

Pilgrimage

Dr. Rose Sebastian
Assistant Professor
Bharata Mata College
Thrikkakkara, Kerala

And we parted
To our separate silences.
There is a suicidal impulse
To love you still
And to love you more,
And a pressing need to survive you.
At times I embark on
Excruciating journeys to you,
Sweating blood in every step.
The pilgrimage of an atheist.
You are my religion,
If ever I had one.
I did not see the impending sacrifice
When you kissed me at the altar.
Here is my flesh and blood!
The same altar.
I bow my head in front of what we were.
And I cry a few sips, "To Us!"