Nation's call

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Wiping her tears away,
she looks at the sky,
searching for her brother in one of the stars;
how hard her eyes try.

“You promised me when I was small,”
She points to the picture on the wall.
“That never will I feel abandoned in my life,
then why have you left me alone to survive?”

"I wish to become half as brave as you were;
half as strong as my brother at the border.

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And 364 days true to my words I stay,
But how should I stop my tears from flowing on Raksha-
bandhan day?"

"While everyone else is tying the sacred thread,
I am here missing you, in my heart and in my head;
remembering how I would irritate you for a gift -
Who’d have ever thought, this far apart we’d drift?"

"When you joined the army
I used to post Rakhis to you.
Thinking - what can be worse than this?
This distance between brother and sister?"

"Life laughed at me
and sent you in a box ... wrapped
in a package I wish I had never opened;
It left me forever handicapped."

"You died once that day
And I died twice.
Seeing you asleep forever
full of water were my eyes."

"I didn’t let even a drop roll down, you see -
you’d told me to be proud and why shouldn’t I be?
My brother died for the nation with a smile
and I stand proudly here all this while."

"I’ll never let dry the glister ...
But let me tell you one thing,
it’s not easy to be
a soldier’s sister!"