

Liberal Indian am I ?

- *Karthika Periyathambi*

Smoky clouds continue spreading around
Sweet memories flood in with the smell of death
In direct contrast to the worries that surround
All my heart wants to do is the re-live every happy breath

As a kid I aspired to be a brave soldier of my country
Years of hardwork, dedication and strictly following order
Finally into the biggest army of the world did I claim my entry
Right now, fighting my deadliest battle at the Wagah border

India my nation, my soul, my birth place of respect
From 1947, the nation that weaves in equality and liberty
Free I am, as in to choose and decide every aspect
Empowered by our constitution for equal growth and prosperity

With these patriotic feelings did I grow up in a town small and ruddy
Still remember my best little friend Ramu, who worked all day in my home
To school, he was never allowed though he aspired to study
Belonged to the lower caste did he, but to talk to him I did have freedom

Football I got addicted to and dreamt of being FIFA player
Was pulled from practice and turned into IIT coaching
As I had the freedom to be a hardware or software engineer
Free I was to sit in a single place through all the night studying

And then I fell in love with the most beautiful girl I've seen
Promised her to never separate... to stay with her forever and ever
My house elders made me realize what a prat I've been
To fall in love with a Muslim girl... free was I to marry any Hindu except her

Sudden deafening sound jolts me into the present time further
At the LOC, cross fire continues to take innocent lives incessantly
Across the line is another human: a son, a husband, a brother and a father
No personal enmity, still I aim for his head.. to enforce my country's liberty!
Fighting a lost cause to attain liberty when I have ceded it long ago...