

# Tsunami Snapshots

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When the waves  
relented and brought  
the baby back on  
the shores

snakes took over

and created a lap  
of poison  
to keep death  
out of boundaries.

.....

Hanging like a coconut,  
the head stuck between the  
branches of  
a half broken palm tree  
the little boy

On the  
lonely planet  
saw water below  
swelling  
with corpses.

.....

The dog is  
God

Dragging the child  
out of tsunami thunder  
licking the wounds  
and restoring sanity  
in nature.

.....

But that dog is  
not God  
—he saved  
this child

and let others perish.

.....

The nine whom Port Blair  
forgot on December 26th  
were the mad in the asylum

Standing shell shocked  
inside the locked ward

They gaped  
through iron bars  
and they saw the world go berserk

their locks and fetters  
freeing them from fear.

.....

Floating for eight days  
without a shore in sight

the tree trunk  
between the legs, her teeth  
biting into it, her hands  
clutching it

She,  
an island of fortitude  
pulling the distant ship  
to herself.

.....

Mothers' eyes, vacant coffins  
fathers' limbs, hanging in guilt  
echoes haunting empty skies,

Little faces and spirits  
slipping into the sea  
grinning, chuckling,

Wave upon wave  
wave within wave  
playing hide and seek  
in the nightmares  
of their mothers and fathers.

.....

They saw, bewildered,  
 a gentle movement  
 in the heap of corpses,  
 when the little girl got up  
 on her wobbly legs  
 squeezing her eyes  
 and walking into life

The others remained  
 still, corpses impatient  
 for cremation, not  
 wishing life for  
 another blue death.

.....

The Danish Fort  
 with its wrinkles  
 four centuries old  
 witnessed yet another  
 chapter of history

The ocean receded  
 theatrically  
 and a million crabs and shells  
 lay exposed on the golden sands

As the conch blew,  
 the sea came rushing back  
 thundering and roaring,  
 its gurgling lips  
 announcing the tandava.