**HANGING GARDEN**

IMTIAZ DHARKER

“For a quite few years,

Living next to the Tower of Silence

my nearest neighbours were

the recent Parsi dead

We grew close, as neighbours do.

Evenings, watching television

Or taking my late walk

Pale bodies offered to the elements,

Rumi, Boman, Hormusji, Shirin

Waiting to be stripped

By the patient vultures.

And going out, I have always

Expected from the sky

The falling finger, the forsaken toe

The abandoned head,

The knowing twinkling eye.”

**ANALYSIS**

This is one of the short poems by Imtiaz Dharker.It deals with the idea of isolation/alienation. This poem is a tribute in the memories of loved ones who are now gone (dead).Dharker begins this poem in the past. She remembers quite a few years back when she was residing in Bombay. She used to live near Tower of Silence. The Tower of Silence is also known as Parsee Bawdi, is a sprawling graveyard that is situated in Malabar Hill region of the city. This funeral ground is where the last rites of people belonging to the Parsi community are performed. She goes on saying her nearest neighbours were the Parsi who are dead now.

Remembering the dead neighbours has become a medium of solace for the poet. She explains her relationship with her neighbours. How they grew close and how they used to watch televisions and take evening walks together. But now when they are long gone and dead, she reflects her views on their diseased bodies. It may have happened that their bodies were taken to the Tower of Silence for the last rituals. Dead and pale bodies are set to be offered to the elements of nature. The poet names four of her neigbours- Rumi, Boman, Hormusji and Shirin. She explains that the dead bodies of her neighbours were to be exposed to carrion birds, usually vultures.

In the last part of the poem, the poet says while going out, she always expects some body parts of those dead people may fall down from the sky. Something related to them would fall down as to her belief that they are not gone and they still strive to exist in this earth. She uses certain words to describe the dead body parts such as 'forsaken toe', 'abondoned head' and 'knowing eye'. After death the parsi people know what will happen to them(knowing twinkling eye). The dead bodies are to taken to the tower of silence. Where the toes and head are forsaken by the dead person and it is presented as food to scavenger birds.