

## Ode to Ushas: This Time lets get the Dawn Right

Myles a writer who works long hours in his study, begins to sense the lingering presence of a virtual character in the periphery of his consciousness, and decides to call her forth through his writing. But she exceeds his imagination seeming to act on her own initiative. Intrigued he begins to study her and this takes him on a fascinating journey to the beginnings of time.

For Maya is not sure that she wants to become real just yet. In a dream vision she has seen Purush, the hunter training his arrow at a pregnant bird. When the bird's eye is hit, its stillborn egg drops to the earth, which grinds to a halt. 'What kind of world is it that you inhabit and want me to be a part of?' she asks Myles with pooling eyes. 'Perhaps you could not see the horror of it in the daily business of your life, but surely now you can pause and reflect?' Shocked into facing his own reality, Myles nods.

Receding further into a dream within her dream, Maya arrives at an even more ancient forest. Here she meets Adi Shakti the guardian spirit of the earth. Through his headset, Myles watches the two women perform a traditional salutation to the four directions and greet the earth. Referring to him as Aadhaam, Shakti then addresses him across the aeons, to warn him that the earth is repudiating the rotten seeds of heedless progress, and humanity must devise a more sustainable way forward. She offers him a *bijakshara* – a word seed, from which new language and a more sustainable worldview can emerge. *Mea Culpa*, Myles admits with contrition, and begins a ritual dance to cleanse and heal the wounded earth, for Prakriti the creation spirit to resume her dance.

Entering the new born world Maya rewrites her own story. Shakti begins to train a younger generation to protect themselves and the planet. And Prakriti reimagines Aadham's sojourn in the first garden as an encounter on Country with a First Nations Elder.