

CREATIVE SPACE

## Journeying with cancer: A trilogy

C SATHYAMALA

**An ode to my rogue (cancer) cells**

*First there was one and then two  
and before I knew  
there were one too many  
counting made little sense  
morphing new with exuberance  
new is not progress, not always, I found  
how can I complain,  
when, birthed from my own.  
They too are mine?*

**It is all a game**

*a smile,  
the littlest of smiles  
not untouched with malice  
she does not know, not yet anyway,  
hidden deep within  
in her folds  
where shall I strike?  
it's all a game  
I feed, I grow,  
does she know?  
off her breast  
that never fed  
a hunger  
rogue, she calls me,  
pinches my cheeks  
somewhat melancholic...  
The only question left  
How then shall we cohabit?*

**Goodbye forever**

*It's time to say goodbye  
You arrived  
Unannounced  
Turned my life  
Upside down  
Frightened me  
To (almost) death  
To learn  
Unwelcome guests, at times,  
do bring welcome gifts  
Cutting edge  
cuts both ways  
Now poetry flows  
From my nuked/chemo-ed brain  
Thank you very much  
But its goodbye time  
Do me a favour  
Stay away, don't return  
I can live (only)  
Without you*

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