in the feet.  
By not knowing her he can be her better  
look out of her eyes—into a mirror.  
Moth-like he hovers over the flame of her face  
an icon whose adoration has made her his image.



*Notre Dame au Soleil*, Albert Marquet, 1904

## A Deep Calm as of Another Time . . .[\[1\]](#)

In the shaded space between trees and buildings  
on the road stretched between parked cars  
in the lassitude of leaves and cawing of crows  
in my shadow cast by morning sun on a faraway window  
in the shawl draped on a woman walking  
in the cheep-cheep & twittering & cries of birds  
in the flapping of eagle-wings, in the hovering of a buzzing  
bee  
in the casual sniffing and ambling of a dog  
in the dispersal over roofs of grey pigeons  
in the stillness of nameless berries hanging serenely in light  
there is a deep calm as of another time  
lost in my memory, in the flavour of other mornings,  
there is the sensation of another eye kissed by this air  
a strange moment it is lobbed into the day  
that evokes the childhood memory of timelessness.

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[\[1\]](#) The original Kantian title of this poem is: A Moment of Deep Calm Evokes a Memory That Has Become an Idea of Reason.

**Ankur Betageri** is a poet, short fiction writer and visual artist based in New Delhi. He is the author of *The Bliss and Madness of Being Human* (poetry, 2013) and *Bhog and Other Stories* (short fiction, 2010). He teaches English at Bharati College, University of Delhi. His poetry has appeared in *Maple Tree Literary Supplement*, *Mascara Literary Review* and *London Review of Books*.

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