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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.