

THREE HIMALAYAN POEMS

Payson R. Stevens

Between

Somewhere between the
Mountains and meadows
Angular boulders
Lie scattered
A mirror of a life:
Soaring peaks,
Tumbled ridges,
Grasses swaying,
Shafts bent;
Wild fragrance
Here...gone.

Tremble Monal pheasant
Flicker Viper tongue
Flutter Oak leaf
Dance golden Goral*,
Dance.

In darkening forest
Bear and leopard roam.

The Sainj River* trickles,
From glacial melt source.
Then,
Gaining,
Twisting,
Roaring,
Scouring,
Polishes clean
The sharp edges,
In the journey down.

All around and between:

The Mighty Himalayas
Swallowed by the fog.

* rare Himalayan antelope
* major river with source in the
Great Himalayan National Park, India
Rakti Sar, Sainj River Source, GHNP, 14 May 06

Stillness

Take me to the place
Where the oaks
Knarl and twist
Where their dusky trunks
Catch cords of light,
And velvet Himalayan meadows
Undulate and throb.

Take me to
Where sheep graze to live
And hungry foxes die
Waiting on cold slopes,
Their bones all merging
With the rich forest litter.

Take me to the place
Where I can sit under
The high gaze of
Himalayan griffins
Indifferent to my wandering presence.
While the fluttering shadows
Bounce off the shimmering moment:
Off rock and skin
And leaf and bark
And bone and moss
And lichen and petal
And thought...
Then none.

As the silence is broken
By falling leaf
By wind in oak
By bird in song
By blood in brain
By silence in stillness,
By stillness in oneness.

For CvM
Lambri Peak, 28 May 06

Creation

They do not attain position
Nor come to you in dreams.
They are not borne by time
Nor its passage.
They are not found
in the work of others.

When they come
The mind is open, often empty
Waiting from all the previous effort,
thought, and focus.

A whisper or a word
A fragment or a breeze
Light fracturing or flowing
An image recalled or revealed
A sound or a note floating.

Within and without
The great mystery embraces you
And for a moment
You are transported
Beyond this mortal moment.

For KKK
Behta Pani, 12 Sept 06