Keshab Sigdel

With the Waves of Rara

Deceiving the pine trees standing in sentry The moon flirts with the lake In response The lake creates ripples of waves And splashes as if it were a rehearsal of an enticing dance Of a winter night!

The moon, as always, Continues its own course In that caliginous night The lake sees the moon's revived youthfulness Its seductive appearance Excites the lake And it liberates in the waves.

In the light of the moon The lake appears intriguing My sickening heart Becomes even more impatient And, to pacify the unquenched desires My imagination dives into the lake.

As the night exceeds The breathe of hostlers Evaporate and dissolve in the sky And the horses moving from the alleys nearby Wake up the lazy sleeps With their neck-bells. Travelers with their bag-packs Spend a night in the tents at the bank of Rara And anxiously wait for the sun to come out In the morning, They pick up their cameras And click a photograph Of the sun's reflection On the lake.

I keep waiting For the moon to come back again; When the birds and horses sleep Wearing the night's somber I prepare myself to consume The excitement of the lake Rippling towards the edges In the obscene light of the moon!

(Translated from Nepali by the poet himself)

* Rara is the biggest and deepest fresh water lake in the Himalayas of Nepal.