

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**AWAITING JUSTICE**



**LYDIA LOUREMBAM (57 YEARS)**

W/O LOUREMBAM INAOTON

ADDRESS: KANGCHUP TWIKUN, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF INCIDENT: IROISHEMBA, IMPHAL WEST

CAUSE OF DEATH: BURNT INSIDE AN AMBULANCE BY MEITEI MOB



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 12. 11. 2024



**218**  
DEATHS

1. Zosangkim Hmar
2. Lalsiemlien Hmar
3. Joseph Lalditum
4. Lalthanei Infimate
5. Robert Lalnuntluong
6. Ramneilien
7. Francis Lalzarlien
8. Elvis Lalropui Zote
9. Henry Lalsanglien
10. Ruolneisang
11. Fimlienkung



**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.

# KOHUR CONDEMNS SELECTIVE ATTENTION TO VIOLENCE VICTIMS, DEMANDS EQUAL FOCUS ON KUKI-ZO VICTIMS

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR) has strongly condemned the killing of six Meitei women and children by armed miscreants in Jiribam district, Manipur, calling it a heinous act that must be condemned by all, regardless of ethnicity or religion. In a statement issued today, KOHUR expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, while also reiterating its commitment to avoid targeting civilians, even amidst the ongoing conflict in the region.

The statement emphasized the need for impartial investigation into the recent killings and demanded accountability from the law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice. "We beseech the authorities to identify and prosecute those responsible for this brutal attack," said KOHUR in its statement.

However, the organization also highlighted what it termed as a troubling pattern of media and government attention, claiming that focus is disproportionately placed on the deaths of Meitei civilians while other equally tragic events have been overlooked. KOHUR drew attention to the deaths of Kuki-Zo women and children, some of whom had been subjected to extreme violence, including burning, mutilation, and sexual violence. "These atrocities against Kuki-Zo civilians have occurred countless times over the last 18 months, yet they remain largely unreported and ignored," KOHUR said, referencing cases such as the brutal killing of a one-month-old infant, Baby Issac, and the violent deaths of other women and children.

The statement went on to list several incidents of violence against Kuki-Zo civilians, including the murder of Tonsing, a seven-year-old boy burned alive inside an ambulance, and the gang-rape and killing of two women, Ms. Olivia and Ms. Florence. In total, KOHUR asserts that over 50 Kuki-Zo women and children have been killed; many of whose bodies



have never been recovered. The organization called for an urgent and impartial investigation into these crimes, which it believes have been overlooked by both the media and authorities.

KOHUR also pointed to the violent actions of the Meitei community, claiming that the initial violence in Jiribam was sparked by the rape, murder, and mutilation of a Kuki-Zo woman, Zosangkim. The organization described her death in graphic detail, alleging that her body was subjected to horrific violence. In the aftermath, KOHUR claims, ten Kuki-Zo volunteers were shot dead by CRPF personnel, allegedly gunned down in cold blood.

"While the media's attention is fixed on the recent killings of Meitei civilians, we must also remember the ongoing suffering of the Kuki-Zo people. One such case is the recent murder of Haojoel, a Kuki man, who was killed and mutilated in Assam while visiting his pregnant wife in a shelter camp. His death, like so many others, deserves justice," KOHUR stated.

The organization also raised concerns about the role of Chief Minister Biren Singh in the violence that has plagued the region. KOHUR questioned why conflicts seem to escalate

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whenever Singh's political issues are brought before the Supreme Court, suggesting that his quest to maintain power may be fueling the violence and leading to the loss of both Meitei and Kuki-Zo lives.

"How many more lives must be lost for the power structures in Delhi and Imphal to take meaningful action?" KOHUR's statement concluded. "We urge

every right-thinking Indian to demand justice, and for the authorities to treat all victims equally, regardless of their ethnic background." The organization called for an end to the cycle of violence and for all human rights violations, irrespective of ethnicity, to be investigated and addressed fairly.

## COFFIN RALLY HELD IN CHURACHANDPUR TO HONOR 10 KUKI-ZO YOUTHS KILLED BY CRPF

A powerful 'coffin rally' was held today in Churachandpur as a tribute to the 10 Kuki-Zo youths killed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jiribam district. The rally, organized by the Joint Philanthropic Organisation (JPO) — a collective of various Kuki-Zo groups including Kuki Khanglai Lampi, Young Paite Association, Zomi Youth Association, and others — aimed to honor the slain youths and show solidarity with their families.

Participants, many dressed in black, carried symbolic dummy coffins to pay their respects as the bodies remain in the morgue at Churachandpur District Hospital. The rally, which began at Lamka Public Ground, culminated at the Wall of Remembrance Site in Tuibong, where mourners gathered to remember the fallen heroes.

Notably, Zomi Students' Federation (ZSF), Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) and Hmar Students' Association (HSA), in a 'joint public notice' on November 18, directed schools and colleges to send pupils from class 10 onwards to participate in the event wearing black shirts.

The bodies of the 10 youths, who were reportedly killed by the CRP on November 11, arrived in Churachandpur on Saturday afternoon after postmortem examinations were conducted at a hospital in Silchar, Assam. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a key body representing



the Kuki-Zo community, announced that the funeral would not take place until the postmortem reports were handed over to the families.

The incident, which took place in Jiribam district, has sparked intense controversy. The Manipur Police claimed that the 10 individuals were suspected militants killed during a clash with security forces. However, Kuki Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) vehemently rejected this, asserting that the deceased were not militants but village volunteers guarding their communities against ongoing attacks by Meitei militants.

# MANIPUR CABINET RESOLUTION SPARKS OUTCRY OVER ALLEGED GENOCIDE OF KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY

The recent cabinet resolution passed by the ruling administration in Manipur has drawn sharp criticism from the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), which has accused the state government of being complicit in the ongoing ethnic persecution and what it calls the “mass genocide” of the Kuki-Zo community.

In a strongly worded statement, CoTU alleged that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is the “mastermind” behind the violence, describing it as a well-orchestrated political charade. The Committee pointed to an audio recording in which the Chief Minister reportedly admitted to his involvement in the atrocities. The recording has been accepted by the Supreme Court of India for further investigation earlier this month, marking a critical turning point in the ongoing conflict.

The statement also linked the Supreme Court’s decision to investigate the recording with a recent gruesome crime—the rape, murder, and burning of Mrs. Zosangkim Hmar in Zairawn, Jiribam. CoTU alleged that the incident was orchestrated to divert public attention from the investigation. They further criticized the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for allegedly killing 11 Kuki-Zo volunteers under the pretext of an ambush, accusing security forces of siding with the majority Meitei community.

The cabinet resolution adopted on November 19, 2024, has intensified tensions. Passed in the absence of 10 Kuki-Zo legislators, the resolution includes contentious measures such as the withdrawal of six police stations from areas under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the abrogation of the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with Kuki-Zo underground groups, and the removal of Assam Rifles personnel from buffer zones in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi. CoTU denounced these actions as deliberate moves to undermine the rights of minorities and perpetuate majoritarian dominance.



“The resolution is a biased attempt to pivot accountability away from the ill-conceived political holocaust against the Kuki-Zo community,” the statement read, accusing the government of trampling on the constitutional rights of minorities.

CoTU also criticized the government’s focus on the death of six individuals from a specific community, calling it a “choreographed political drama” and a dangerous precedent in the ongoing conflict. They demanded that the groups responsible for widespread atrocities—such as Arambai Tenggol and VBIGSs—be declared unlawful organizations. According to the Committee, these groups have been instrumental in the killing of 218 Kuki-Zo individuals, including women and children, some of whom were allegedly gang-raped, decapitated, and burned alive. Victims include a one-month-old baby, Issac, and a seven-year-old boy, Tonsing Hangshing.

In its concluding appeal, CoTU urged the Government of India to intervene politically to address the deepening crisis in Manipur. They called for constitutional safeguards under Article 239A to protect the Kuki-Zo minority and ensure lasting peace and stability in the region.

As tensions continue to escalate, the Committee’s statement underscores the urgent need for impartial and decisive intervention to prevent further violence and restore harmony in Manipur.

## BJP MLA PAOLIENLAL HAOKIP LAUNCHES SCATHING ATTACK ON MANIPUR CM BIREN SINGH, HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH, AND PM MODI IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

In a startling and forceful interview with Karan Thapar for The Wire, BJP MLA Paolienlal Haokip from Manipur unleashed a blistering critique of Chief Minister Biren Singh, accusing him of being a “mad man, marauder, and liar,” and calling into question his ability to govern impartially. Haokip, one of the prominent Kuki MLAs from the state, declared that he and his fellow Kuki legislators would not support the Biren Singh government in any confidence vote, revealing a deep rift within the BJP in Manipur.

Haokip’s sharp condemnation extended to Home Minister Amit Shah, whom he accused of protecting Biren Singh for “less than honourable reasons”—a claim he declined to elaborate on, but which he firmly agreed with when pressed. Haokip’s comments suggest a behind-the-scenes power struggle, with serious implications for the BJP’s standing in the region.

Furthermore, the MLA took aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a hypocrite for failing to live up to his 2017 statement, which suggested that those who cannot bring peace to Manipur have no right to govern. Haokip, visibly frustrated, asserted that the Prime Minister had “failed his job” and that the situation in Manipur was deteriorating under the current leadership.

The ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, now in its 18th month, has once again flared up, with the Kuki-Zo people at the center of the crisis. Haokip pointed to the failure of both state and central authorities to resolve the issue and called for a separate administration for the



Kuki-Zo community—specifically, a Union Territory with its own legislature—as the only viable solution.

In the interview, Haokip voiced concerns about the BJP’s commitment to Hindutva, suggesting that it was preventing the party, and particularly the Home Minister, from adequately protecting Christian Kuki people in the region. This, he said, was a critical factor in the party’s inability to resolve the conflict.

Despite his outspoken criticism of the top leadership, Haokip indicated that he has not yet left the BJP, expressing hope that “saner voices” within the party would eventually prevail and lead to a change in direction on the Manipur issue.

The candidness of Haokip’s interview is likely to further fuel the political controversy in Manipur and create ripples in the BJP, which is already grappling with criticism over its handling of the state’s ethnic strife. With the Kuki MLAs taking a stand against Biren Singh, the future of the BJP’s government in Manipur appears increasingly uncertain.



**No man can lead man, we have to have unity.**

— *Bob Marley*

# MANIPUR TENSION PRESENTS ANXIOUS MOMENTS FOR STUDENTS TAKING SHELTER IN KERALA

The escalating Manipur tension is bringing anxious moments for students who took shelter in Kerala for their studies.

As tension again escalated in Manipur, the 140 odd Manipuri students from the Kuki community in Kerala are worried as families of many of them were forced to leave their houses, while some even lost their houses. "Fortunately, we did not come across any casualties to the families of any of the students here. But we are having little peace of mind thinking over the plight of our family members," Kuki student organisation-Kerala general secretary Goulungmon Haokip told DH.

Haokip, who came down to Kerala last year and is pursuing LLB at Manjeshwar campus of Kannur university, said that there were even social media posts

by unknown people, believed to be from Meitei community, are targeting the students from Kuki community in Kerala.

Accusing chief minister N Biren Singh of the present crisis, Haokip said that a thorough investigation into the 'Manipur tapes' would expose the truth. Students from Manipur reached Kerala last September to resume their studies that were affected due to the tension in Manipur. Various universities in Kerala welcomed the students after CPI leader Annie Raja took up their plight with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The university authorities, students and teachers extended support to the violence-hit students. (Deccan Herald)



**Mahua Moitra**   
@MahuaMoitra

Follow

If we let this BJP govt turn a blind eye & let Manipur burn yet again then each of us, every Indian has blood on their hands. PM & HM continue to campaign, mainstream media too busy brown nosing, judiciary not taking suo moto cognisance. Is Manipur not part of our Union?

0:51 · 18 Nov 24 · 133K Views



**Greeshma Kuthar**  
@jeegujja

Great. Those who killed those women and children should be arrested. But what about the woman who was chopped up into pieces and burnt alive by your Arambai Tenggol and UNLF(P) who've been roaming around freely because of you? Who will arrest them? Don't you have any shame? That



**N. Biren Singh** @NBirenSingh · 2h

There is no place in any society for terrorists who kills innocent women and children.



10:44 PM · Nov 19, 2024 · 1,506 Views





**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Biren and His Cabinet Has No Moral and Ethical Right to Make Decision Over the Kukis**

The recent violent protest in the valley and the government's efficiency in handling the situation was indeed a shock to my numb soul after the continual mainstream silence and government's deliberate inactions against perpetrators of heinous and barbaric crimes against more than 40 Kuki-Zo women and children. It made one ponder as to if it was okay to commit heinous crimes as the government and its agencies turned a blind eye to the heinous crimes committed by Meitei armed militants during this ethnic conflict. It turns out it was okay for the government and the mainstream people if it is done to the Kuki-Zo and not the Meitei; their moral compass is victim-identity driven. As much as we are happy for present victims and their families that the government stood up for them, the other reality is that it highlights the plight of Kuki-Zo victims and the glaring disparity of attention and action received by their counterparts.

Thus, does the government of Manipur have the moral and ethical right to derive their power from the same constitution it has stepped over repeatedly? Mr. Biren and his cabinet must remember that they took the oath of allegiance to the constitution of India as by law established, and the oath taken in Kangla Fort has no legal standing. Every resolution or law they implement must thus conform within the ideals, values and principles as enshrined in the constitution. The latest resolution passed by the Biren-led cabinet is discriminatory, oppressive, and vindictive, violating the ideals, values, principles and rights enshrined and

guaranteed in the constitution. Thus why should Kuki-Zo respect and honour a government that stepped over their constitutional, legal, democratic and human rights?

It is not known as to if the territorial expansion strategy of Arambai Tenggol and other VBIGs can pass the test of the court of law as right to property is a constitutional legal right, but their provocation of the Kuki-Zo in the fringes in their quest to conquer more land rather is the root cause of the conflict. Thus mass operation against Meitei militants responsible for the killing of 218 Kuki-Zo, arson of more than 360 worship places, 200 villages and 7000 houses, and the displacement of thousands from their homes and villages would rather have been the right approach. But now their resolution for the mass operation towards the Kuki-Zo is rather suspicious. With the history of close nexus between VBIGs and Manipur Meitei police in committing heinous crimes and driving the Kuki-Zo away from their homes, how can the Kuki-Zo be assured that it is not an excuse to drive them away from their land yet again? How can they be assured it is not an excuse to commit heinous crime against them?

For Mr. Biren and his cabinets, the looting of arms and ammunition from the state armoury is not

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a threat to law and order as the Kuki-Zo community will be the at the receiving end. To them, the frequent participation of UNLF(P) in attacking the Kukis is within the conformity of SoO agreement as they don't attack the Meiteis and the dire situation of militancy in the valley whereby bombs are even recovered in educational institutions and hospitals is an internal problem of Meiteis, not a law and order issue. The ever increasing extortion might as well be a means of wealth distribution in Manipur for them. Thus, they think the imposition of AFSPA in the valley district needs a review. As recently as during their so called public protest to attack their MLAs, 32 pistols and 7 rounds of ammunition were recovered, but for them all is well in the valley. The hypocrisy of the government of Manipur and the people of the valley is astonishing as they consider that imposition of AFSPA is against human rights if imposed in the valley but not if it is imposed in the hills!

The resolution therefore is as Biren always is - targeting and vindictive of the Kukis to unleash his oppressive regime towards them. Peace for the Meiteis is the complete surrender of Kukis and them apologising towards their oppressors, murderers and rapist with a guarantee that they will never voice and fight against

the injustice like they had fought in the past and they will meet in the future, to which Kukis will prefer death over their so called peace. Thus to expect justice for Kukis under Mr. Biren and presently in Manipur is to expect human rights for Jews from Hitler and German society then. When Biren himself is the biggest threat to law and order in Manipur, people expecting peace in Manipur under his regime are as gullible as Muslims who expect women rights under Taliban.

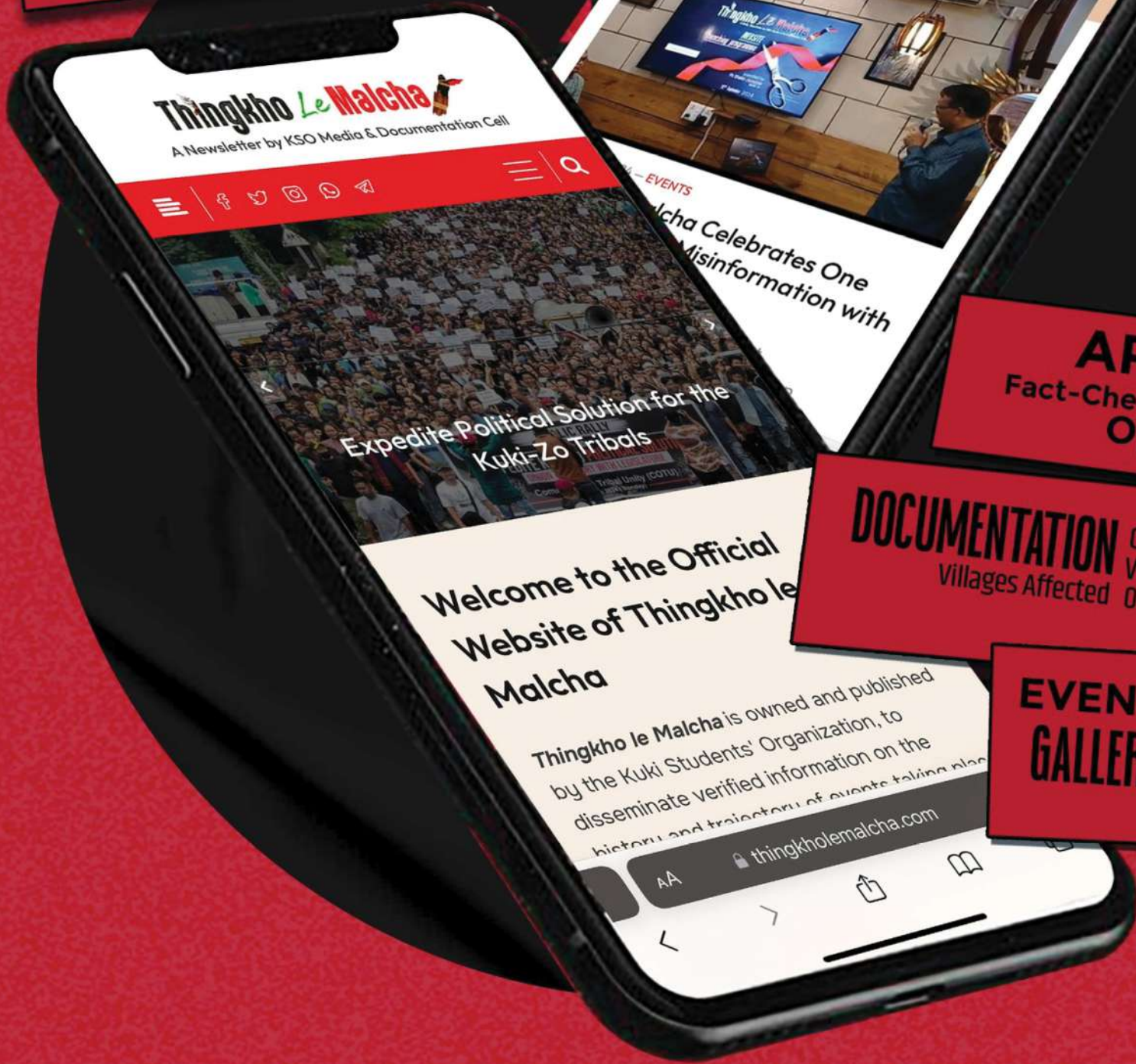
Self defence is the only option left for the Kukis in their fight for Justice. Zairawn village incident is the reminder why Kukis can't trust the peace process initiated by Biren. Our women, children and our lands are not safe under his government-controlled agencies. Thus Like Mahatma Gandhi said, "Though violence is not lawful, when it is offered in self defence or for the defence of the defenceless, it is an act of bravery far better than cowardly submission. The letter befits neither man or woman...", every Kuki has the right to live with dignity, right to equality, liberty and justice. One dark incident will not define their relentless fight to protect what is rightfully theirs and the safety of their women and children.



**BIREN'S  
BLOOD-  
VENDING  
MACHINE**



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# HOMELAND WRITTEN IN BLOOD

To a homeland written in blood  
Home they brought her warriors dead!  
Vengeance is mine and I will repay, says the Lord  
But this heart is human.  
This body, of this world  
Blood of my blood, kin of my kin!  
How shall I lament this homecoming of yours?  
How can I write of your stories painted scarlet?  
All the languages of this world-  
even so the language of poetry escapes me.

~ *Parte*