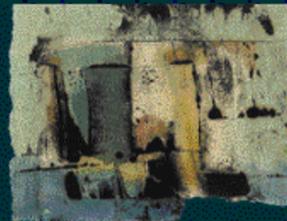


SHAWKAT HAIDER [www.geocities.com/shawkat\_1999] was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1972. He did his postgraduate degree in Pharmacy from Dhaka University. His first book of poetry, *Graffiti*, was published in 1994 that contained a foreword by Shamsur Rahman. *A Day with Destiny* is his second volume of poetry. His poems and other writings have appeared in leading newspapers and magazines in Bangladesh. Haider received an Editor's Choice award from the 'International Library of Poetry' and 'Poetry.com' that subsequently published his poems in an anthology, *Tides of Memory*. He is one of the translators of Nirmalendu Goon's *Selected Poems*, published by Bangla Academy in 2001. Until recently, he worked as a manager for a leading business group in Bangladesh. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD in Genomics in Japan.

SUDEEP SEN [www.sudeepsen.com] has authored & edited over 20 books, including: *Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems* (HarperCollins), *Postcards from Bangladesh*, and *Monsoon*. Among his many awards are: the Hawthornden Fellowship (UK), Faber & Faber poetry grant (UK), and a Pushcart Prize (USA) nomination. His writings have appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Observer*, *Literary Review*, *Harvard Review*, among many others. He was an international poet-in-residence at the Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh, and a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He has lived and worked in New Delhi, New York, London, and Dhaka. Sen works as an editorial director for a publishing house in London & New Delhi.

Cover Art by Abdur Razzak



Shawkat Haider's first book of poems, *Graffiti*, appeared eight years back in 1994. In his new volume, *A Day with Destiny*, we see in the poet a forward movement in tone and maturity of thought. The poet grapples with a variety of subjects—the usual predicament of life that accompanies with it the trials and tribulations of daily living, the self-fascination and inwardness of the vocation of poetry itself, as well as aspects of “desire”, “passion”, weather, landscape, and mindscape.

Haider's poems, although written in the English original, employ a somewhat archaic diction, perhaps indicating the poet's fondness and familiarity with the Romantic, Victorian, or Georgian poetic traditions in English poetry.

Majority of creative writing in Bangladesh is predictably and understandably done in the native mother tongue of Bangla. However, more and more of the younger generation are opting for English as their language for creativity—poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Shawkat Haider's *A Day with Destiny* is another addition to this newly emergent sub-genre of Bangladeshi writing in the English language. I wish him the very best in a writing career that I am sure is full of promise, and hope that this new book touches a wider audience that Haider might desire to reach in the times to come.

—SUDEEP SEN, author of *Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems* (HarperCollins) & *Postcards from Bangladesh* (UPL)



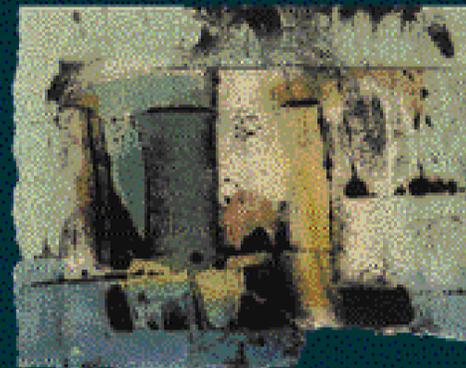
SHAWKAT HAIDER

A DAY WITH DESTINY

foreword by sudeep sen



## A DAY WITH DESTINY



shawkat haider

foreword by  
sudeep sen

## A DAY WITH DESTINY

shawkat haider

Lilacs in sin, virgin sun—  
create our strange weather.

A distant frolic  
on your tattooed smile

pleads for abandoned holiness;  
while the sun's torn shape

hurries on—a lewd  
firmament—ungracefully.

In time, her tenderness  
nails the castle down,

in slow unceasing comfort.

—S.H., 'Desire'

foreword by  
sudeep sen