

there's no such thing as marital rape***Anjali Siddhartha**About The Poem:

The poem 'there's no such thing as marital rape' is an attempt at fighting against the taboo of talking about sexual violence within a marriage. The poem uses shape-poetry and a variation of capital & small letters, italics to create a visual impact on the readers. Marital rape is still not a crime in India and over 36 other countries around the world.

What kind of world do we live in where consensual pre-marital sex is considered a taboo at best, a crime at worst but sexual assault of your husband/wife is not?

Does one not own their body and mind anymore after getting married?

Is marriage nothing but a licence to have sex?

These are all very pressing questions and through this poem I attempt at raising them for all of us to think about. This is a fight we must fight together, to save our people from being abused by the people who are supposed to be their safe place, who call themselves their "family".

there's no such thing as marital rape

Nails tear off skin
 Canines wolf down my back
 ("love bites" you spit)
 Ropes cut through wrists
 Cheeks drown in salt-
 water
 Whiskey
 you pour down my throat
 Bottomless belly
 falling
 falling
 falling
 lost in this maze
 of cigarette burns on thighs
 and ashes in hair
 this body I do not recognise anymore
 Your Teeth. Your Nails.
 my skin fresh meat
 Voices strangled in my throat
 dying
 living

dying

*outside i smile. marriage is sacred.
repeat. this body not mine. lips ashtray.
skin to be sacrificed.*

"He loves you", they say

Right.

- there's no such thing as marital rape

Wildflowers

Anjali Siddhartha

About The Poem:

The poem ‘Wildflowers’ is an attempt at defying the overwhelming negative body-image issues manifested in young women by the capitalistic attitude practised by our media. This is a small step towards creating a healthy accepting world for our young people to grow in. Let’s say yes to body positivity!

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Wildflowers

in a world full
of perfectly
manicured
roses,

it takes
courage
to be a
wildflower

never give up
your magic
to fit a
billboard
full of lies
- don't let them
tell you that you
need make-up
to be beautiful
they don't know you
were born to start storms

*Anjali Siddhartha, 21, currently works with an NGO, Adithi which strives towards making resource-poor women and girl-children financially independent. She has earned her B.A. English Honours from The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India. She writes on societal issues concerning body positivity, domestic violence and various other contemporary themes.