



Nation's call

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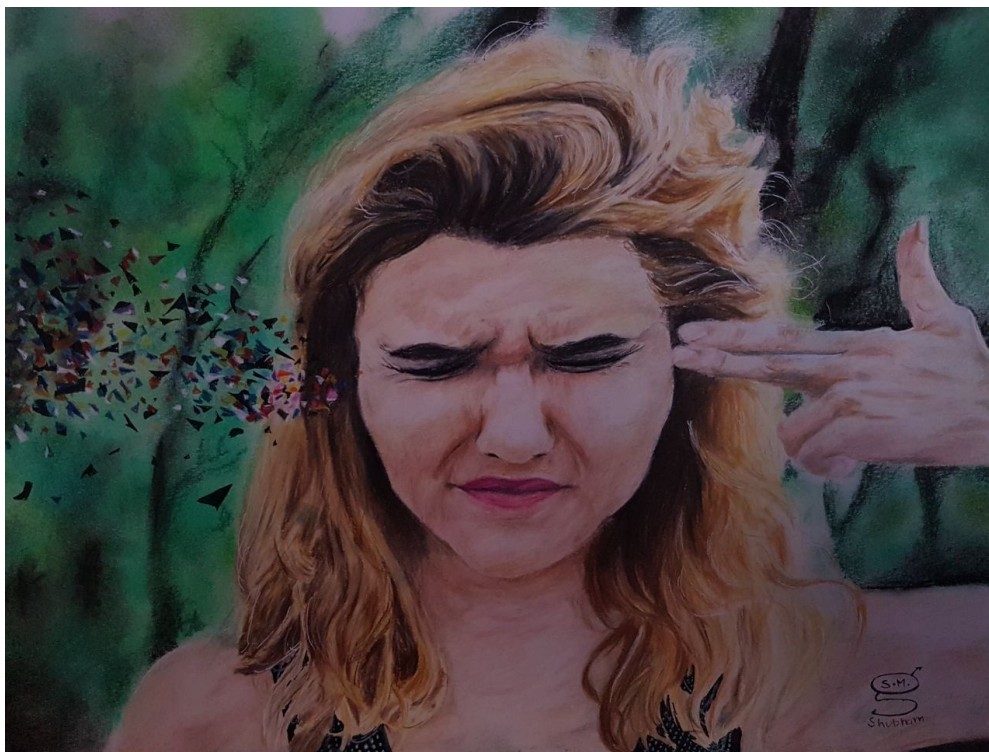
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Wiping her tears away,
she looks at the sky,
searching for her brother in one of the stars;
how hard her eyes try.

“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!"

The [Feel, Imagine, Think](#) initiative of RHiME encourages artists to submit their artwork to the editor for sharing with our readers. Readers are then invited to respond to the artwork based on the emotions evoked by it - responses can be in the form of poetry, prose, artwork, or any other artistic form.