

***Still Together***

by Naomi D'Souza

Across the field I go,  
Jogging a little at first, then picking up pace,  
My legs pounding, a rhythm resounding  
Sadness dropping  
Below, far below  
the fierce roaring in my ears.  
When I am in this space,  
Lonely shadows and lonelier fears  
Are thrown behind in the race.

Even the sharpest objects now blur,  
Painful edges softening as they occur.  
Stings now gone by in a blast,  
All of them flashing by  
While hues of colour ripple past.

A blood-red comet in the sky,  
A wisp of summer breeze,  
Sparkling rivers of frozen music,  
I fly through all of these

And more. There are memories too  
Of my sister and me,  
Memories like pearls on a necklace.  
What do you do when the necklace breaks  
And they slip away? When a loved one fades away?

All the times we'd run this field,  
We'd run it together.

Now I run alone like music, like music at its most  
As rippling shades of sunset drape the rippling coast.  
All I know is that nothing can happen to me  
Until the music stops.

Dear sister, won't you run with me again?  
My thoughts are whirling, the wind is humming,  
And I'm still running  
Although cold moonlight is starting to cry.  
Why did she leave me? Why?  
And yet a spear of amethyst,  
A single spear of palest, palest amethyst  
Remains glowing in the sky.  
Hope begins to soar, to fly  
And it will never die.

Hold on, she told me that fatal day, hold on.  
Across a field of glittering stars  
We'll laugh again, love again, run again,  
Still together.

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