

5-1-2002

## Diya

Rita Shankar  
*NSU University School*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool\\_litmag](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag)



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Shankar, Rita (2002) "Diya," *Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine*: Vol. 9 , Article 52.  
Available at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool\\_litmag/vol9/iss1/52](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag/vol9/iss1/52)

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the University School at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact [nsuworks@nova.edu](mailto:nsuworks@nova.edu).

## **Diya**

*Rita Shankar*

Midnight, yet her visage glowed like the  
diya\*,  
No more taste to taste, lack of feed to feed,  
Rupees gained,  
Royalty, caution! Handle with care!

Gazing out of the palace's arched window  
without a reason, yet satisfaction,  
Petal-like fingers flowing through her long,  
thick, black braid,  
Glittering jewel on her nose smiling to the  
diya dancing on the windowpane.

Envious moon trapping her almond-shaped  
eyes in its gaze,  
No attempt to trap the moon's image,  
Full moon, admiration for the flickering  
diya,  
Unable to trap her in a pan of water.

Mirror jewelry on a maharaja's elephant  
catches her beam of radiance,  
Seeking the simplistic, yet perfectly rounded  
red bindi between her eyebrows,  
Hands adorned with mehndi\*\* wave  
farewell to Mother and Father,  
Rupees lost,  
Sitting behind the net drapes in the  
palanquin,

Journeying to dispel darkness in another  
palace,  
Destined to be his maharani-friends no  
more.

Daughter to a daughterless mother,  
Wife to him,  
Companion to her,  
Mother to them,  
Shedding diya on lonesomeness.

Not leaving her parents like water spilled  
from a pot,  
But sharing her diya from one wick to the  
next,  
Ever glimmering, equipoise.

\*diya- the light of a small lamp's lit wick

\*\*mehndi- traditional maroon-colored  
designs that decorate a Hindu bride's hands