THE POET SAYS
A GRAPHIC SCORE AND MUSICAL COMPOSITION BY DEEPA LI GUPTA
COMMISSIONED BY TARGET MARGIN IN RESPONSE TO OUR 1001 NIGHTS SEASON.

READ:
This poster is a score. A map for a song* A lyrical placed in time. With room for silence. The shape of an unheard melody.

It is made to be read From the surface Int the underneath. From blood to ink to charcoal.

Then to be sung entirely. In the other direction. Consider the script, And its weight.

Most importantly, Allow for misinterpretation.

*This song is for Scheherazade— its character of her wisdom, power, and her radical daring.

I have moved the lyrical narrative forward in the story of 1001 Nights.

In which Scheherazade revives the spirit of the story of frames and frames, she tells her story.

She goes to the king against her fathers wishes. She does not care at all about her fathers wishes.

She is an agent of her own making. A bride made politic, a living martyr.

A young woman who wields knowledge, both scholar and soldier.

Over the thousands of years that have passed, we have lost her intention.

A clever girl who postponed the inevitable until it disappeared. As if.

I imagine an ending in which Shahriyar pardons Scheherazade And she, in turn, executes him. A lot is lost in translation. Mine, and the ones that have come before it.

The 1001 Nights are a (re)construction, these stories are patchwork.

Sometimes I have the feeling like I’m careening between languages.

I (mis)translated this lyric into Hindi and back again, in and out of Devanagari script— Trying to find the corners of the song. The shape of the melody lives in its script,

And its weight. Charcoal, ink, and blood.

LISTEN:
Stream / Download the music on SoundCloud at: www.soundcloud.com/targetmargin/sets/thepoetsays

RESPOND:
Use the graphic score to create a new iteration of the composition and send it (FLAC, WAV, ALAC or AIFF audio file no more than 25mb) to thepoetsays@targetmargin.org, where it will be added to THE POET SPEAKS playlist.

- DEEPA LI GUPTA