COME TO ME, GENTLY, WITH GLITTER CLUTCHED IN YOUR PALMS

POETRY

Sanyukta Shiv Kumar

Would I look at you and see violets and gold like my mother did
Her eyes shimmering and teary as they reflected the gold draped on me
Would I touch you and feel the velvet of your creases against my skin
Or would my calloused palms grapple with your delicate ones for space
Would I look at you and want to slip princesses and villains into your life
With their grandeur and unattainable tongues and hair
Would I need you like the matchstick needs its howling flames
Or would I weep as I turn into cinders, sorrow and melting glass
Would I depend on you like the moon depends on the sun to breathe upon the world

Or would I ache that I'm no longer the sun

Would I smile when I touch my belly and know you're dreaming

Of colossal wishes and the genie in the lamp as you turn

Or would I scream in broken fractals of denial

Because the genie is a fiend who steals wishes as the clock strikes...

Perhaps

Perhaps I would hold, perhaps I would let go

Perhaps I would scream, shriek, break. Change.