
POETRY | FALL 2019

MORNING WALK WITH ARTHRITIC FLARE

By Ashwini Bhasi

One, two. Drag heavy shoe
through yellow leaves,
crush dismiss
the thigh wobble
knee crackle rhythm,
grab each monkey fist
muscle knot
and time the sore
breast pendulum,
on the crunchy road
the maxilla crumbles
a micro-inch
and vertebral discs
slide off a precipice
mind follows.
hits and misses.
pain is almost funny.

Ashwini Bhasi is a poet and visual artist from Kerala, India. Trained as a Bioinformatics analyst, Bhasi is interested in exploring the poetics of the human genome, its central dogma and the epigenetics of shame, trauma and chronic pain. Her work appears, or is forthcoming in, *RHINO*, *Room Magazine*, *Rogue Agent*, *The Feminist Wire* and *Driftwood*. She is the winner the 2018 William J. Shaw Memorial Poetry Prize from Dunes Review and was a finalist for the 2018 Rita Dove Poetry Prize.

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