

Thingkho Le Malecha

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 05, 2023



Khawmawi RELIEF CENTRE Khawmawi, Lamka

Managed by Hmar Youth Association GHQ

Total Inmates Registered: 72

■ Male: 34	■ Female: 37
■ Children (0-10 years): 20	■ Adolescent (11-17 years): 12
■ Adult (18-59 years): 36	■ Old age (60 above): 03
■ Pregnant Mother: 01	■ Lactating Mother: 02
■ Person with Disability: 00	(As on 13.09.2023)

VILLAGES COVERED

MN Tatjang
Molphei
T Munnomjang
VK Mongbung



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.10.2023



143
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

24-hour Bandh on NH-37 Begins in Protest Against Meitei Militants' Attacks on Kuki Village of New Keithelmanbi

The Joint Action Committee against the attack of New Keithelmanbi Kuki Areas has called for 24 hours bandh along NH -37 with effect from 6:00 pm of October 5 till 6:00 pm of October 6, 2023.

The bandh was called to show the people's discontentment over the attack by the Meitei militants towards the Kuki village of New Keithelmanbi under Kangpokpi district.

The Committee, while exempting medical emergencies and central security personnel from the purview of the bandh, has requested all like-minded citizens, various civil society organizations irrespective of communities to support the bandh.

In the statement, the committee alleged that Meitei militants in Police Commando uniforms attacked New Keithelmanbi Kuki-Zo village at around 10:56 pm on Wednesday and burnt down a house of one Kuki Zo military personnel at Lhangnom village, New Keithelmanbi. The Meitei terrorists launched fresh attack at around 5:30am till 7:12 am on Thursday. The gunfiring ensued between the central



security forces, who are manning the buffer zones, and the Meiteis' armed militants.

As observed through binoculars, about 100-150 Meitei terrorists in commando uniform had surrounded New Keithelmanbi Kuki-Zo areas. The Meitei militants were accompanied by 20 plus gypsy vehicles which were parked near Moidangpok Meitei village and its peripheral Meitei Village but, they later retreated from their position at around 8:12 am in the morning on Thursday.

Fortunately, there was no report of any casualty during the attacks.

Meitei Armed Men in Police Uniforms Renew Gunfiring Attacks on Kuki Villages, Atleast Five Houses Set Ablaze

The Meitei armed militants in police uniforms renewed their violent attacks on Kuki villages situated in the fringe areas of New Keithelmanbi, under Kanggui (Kangpokpi) district, during the last 18 hours.

According to sources, atleast five houses belonging to Kuki-Zo community were set on fire. The houses included one house belonging to an AR personnel from Kuki community at New Keithelmanbi, and at least four houses from L. Jangnomphai villages, near New Keithelmanbi.

The initial incident occurred on Wednesday night at around 10:30 pm when the Meitei terrorists, alongwith the radical militia groups of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, began to attack New Keithelmanbi areas by indiscriminately firing towards the Kuki villages. The attack, which took place in the buffer zones, was reportedly responded to by the central security personnel who are manning the vulnerable areas. A violent confrontation occurred there between the Gorkha Regiment and a Meitei armed group, resulting in an escalation of tensions in the region.

Instead of retreating, the Meitei militant groups took refuge in the border area during the night and renewed their attack, once again, in the wee hours of Thursday (October 5). The armed clash which persisted through the night was extended at around 6:00 am today. The situation remained volatile until before noon.

It was reported that in the initial incident of violence on the night of Wednesday (October 4), the armed Meitei groups, disguised in security uniforms, set ablaze their own Meitei farm houses to implicate that the Kukis started the attack. As it was done in the past, the Meitei biased media houses had reported that the Kuki started the attacks on Meitei villages, which was totally baseless and unfounded.

It is to be noted here that the gunfights ensued between the central security forces and the Meitei terrorist groups. Fortunately, there was no report of human casualty on both sides of the armed groups.

Arambai Tenggol Goons Thrash a Man for Supporting Brinda

In another attempt to silence the “Freedom of Speech and Expression” enshrined under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution, a disturbing video emerged on social media where goons of Arambai Tenggol thrashed a man black and blue for supporting Thounaojam Brinda.

In the viral video, members of Arambai Tenggol thrashed a man, whom they alleged of supporting former cop Thounaojam Brinda for her recent viral voice clip. The man was stripped off his clothes and abusive words were also hurled at him. “Is the death of 15 Arambai Tenggol a joke to you??, You wanna be a Keyboard warrior?” “Why do you support Brinda?” As evident from the video itself, the man must be supporting Brinda on his social media post while disparaging the Arambai Tenggol for their sinister act. Shockingly, a Manipur Police personnel with Police Commando uniform was also spotted in the video.

Notably, former Cop Brinda was on the receiving end of the Arambai Tenggol’s wrath for publicly speaking out about the genesis of current Manipur crisis. In her voice note, Brinda accused Meitei radical groups – Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun for the current violence. She said Arambai Tenggol were already stationed in Churachandpur from May 2 and were prepared for arsoning. She also said that the Arambai Tenggol were involved in parading of two Kuki-Zo women naked. She

later retracted her words out of coercion. This time too, an FIR was used as a tool to silence the truth.

The viral video of a man thrashed by the cadres of Arambai Tenggol has caused a lot of debates on many online platforms. This has created fear psychosis among the Meitei Intelligentsia and the many veracious people from spilling out the truth about the evils in their society. Many had desisted from speaking out the truth for fear of reprimandation from this radical group. Imphal valley is now under their control, Law is under their hand. They take the law in their own hand. They are now the law and anyone speaking against them will be severely punished. Even the mighty Manipur Police seems working under them.

As long as Meiteis silence the voice of reason and sanity or different viewpoint through intimidation; redemption, reconciliation and peace can kiss Manipur goodbye, many opined.

Now, a truth warrior stands accused of trying to take political mileage out of this. Would anyone risk their popularity and life for an unknown possible political gain, is the big question alluring the people. In the long run, no matter how hard we try to subdue the truth, truth will always triumph in the last.

Meitei Leepun Boycotts Brinda and Babloo from Giving Speech in Public Platform, House Vandalized

The Meitei Leepun has boycotted former Additional SP NAB Thounaojam Brinda and Human Rights Activist Babloo Loitongbam from giving speech in public gatherings/ meetings with immediate effect.

A member of the Meitei Leepun, Shilan Heisnam made the announcement/ declaration at the Manipur Press Club a day after a voice clip of Brinda went viral on social media where she blames Arambai Tenggol for starting ongoing violence in Manipur.

While briefing media persons on Thursday, Shilan said that Meitei Leepun will not be held responsible for any consequences arising out of it if the duo continues to give speeches in public gatherings/ meeting. Denying the statement of Brinda that the ongoing conflict is started by Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol, Shilan told the media person that the problem was instead started by the Kuki-Zo community.



In the case of Babloo, the boycott has been imposed for his statement in media interview where he put the blame on Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun for the violence in the State, he added.

Enraged by the statement he made in an interview with Karan Thapar for The Wire, angry Meitei mobs vandalized the residence of Babloo Loitangbam at Kwakeithel Mayai Koibi, Imphal. The video has been viral on social media.

Manipur High Court to Get New Chief Justice After Long Delay



After a delay of three months following the collegium's recommendation, the Manipur High Court is set to get its new full-time chief justice.

According to people aware of the development, the N Biren Singh-government has finally replied to the Centre's correspondence, paving the way for the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Siddharth Mridul as the new Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

The Union law ministry had written to the state government on July 7, seeking views of the governor and the chief minister regarding Justice Mridul's appointment. The process, however, remained in limbo since the state government was yet to respond. People cited above has told HT that after the views of the state government were received earlier this week, the law ministry is expected to complete the formalities within a day or two before the notification for the appointment of justice Mridul is issued.

Senapati Student Body to Go Ahead With Indefinite Eco-Blockade

With no response from the State Government till now, although a 24-hour ultimatum was served yesterday, Senapati District Students' Association (SDSA), left with no other option, has announced to go ahead with the proposed indefinite economic blockade along NH-2 from 6:00 PM today, the 5th of October, 2023.

The student body also appealed the general public and all concerned to kindly cooperate and support the agitation as this is for the welfare of the general public.

Any group or individual caught taking advantage of the situation in the name of our office or any other CSOs will be sternly dealt with, SDSA warned.

MHRC Directs Manipur Police to Submit Status Report on Inquiry

The Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) has directed state police to submit the status report on the inquiry that is underway into allegations of excess force being used by security forces to subdue student protesters in Imphal last week.

The MHRC also wanted the police to inform the commission about the person "under whose command" the forces allegedly used excessive force on the students.

MHRC chairperson U.B. Saha and member K.K. Singh passed the directives in a three-page order on Tuesday while issuing a notice to the state government.

The commission was acting on two complaints over the alleged use of excess force on September 26 and 27 to subdue students protesting the killing of two Meitei students. The complaints were filed by Ningthoujam Jit Singh of Imphal West district and Mukul Phukon from Sivasagar district in Assam.

JSB Issues Statement in Connection With Fees and Others

The Joint Students' Body, Lamka has urged school authorities in the Churachandpur to charge the monthly tuition fees starting from the month of August only with 35% exemption for 11 above and 50% Exemption for class 10 and below.

The Joint Student Body issued a press release on Thursday after adopting several resolutions from the executive council meeting held at SSPP GHQ Lamka on Thursday

As per the release, the meeting resolved that the school timings and the need for students' to wear their respective uniforms to boost discipline and academic environment of the students' shall be discussed with other stakeholders in the best interest of all.

With regards to closure of government institutions on Wednesday and Friday of every week, the meeting resolved to exempt banking and other financial establishments whereas the rest remains intact and the organisation shall strictly monitor the same.

ONLY SOLUTION IN MANIPUR VIOLENCE IS TO CREATE A UNION TERRITORY FOR KUKI-ZO, SAYS ARJIT BISWAS KUKI

Peace in Manipur can be restored tomorrow itself if the centre government gives separate administration for the Kukis, which is the only solution, said Arjit Biswas Kuki, in conversation with Dr. Major (Retd) Md. Ali Shah in his YouTube channel.

“Separate administration is the only solution. Trust level is up to zero. Make an Union Territory for the Kukis. It is good for our country. If Manipur is compartmentalised and used it carefully, the Government will get double revenue,” Arjit had said.

When asked about the suffix of ‘Kuki’ in his name, Arjit said Kuki is an umbrella of tribes, and when he was getting to the issue and supporting them by founding out the facts, he had got a ‘Kuki’ name. “I am more of a Kuki than anything else. Being a Kuki is that we are spending on minority and we are saving the constitution of India. When I show a minority being severely tortured, almost a matter of genocide, there was no option for me but to take their side,” he said.

On the issue of FIR reportedly filed against him, Arjit explained that it was based on a post on social media X. “The FIR never reach to me. It was posted on X by Manipur Police,” he said. In the social media post, Arjit did not actually call Chief Minister N. Biren Singh as a terrorist but, but that he was associated with a terrorist organisation or the Arambai Tenggol.

He explained that the Arambai Tenggol is one group which is helped by PLA, a terrorist organisation based in Myanmar. In 2010, there was a case against him (N. Biren Singh), which showed that he was really involved with them but somehow he got rid of the case. It is documented. One can Google and check the facts; there is nothing wrong with that, he said adding that a government which could allow the State to burn for five months is either a terrorist or is afraid of the terrorists.

On the peace dialogue, Arjit said it was the best thing to do and the same thing was viewed by him during the initial stage. “When I started off, I thought it was a quarrel between brothers. For the first one month, I was speaking to both sides equally to get peace back. Now, once you got both sides, it was not a simple thing. One side was of propagandas, a well orchestrated program of war against the minorities. It was nothing spontaneous, it was a pre-planned and a programme



F.I.R.on "Arijit Biswas Kuki"-Views on Manipur are of Arijit only: Int TEDx speaker Maj(Dr)Md Ali Shah
Major (Dr.) Mohommed Ali Shah (Vet...
21.4K subscribers

[Click the image above to watch the full interview](#)

done by the Meiteis and State government. The houses had been marked in the city of Imphal way before one month the incident happened. Those marked houses were burnt down when the violence began,” he said.

Arjit also opined that dialogue is important. But, he asked, “Would you say the same thing when you were in Nazi Germany where the war was all about supremacy? Do you think it will work? Do you think Hitler would listen to everyone and stop the killings of jews?” Here, the thing is not only supremacy, land grabbing too. It is about a minority being oppressed, being cleansed, a genocide plan which fails. Because, with the kind of weapons and bullets they got, it will end up in ten days or 15 days. The whole propaganda mechanism works in the other ways. Whoever the tribal is, he/she will get the brunt of violence. It is all about against the minority of India. The same thing which is used in mainland, the kind of hatred that is used against Muslims.

“For almost three to four years, the television channels in Imphal TV or Imphal based newspapers were spreading hatred about Kukis. It was a well-planned thing, not about a tribal clash. Everytime they tried for peace, the tribal was attacked in the hills.”

Arjit also explained his analysis on the violent issue through the number of deaths. “If you go through the number of deaths, a lot of Meiteis were made to die in the Kuki villages in the hills, and the Kukis who died were civilian women, ladies, babies who were never connected to the war.

Contd.

Contd.

They were attacked suddenly in Imphal areas. The Meiteis, whoever died, were all in Kuki areas, when they came to attack the Kukis. The Kuki women or babies cannot attack. They are victimised, tortured, raped, their houses burnt.”

“If you don’t support Kukis, in this equation, you are not supporting India. Because, this is all about a constitutional failure which has been going on for five months already. They (Meiteis) turn narration to something else. Right now, they say that both are victims because they fail in their operation. They planned to clean everyone (Kukis) in a month but, nothing happened like that. They did not know the Kukis can fight well in mountain ranges. To be honest, the Meitei people are valley people and they are not used to hills. They are not tribals as well. Once they go to the hills, they don’t know anything about it. That is why, the war is going on for so long. Otherwise, the situation would have been like Kashmir,” Arjit said.

On the question of taking both sides and coming to a truce, Arjit said he had tried it. But, he said, the Chief Minister himself is calling for cleaning of the whole Kuki as narco-terrorists. “You know, our Indian Under-16 captain is a Kuki. Is he a narco-terrorist or illegal immigrant according to CM? How will you talk to a person who is responsible of cleansing and killing everyone?”

The problem is the Chief Minister is using those terms- Narco-terrorists, illegal immigrants, Kuki militants. “When derogatory terms comes from common people, it is a normal thing. But if the head of the State is using these words, the common people will also be instigated.” If you are painting/branding a whole community as poppy planters, narco-terrorists, and you are also going to kill them, in that alibi, killing narco-terrorists, killing innocent people, dialogue is a far cry, he said.

Arjit also mentioned the Meitei singer’s genocidal songs.

“You know Tapta, a Meitei singer. He is launching songs after songs where he says... the Meiteis won’t stop until all Kukis are killed. The genocidal song is going on from their side. Whereas, Kukis are just defending their places.”

Arjit said that there was not a single incident where the Meiteis were killed inside the city, Imphal, by the Kukis. “Kukis have no enough time to go in Imphal and attack. There are buffer zones which are controlled by the Army. Kukis don’t cross that. The Meiteis tried to cross and fight with the Army. They fired on Assam Rifles, central security forces, meanwhile asking for peace. How?”

He also mentioned an instance of a Meitei person posting on X (formerly Twitter) which said that he would teach how ‘slaves’ should behave (Meiteis brand Kukis as slaves) with their masters. “There is something evil out there. These people call Kukis as ‘minaimacha’ which means ‘son of slaves.’ Such is the normal words they used against the Kukis,” Arjit said.

Arjit said that the Kukis want very simple thing, that is, the Meiteis should stay in their valley and the Kukis in their hills, without crossing over each other, which is the simplest way and the best non-violent way of ending the crisis. “Honestly, the Kukis will never stay with the Meiteis anymore. They cannot. They don’t trust them. It’s about a marriage which has gone wrong. The past moment where they live together peacefully is gone. Right now, the sentiment is such that they cannot sleep together anymore. It’s a matter of trust like a husband and wife. If they are in love, they married. But now, the love is gone. It’s better to stay separated. It will not hurt anyone in this separate administration,” Arjit said.

“Imphal could remain as it is with the Meiteis’ Chief Minister. We don’t want anything in Imphal. We will stay in our hills but, we will not give an inch of hills



**Separate administration is the only solution. Trust level is upto zero.
Make an Union Territory for the Kukis. It is good for our country.**

-Arijit Biswas Kuki

DISTRUST OF REASON: THE CURIOUS CASE OF BRINDA

Meiteis Mediocrity is Eluding Peace

N Biren's regime in Manipur would be remembered as the darkest era in the annals of Manipur history. He becomes the embodiment of a tyrant, fascist, authoritarian and whatnots. Notoriously known for bulldozing majoritarian viewpoints on ethnic minorities, Biren Singh allowed himself to be the tool to crush the diversity and plural ethos of Manipur during this short yet epochal reign. Glorification of violence and distrust of reason are amongst others striking tenets of fascism. With the exception of institutionalising pogrom against minority Zo (Kuki-Chin-Mizo-Zomi) people in Manipur, he and his followers till now show all hostilities to peace. They do not know 'opponent' and all they know is 'enemies' and their ultimate goal is 'total annihilation' of their enemies.

The radicalised Meiteis distrust of reason or their utter disregard for reason is galore as evident in the social media realm. Biren Singh and his henchmen explicitly stifle reasons or rational and advocate actions based on instinct and irrationality to achieve the political goal (of remaining/keeping Biren in his chair). Implicitly, they are sloganeering 'Biren is always right.' The Government machineries and radical individuals conveniently and arbitrarily invoked FIR and criminal suits against anyone who is perceived to be speaking against the Government or the Meiteis without reasoning or examining any substances therein.

The last, but not certainly the least, victim of such tyranny and despotism is ex-MPS officer Ms Thounaojam Brinda. She was expressing (not even voicing) her perspective of the ongoing 'violence' in Manipur and the solution thereon. Based on her rational thinking, Ms Brinda said, in an audio recording which went viral on social media, the present violence was first started by the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun at the behest of N Biren Singh and Meitei titular king Leishemba Sanajaoba, who is also Rajya Sabha MP. She further alleged that the two Kuki-Zo women were also paraded naked and outraged by militias of the two Meitei outfits. The irony is that without examining the rationality of the claims/allegations, Meitei radical groups stormed the house of Brinda and she was coerced to apologise for what she said.

Brinda is known for her critical stand on Biren Singh's policies and programme such as 'War on Drugs.' Based on her intellectual understanding and rich personal experiences, Brinda had boldly claimed that some people



close to CM N Biren Singh (including his concubine Ms SS Olish, who is also a MLA) are involved in drug trade in Manipur. Indeed, it was a particular drug seizure case wherein 'Biren's second wife' was said to be involved that Brinda chose to resign from service. Even the startling revelation about the involvement of people close to Biren Singh in drug trafficking case was unforgivable. Now the ex-cop made another disclosure that Biren's militias were not only responsible for the present violence, but they were the ones who started it. Without reasoning, these are seen as enough reasons to seek vendetta against Brinda, sadly though.

Instead of giving space for rational thinking of the assertions made by Brinda, the Meitei radical and fascist mobs overwhelmed by emotions gave in to be governed by instincts than by reason. The Meitei mobs, as seen in the viral video, apparently seem to be carried away by the belief that 'reason' cannot offer any satisfactory solution of the problems in Manipur now. What is more disturbing is that a video of a man being tortured brutally for endorsing the views of Brinda in a clear demonstration of arbitrary power.

Biren Singh has heralded the era of intolerance, never ever known in the course of Manipur. To the Meiteis, peace means obliterating the Kukis. Indeed, peace will remain hostile to a place where reason has no place.

 **NEGATING
FALSE NARRATIVES**

Negating Meitei's False Narratives on New Keithelmanbi & Tuiringphaisen Incident

On the 4th of October, 2023, members of the Meitei terror group, Arambai Tenggol cadres set fire to an old house owned by a Meitei individual near the New Keithelmanbi area at around 9:00 PM. This incident served as a pretext for them to issue a rallying cry to Meiteis from various parts of their state, Kangleipak. What followed was a flood of fake news on social media, falsely accusing Kuki militants of attacking Meiteis and burning Meitei homes. These distortions aimed to stoke anger and hatred among Meitei youths against the Kukis, and initially, this tactic seemed successful on the 3rd of May.

However, their attempts to incite hatred and provoke Meitei youths who were unaware of the truth eventually backfired. This was because the house they claimed was burnt by Kukis was located in an area predominantly inhabited by Meiteis. When they attempted to attack New Keithelmanbi, they were confronted by the Gorkha Regiment, which compelled them to retreat from the buffer zone.

Their tactics, akin to those of a fox, came into play as they retreated and hid near the boundary. However, they were discovered by the Gorkha Regiment once again the following morning, i.e. 5th October, leading to a gunfight between the two sides that lasted for over 30 minutes. The Meiteis managed to sneak through the buffer zone and set fire to one Kuki-Zo house near New Keithelmanbi, but they were forced to retreat when the Gorkha Regiment retaliated.

Despite their claims on social media, it should be noted that no Kukis had participated in the fight from the previous night, but they suffered the consequences as one of their houses was burnt. On the evening of the 5th of October, the Meiteis, unwilling to accept embarrassment over their dissemination of fake news, launched an attack on Jangnomphai and burnt two houses in the village.

Tonight (October 5th, 2023), at approximately 8:00 PM, Village Volunteers observed drones hovering above the Tuiringphaisen area. Suspecting these drones to be associated with the Meiteis terror groups Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, the volunteers fired several shots at the drones. This action, in turn, prompted the Meiteis to retaliate by firing at the Kuki-Zo volunteers.

A Facebook page by the name 'Eramdam E-Pao,' managed by Meiteis, posted on their page that Meitei IRB (Indian Reserve Battalion) and VDF (Village Defense Force) personnel had discharged numerous rounds at Kuki-Zo village volunteers. It's important to note that IRB and VDF members are state government employees, and they are currently stationed to protect Meitei villages, potentially ready to engage with Kuki-Zo villages. This development underscores the growing separation between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities and the Meitei government.



Humanity still exists on earth from God's own country

Under the initiative of Malankara Marthoma Syrian in collaboration with KSO(GHQ) 30 displaced Kuki Students from Manipur will continue their studies at Nicholson Syrian Central School, Kerala. The displaced Kuki students are mostly from class 5-8 and will be given free education till 12th standard.

KSO (GHQ) apex students' body of Kuki tribes convey our sincere gratitude to His Grace The Most Rev. Dr.Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and the concerned authority for exploring alternative arrangements.



HILLS VERSUS VALLEY: THE DISPARITY-2

Allotment of State Budget for the Hills vis-à-vis the Valleys

Year	State Budget (in crores)	To Valley (in crores)	%age	To Hill (in crores)	%age
2017-18	Rs. 5000	Rs. 4892	97.84	Rs. 108	2.16
2018-19	Rs. 4900	Rs. 4750	96.94	Rs. 150	3.06
2019-20	Rs. 5000	Rs. 4880	97.6	Rs. 120	2.4
2020-21	Rs. 7000	Rs. 6959	99.41	Rs. 41	0.59
Total	Rs. 21,900	Rs. 21,481	98.09	Rs. 419	1.9

Source: [The Citizen \(Click here\)](#)

Views of TLM: Despite the deliberate, visible and criminal neglect of the hills, the Meitei pseudo-intellectuals supported by the headless Meitei keyboard warriors + Arambai Tenggol + Meitei Leepun + Meitei terrorists, with malicious intent, maliciously set the narrative that the hill people themselves are to be blamed for the under-development of the hills. If the equal share of budget was allotted to the hills, the hills would be very developed by now, and the Meitei CM's dream of Singapore would have been fulfilled many moons ago. Any concern citizen of India should immediately file RTIs to discover more of the discrimination in the allotment and utilization of the state funds.





THE MADNESS OF MEN

Judith Vaddi



Smoke rises on the far horizon.
A long plume of ash and grey, and
scattered around it, flickering piles
of amber.

There is no sound save the harsh,
jagged breaths of those that are
fleeing, feet heavy, hearts
heavier....

Down by the valley, we once met.
Under sheer blue skies
Long winding roads,
Under the shadow of the juniper
blades,
Muscles grinding, feet dribbling,
Brothers in arms.

Down by the valley, we once met.
Giggling girls and skylit cafes.
Bubble tea and book readings.
Weddings and babies,
And evening runs
Under a purple arching, aching
dusk.

Down by the valley, we once met.
Over coffee and breaking of bread.
Over late lunches,
Endless rides through indigo hills.
Of late-night hushed
conversations,
Star-filled nights.

Down by the valley, we once met.
Now only brief, scattered
Ashes, cinders cold,
Somewhere through the dark,
Faint cries, faint feet
A haunting wail.

Down by the valley
When men were men
When love was new,
Kisses soft
Now only this
Mayhem and madness
Now unleashed, unfettered
These the rabid
The legions of hell.

