



<http://www.theuniversejournal.com/index.php>  
<http://www.theuniversejournal.com/edboard.php>  
<http://www.theuniversejournal.com/submission.php>  
<http://www.theuniversejournal.com/archive.php>  
[http://www.theuniversejournal.com/join\\_us.php](http://www.theuniversejournal.com/join_us.php)



**“These bones and the stories they tell.”**

Tanishka Maurya  
India

[Tanishkamaurya52002@gmail.com](mailto:Tanishkamaurya52002@gmail.com)

These bones will tell you stories  
of how they have held me  
throughout these years

if you examine long enough  
you will notice how old the scars are  
you will see a nine-year-old  
praying in the temple for her own death  
you will see a twelve-year-old  
looking at a knife and her mom’s dupatta  
and thinking of ways to kill herself  
you will see a fourteen-year-old  
picking up the blade to cut herself again  
because it didn’t bleed enough the first time

but don’t worry  
these bones will also tell you  
about all the times the nine-year-old  
bruised her knee playing a game of lock-and-key  
of all the times the twelve-year-old  
used the dupatta only to wear it as a saree  
of all the times the fourteen-year-old  
picked herself up and decided to never touch a blade again

these bones will tell you stories  
of weakness and bravery  
of scars and beautiful memories  
and by the time  
you’re done reading them  
you won’t know if the tears streaming down your face  
make your heart wrench or your soul smile.