

## Special Issue Artwork

# শৃন্দা ব্যালি If I were to die in Exile

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### यायाश्चीदादास्यावात्रास्याच्या

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#### If I were to die in Exile

If I could never return home,
And were to die in Exile,
Scatter my ashes in the wind,
Blowing towards my homeland.
At least, I long to be a speck of dust
that hovers in the sky above the High
Mountains,

Or, clings to the bosom of Pure Earth.



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# श्रु'धेत्र?

### Who would?

### গ্র.লুপ্র?

मायाश्चीत्रान्दिः कथायायत्रीः हे खुत्रातुः चुन्राव्या अर्ळ्**व**.वीट.ज.ध्रीं.वीर.टी.टर्ज्यु.ची सु:भैष:ळगःर्ञ्चे:दे:र्वेग:सर:सर्वेद:श्वेद:दस् या-त्रयःविषा-वा-वर-की-र्क्षयाम् वा-त्या-देश-विष्यःश्वीत-त्या શુ:ખેરાવન 'દે! વદ' એર 'સૂર 'શેદ' 'દ્રચા <u>ઽ</u>ૹ૽ૹ૽ૺૹ૽ૼ૽૽ૺઌૢૢૢૢૢૢૢૺૢૢૢઌ૽ૻ<u>૽</u>૱ૹઌઌૹૢૹ૽૽૱ૡઽૢ दःषः८८:६:षरःवर्ळे:चवे:बी:बा ૮.૪૮.ઌૂ૮.૪૮.૫ૢ૿.ૹિ૮.૧૪.૮૮.ઌઌૢૻઌ.ઌ.૪૮૫ ८.४८.५२ैबी.४४५.।वट.तपु.पटेबी.स्.जी क्टि.मी.धूरि.शक्य.खुवा.पचीर.प.सूथ.त.स्था.रूरी <u> द्याञ्चर्या व्याके केंद्री केंया ने द्राय व्या</u> શ્રે તર્રે ન ગુન ના ત્રામાં ક્રો તર્મેનું સાથ ८.ज.रश्चेब्य.च्यज.बी.श्रृं.वर्टर.शुरी य.रेटी वर्चर.कैंट्य.ट्रे.बूट्य.ट्रे.बूट्य. શ્રે.હુંન.નુંત્ર.શ્રું.ફું.વંત્ર.યાર.ટ્યાર.ટે.તર્જીર.વ.ટેટ.તુંવ.કુંટ્ ८.४८.श्चिर.री.शुर.तपुर.सुंश्चित्राच्या

#### Who Would?

If my cold were to get worse in the middle of this night,

And I suddenly took my last breath,

Who would witness this tragedy first?

When would my family hear the terrible news?

Who would deliver it to my parents?

Even though I have spent half my life in Dhasa,

For this place and its people,

It makes no difference whether I am alive or dead.

For my landlord, it would just mean a change of tenant.

I have already understood this truth a long time ago,

And accepted it with much reluctance.

Hence, I do not feel particularly sad.

No, that is not true!

Just as a person has to accept their receding hairline,

I have gotten used to this harsh truth.





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Kunchok Rabten is a Tibetan short story writer and translator based in Dharamsala, India. Among his notable Tibetan translations is सु हैण् , *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (2022, Blackneck books). He is currently working on a story series for children entitled *The Adventures of Norbu*.