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Gotra I Choose

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Gotra I Choose

Cover Page Footnote

I would like to acknowledge everyone of the program of Comparative Literature, Louisiana State University for their love, affection, and support.

Gotra I Choose

Gotra and law—both derided me
When I chose to unlearn my
Understanding of the components of hemoglobin
or the anatomy of my
Genitals
that speak of my *Savarna* chastity ---

It's all poetry down there
 Rhymes unfurling my clitoris
 constantly erupting into spectacles
 that made Jadavpur University,
a secluded comfort zone,
an asylum for the abjecting *Savarna*
and feel the warmth—
I have always defined as
 “family”
Discarding the “gotra” they speak in God’s name
Discarding the
 torch-bearers of my lineage
who [with a few exceptions]
are scribes of Manu
 like the old Ganga—
now dying in the historic blood of
rape, abuse, violence and tears
of ties enforced
 upon us all –
taking us to streets – where I
 see women born with different genitals

conjuring solar storms
that will one day displace
the orbit of our Manu's code.

So I un-learned my chastity,
My *gotra* and
My vagina
Shedding off my enforced ties
Before "they" become a part of "me"
here in the Southern shores of Mississippi
conjuring my rebirth—
in their Cuban, Afro-American
Iranian and spells undefined
a priestess who awakened my,
dormant "atma"
revealing to me the emotions I
am capable of inscribing
and witness how a family
forms
assigning a new "gotra"
that will never
scorn my genitals
a new *gotra* that will never question my fears
a new *gotra* that finds a root in
Karmayoga!

I felt the magic of family –
learning how spices melt in Mississippi's bosom,
How poetry brings together two souls

like volcanoes of the same fire
flavors unexplored – yet familiar
hidden in my subconscious dreams !!

a magic around oak tress
providing shelter to a homeless traveler
a certain warmth of guardians of
“Trails of Tiger”

Home-made chocolate cookie

When she felt my longing

And the void of a familial warmth

As leaves drowned themselves in Fall Break’s eve.

And I learnt with my priestess

And I learnt with my dream-interpreters

And I learnt with souls from middle-East and China

How families are created

And what it feels to be

“at home.”