

**KAIFI AZMI**

## **A Moment**

When I kiss those lovely eyes  
A hundred lamps flash in darkness,  
Dry lips are lured to life,  
In the heart, how many mirrors shiver,  
What flowers, blossoms, what moon, stars,  
All rivals bow low their heads,  
Mind awakes, soul is roused,  
Human faces are alight,  
A flame shines up from the heart of temples,  
Deities smile in the air,  
Statues of Ajanta break into dance,  
Caves, with lips long-sealed, begin to sing,  
Flowers blossom in desolate gardens,  
Clouds overspread the thirsty earth,  
For a moment the world's cruelty softens,  
For a moment even stones smile.

*—Translated by M.A.R. Habib*