

The book cover features a close-up of an ornate, gold-colored Venetian-style mask with intricate scrollwork and a dark eye opening. The mask is set against a background of flowing, vibrant red fabric, possibly silk or satin, which is draped and folded. The overall lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the mask and fabric.

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MASQUES

Poetry of Identities
An Anthology

Edited by JAY CHAKRAVARTI

MASQUES
Poetry of Identities

An Anthology
Edited by: Jay Chakravarti

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LALITHA JOSEPH

Entity

Tanned by the eternal sun,
the sepia stained skin,
stared at the codes,
running up and down the stairs
trying to remember the lost meaning.

Slime smeared history,
stinking of infected open wounds,
hoarding dread and shame,
feared to go in public,
found asylum in putrid darkness.

Spicy stews and juicy jellies,
stacked in pot bellies,
left no trace in the platter or mouth,
washed its hands,
in front of the empty stomachs.

The rhythm of culture,
swaying with the classical strains,
fleeing from the folk and the pop,
jeered at the sounds from the jungle,
occupied the seat in the temple.

Brewing dissent,
buried in the sockets,
forced open the lid ,
and broke the ceiling,
in search of territories without a centre. []

CultureCult Anthology of Poetry

Masques

Poetry of Identities

Edited by Jay Chakravarti

Masques features over sixty poets from around the world who have expressed their interpretation of the role that tangible and intangible masks play to determine and augment the human experience. Often enough, these masks are the defining aspect of human personalities and concerns their intrinsic identity

Most of the poems in this anthology are deeply personal where the poet has revealed a part of their very soul to address the question of identity

These poems reveal that our world is truly a masquerade. It may not have the Victorian quality of an evening of frolick, but is nonetheless a parade of souls who are often forced to wear masks of many shapes and dimensions to be who they truly want to be

We intend this collection of poetry to be a little ray of hope in these dark times. To read about the many facets of human personalities, or the masks they wear, may hopefully have a cathartic effect on those who are tired of wearing masks of several shapes and shades to hide, or in some cases, uphold their true selves

Cover Photography: Alex Libre

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