

Seizing moments

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🔊 Audio

Listen to Mr. Das read this poem.

[NPub.org/q6hndl](https://npub.org/q6hndl)

We were playing hide-and-seek underneath
a leafy frock of almond trees when suddenly

my sister froze, robbed of motion temporarily
until, beneath a scarf of autumn breeze,

she fell onto a strip of road, paved in
stone, her bony arms arched upwards,

while restless quivers turned into fired shots
of *squeeze, squeeze, squeeze*, clenched fists, rocky

lips, eyes behind the cup of lids, muscles
below her wrap of skin, tightening spasmodically.

Her C-shaped spine rocked back and forth,
while shock-like jerks gripped furiously

her crowded map of nerves. Balls of froth
spewed soundless screams, in between

convulsions. I yelled for help
but there was not a soul nearby, not a bird in the sky,

the first responders far away. Moments passed by
as I watched her body squirm and writhe, tense

up, contort into a cold apostrophe, breaths
growing thick over purple lips—until about a minute passed

the spasms died, the clench subsided, the slur
of words resolved, her vacant eyes filled up with light,

and she jolted awake in disbelief. This was many years ago,
when she was 12 and I was 4; yet, it remains

so vivid in my mind: that cloudless sky, Nature's course,
an empty road, and her body's overshot circuitry.

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