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TERRIFYING 25

Arya KS.

Twenty five-
Well and good a number it is;
unless you are a Malayali girl of the age.
You find a compendium
of norms and facts arrayed before you,
as you halt at this eventful milestone of your life.
Surprisingly, till the eve of your 25th birthday,
you may act childish, be carefree, savage and what not!
Twilight rays tremble as they fall
on your pallid cheeks and feeble eyes.
And then, terrifying twenty-five unleashes before
your empire of dreams,
wrecking it into menial needs.
As soon as you are to begin
this brand new phase of your journey,
out of nowhere, you ought to behave mature enough,
be responsible and get ready for a different flight,
or rather, a clueless experiment.
As if the twenty four years of your life were
just a user-guide on 'how to be a perfect wife'!
From piling up jewellery and amassing dowry,
to finding the best groom after countless searches
on a plethora of matrimonial websites,
you are destined to be decked up
for that auspicious ceremony
where the holy threads are nothing
less than curbing fetters in disguise, to many.
It keeps mocking at your long cherished aspirations,
slowly carving out your confidence.

And the mere thought of it
dumps your hopes in a dungeon of uncertainties.
If at all you happen to be above 25 and are unmarried,
they no longer consider you a girl but a toothless hag!
You develop grey hairs, visible
only to your neighbours and relatives.
And from then on,
you are viewed as some antique piece
that has started corroding.
No matter what you own and achieve,
they hesitate to call you successful
if you aren't 'fortunate enough'
to get married at that prime age of yours!
After all, marriage should be your ultimate goal
and it is fate that aligns all that follow.
Years drum in your heart,
episodes of fear flash by,
and you console yourself, telling,
'Age is just a number.'