

SARAH AHMAD

What I See Burns

1

Intoxication swells as the courtesan dances
Her feet leave a mark so deep
The room spins into oblivion
Wine spills and the veil burns

2

To death! To death!
The sky rings with piercing shouts
Defenseless dragged through the street
Head held low
Eyes cry of the torture that awaits
"What is the crime of this being?" I ask
"This Eunuch dared to pray in the Holy Mosque!"
"He is a sinner!"
"To death! To death!"

3

The early morning sun burns my skin
I sit on my bed, the thorns prick my body
I walk towards the window
Roaring red sky, it mourns
Just then it starts to rain
Red tears pour from above,
a storm engulfs the pure
It does not swallow but spits them out