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The Sister of My Heart

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The Sister of My Heart

Prasanna Durairaj

I lie there imagining my life How will it be once I leave the security of my mother's womb I hear her when she speaks to me About the jasmines that grow in the garden About the sour delicacies sold in the market Of the new gowns she has embroidered for me with large pearls And about how my arrival into the world will fill her with the utmost joy I wonder what the world is like I wonder with ecstasy in my heart and anticipation in my eyes And I say to my mother comfortingly, "Do not worry, Mother. I'll come to you soon." And the next moment I am kicking I am pushing I am crying To get out from the dark But I am choking I cannot breathe I cry for help But no one seems to hear me Except her She touches my heart She calls out to me with her lyrical voice Her touch soothes me Her voice assures me of my safety

Her heart sings a familiar song And beats in the same rhythm as mine She mesmerizes me with her affection And she guides me out to the world from the darkness At last I am out in the world It is beautiful Filled with love and affinity it embraces me Then I see her She is lying on my mother's belly Looking and smiling at me with radiance And I know who she is She is my other half She was calling out to me Because she is the Sister of My Heart.