

5-1-2004

## Tears

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### Recommended Citation

Shankar, Rita (2004) "Tears," *Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine*: Vol. 11 , Article 33.  
Available at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool\\_litmag/vol11/iss1/33](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag/vol11/iss1/33)

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## Tears

*Rita Shankar*

Lurking sorrow swims sluggishly,  
Tormenting the visage of definition,  
Erasing the parched nature of texture,  
Lifting powder off the verisimilitude,

One hundred, two hundred, three hundred and  
ninety-nine,  
Endless flood inflames the vision to a sanguinary  
hue,  
Calamity derived from calmness,

Withholding permits the intricacies of dams to  
burst,  
Painful voyage leaving bodily abodes,  
From surplus to sprinkle,  
Brothers, sisters, and grandparents to follow,

Martyr or multiplicity,  
Weeping while trudging barrier-laden paths,  
Introspection's sacrifices,  
Wrinkled fingers place the pristine scarf on a  
youthful head,  
Buttressing her elegance with years,  
The ceremonial braid interwoven with a bouquet of  
jasmynes,  
Each weaves a remainder that a pinch now brings  
wisdom later,

Frivolous, painstaking rituals proven fruitful and  
precious,  
Gems glittering in isolation amid simplicity,  
Purity that would have flowed-is flowing.