

ALL THE ROADS THAT I TOOK

By Shalini Banerjee

As I approached the yellow wood where the famous two roads diverged
I merely stood and observed.

Why do I have to choose only one that I would travel?

What if, in an alternate universe I took the other path, and it all unraveled?

Just like in this life, I would study Chemistry,
But also in the other life, Forensics would no longer be a mystery.
Science would still beckon me wherever I would go.
But English would also choose me as her muse, I thought so.

I would still pursue my MBA and establish my career.
But I would also complete my PhD, my doubts would not be a barrier.
Maybe, I would move to London and set up camp.
But also move to the US, my passport would have that stamp!

Or maybe in a third universe, I remained back in India.
Travelling all over, history buff, highest contributor to Wikipedia
Maybe in a fourth universe, I do join the India army.
Or maybe in the fifth, I buy a plot of land and take up farming!

What if, in any of these universes, my height is around 6ft?
And what if I am a fabulous dancer, instead of having 2 left feet?
Would these alternate timelines fulfill all my heart's desire?
Or would it complicate matters more, making it weary and I would lose my fire?

But in all these timelines, one thing would be constant.
You by my side, my best friend, my soulmate – that part would be consistent.
As I stood in the yellow woods where the roads diverged in front of me.
I realized I have chosen all the roads, travelled each path, and they all led you to me!