

Ekphrastic writing

peace Liard regional show 2020

Himalayan Blackberry, Rubus armeniacus or Eugenics, Colonialism & Abugidas
by Marilyn Belak, First Distinguished Award

Stop by Haley Bassett
Distinguished Three Dimensional Award





Stop by Haley Bassett, Dawson Creek
Distinguished Conceptual Award

Ekphrastic poem after artwork of Haley Bassett, Title: Stop

Himalayan Blackberry, *Rubus armeniacus*

or

Eugenics, Colonialism & Abugidas

Abugida: writing system based on consonant-vowel sequence symbols. ex: Cree, Ojibwa, Nepali

let us consider 'elastic' potential energy
how twisting and binding increase reserves

let us consider the first known twist
coincidental with past American eugenics

let us consider human agency in history
hubris, misconception, capacity for error

Luther Burbank seeds Himalayan Giant blackberry

:

deny its thorns, resiliency, vigour

:

let us turn our minds to linguistic systems
 writing symbols to replace presence or art
 let us imagine the graceful loops of Sanskrit
 its roots in Devanagari reaching to the mountains
 let us know they are the Himalayas of north India
 that Mount Ararat lies elsewhere to the west
 and know seeds mailed from India may originate elsewhere
 :
 acknowledge possible failure to employ scientific query
 :
 let us ask the questions with keystrokes
 find the scientific name *Rubrus armeniacus*
 let us compare Armenian Hayots to Devanagari
 admire the absence of its relevance to Cree
 let us trace the history of written Cree in Canada
 John Evan's colonial knowledge of Abugidas
 and circle back to India, linguistics, colonialism
 :
 understand these symbols bind words to authority
 :
 let us hear the printing press turning out bibles
 with understanding as elusive as Himalayan blackberries
 let us sense elasticity coiled to its maximum
 a store equal to the history and work of its making
 let us witness energy transformation unwind
 its smooth steel and thorn-armed frame distinct
 :
 elegant words that write what is spoken
 :

English: Stop

Napali (Devanagiri) Stop **रोक** Rōka

Cree

Sto	ᑭ
pʰ	p (naki)

Armenian դադարել

stop, cease, discontinue, desist, intermit

Marilyn Belak, Dawson Creek

First Distinguished Award

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council

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