



I WILL NOT BEAR YOU SONS

Usha Akella

*Rage has no caste, needs no algorithm,
light a pyre with it
of chopped thumbs and scripted dreams*

Usha Akella pays tribute to her own life and to that of other women. Writing from her Niyogi Brahmin sensibility with which she grew up, her poems are the medium for the unsilenced voice both of her own story and those of women across various cultures. She calls for a united womanhood in her poems dedicated to women violated through rape, caste, FGM, foot binding, mysticism, politics, terrorism and other patriarchal abuses to the women who have triumphed against subjugation building new ways of being.

About the author

Usha Akella has authored four books of poetry, one chapbook, and scripted/produced two musical dramas. She earned a Master of Studies (Mst) in Creative Writing from the University of Cambridge, UK. Her last poetry book, *The Waiting* was published by Sahitya Akademi, (India's highest Literary authority) in 2019 followed by the Mantis Editores, Mexico edition in Spanish translated by Elsa Cross. She was selected as a Creative Ambassador for the City of Austin for 2019 and 2015 Her work has been included in the Harper Collins, India Anthology of English Poets.

She is the founder of Matwaala and hosts www.the-pov.com, an interview and conversations website. Matwaala is the first South Asian Diaspora Poets Festival in the US that she co-directs with Pramila Venkateswaran. The festival is seriously dedicated to increasing the visibility of South Asian poets in the mainstream. She is also the founder of the Poetry Caravan in New York and Austin which takes poetry readings to the disadvantaged in women's shelters, senior homes, hospitals. Several hundreds of readings have reached these venues via this medium. The City of Austin proclaimed January 7th as Poetry Caravan Day.

She has been published in numerous Literary journals, and has been invited to prestigious international poetry festivals in JLF-Houston, Romania, Canada, Slovakia, Nicaragua, Macedonia, Colombia, Slovenia, India etc. She has won literary prizes such as the Poetry Society of India 2019 Commendation prize, Nazim Hikmet award, Open Road Review Prize and Egan Memorial Prize and earned finalist status in a few US based contests. She read with a group of eminent South Asian Diaspora poets at the House of Lords in June 2016. She has been invited as a keynote speaker to TLAN's Power of Words conference 2019 and the Turkish Center in Austin. She's been interviewed widely. She has written a few quixotic nonfiction prose pieces published in *The Statesman* and *India Currents*. Her work ranges from feminist/activist to spiritual and all things in-between.



MARCH 2021
ISBN 9781925950281
Paperback | 96 pages
210 x 146 mm
AU \$24.95 | NZ \$29.95
US \$19.95 | CAN \$26.95
UK £14.95

Poetry