

## Poetry - 'Search for my Tongue'

You ask me what I mean  
by saying I have lost my tongue.  
I ask you, what would you do  
if you had two tongues in your  
mouth,  
and lost the first one, the mother  
tongue,  
and could not really know the  
other,  
the foreign tongue.  
You could not use them both  
together  
even if you thought that way.  
And if you lived in a place you had  
to  
speak a foreign tongue,  
your mother tongue would rot,  
rot and die in your mouth  
until you had to spit it out.  
I thought I spit it out  
but overnight while I dream,

મને હું કે આખી છલ આખી ભાષા,

(munayhutookayaakheejeebhaakhe  
ebhasha)

મેં થું કી નાખી છે.

(maythoonkynakhichay)

પરંતુ રાત્રે સપ્નામાં મારી ભાષા પાછી આવે છે.

(parantoorattraysvupnamamaribha  
shapachiaavaychay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી છલ

(foolneejaimmaribhashanmarijeebh  
)

મોઢામાં ખીલે છે.

(modhamakheelaychay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી છલ

(fullneejaimmaribhashamarijeebh)

મોઢામાં પાકે છે.

(modhamapakaychay)

it grows back, a stump of a shoot  
grows longer, grows moist, grows  
strong veins,  
it ties the other tongue in knots,  
the bud opens, the bud opens in my  
mouth,  
it pushes the other tongue aside.  
Everytime I think I've forgotten,  
I think I've lost the mother tongue,  
it blossoms out of my mouth.

Sujata Bhatt

## Poetry Analysis

**Q. Answer the following questions based on the poem above.**

**a. Summarise the entire poem in a few sentences**

---

---

---

**b. List three literary devices used in the poem.**

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

**c. How does the writer feel in the beginning of the poem?**

---

---

**d. Extract a quote to demonstrate this feeling?**

---

---

**e. What effect does this quote have on the reader?**

---

---

**f. Explain the structure of the poem.**

---

---

**g. Why do you think the poet used this structure and outline its effect that it is trying to create?**

---

---