

TO AMPERSAND, WITH LOVE

You,
a blossom resting on scissors
We,
the steely citizens
of contention
You, the melting coin,
the gold writ of timelessness suffusing the clock,
we, the ribbons, the spiral torsion springs inside
You, mirror of Achilles in Priam's eyes,
we, the catalogue of ships
You the hand dishing out ironies
we, hungry for more
In *Poor Richard*,
You, the stable roof, us the rearing colt,
In *Nastaliq*,
you the beginning of the verse,
us the fetal curl
Dear unspooling thread, forever may you braid
Dear larynx, forever may you sing our mutability
Mercy of dark ink, nib, dear sheen,
dear nest in the branches of argument,
dear cement and moon cake and ocean current, dear dove rising,
dear hinge and hook and wingspan and compass and cradle and continuum,
dear and, dear and.

Shadab Zeest Hashmi '95