

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 45  
Number 1 *Fall 2022*

Article 14

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Fall 12-1-2022

## Shree

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*College of DuPage*

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### Recommended Citation

Jain, Megha (2022) "Shree," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 45: No. 1, Article 14.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol45/iss1/14>

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Megha Jain. *Shree*.  
Oil on Canvas



Morning Chai  
Khalid Mukhtar

My earliest memory of it goes back to my boyhood days:  
a porcelain cup of the steaming liquid  
sitting on a saucer with two Marie tea biscuits  
carried into my grandfather's presence.  
He lowered his paper momentarily  
to survey the beverage and gauge  
its temperature with the thermometer  
in his eye.

Or my uncle - my favorite uncle - who  
stopped by every morning.  
He always had a glint in his eye.  
He sat on the large swing  
under the bougainvillea vines, the sun  
mottling his plaid eighties button-down with its golden drops.  
He didn't care for cookies  
just a hot cup capable of raising enough fog