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CLARA A. B. JOSEPH

Hardboiled Egg

I've never tasted
boiled egg so good
as from your hands
that still morning at ten
when I was just about to leave
and two suitcases stood
large and locked
for the taxi
the knapsack still on my back
holding a face-towel
the poisoned bible
a wallet and a toothbrush
a tube of paste
a tongue-cleaner

you had it ready
unshelled and warm
at the tip of a thumb and two
fingers
as if you'd ordered the hen
to lay so well ahead
for you to just pluck
the warmth from the hay
the yoke especially made
for me so smooth
oh so round
even the smell oh
so perfect

it is a pity
just to bite and break
such wholesomeness
and you in that posture

of letting go

Clara A. B. Joseph is Associate Professor of English at the University of Calgary. Her poems have appeared in journals such as the Toronto Review, Mother Earth International, Canadian Woman Studies and the Journal of Postcolonial Writing. Her first book of poetry, The Face of the Other, is forthcoming with IP Publishing, Brisbane, Australia.