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Editor: Saikat Banerjee

Department of English

Dr. K.N. Modi University, Newai, Rajasthan, India.

The Night Train to Ghum[1]

Neepa Sarkar
Department of English,
Mount Carmel College, Bangalore

Slumbering berths whizz past towns and villages,

a shrieking whistle proliferates the wind,

and, for an instant the dark world inside comes alive

under the fast passing station lights.

The mountains creep up slowly into my sleepy eyes, gushing out onto the landscape, their

slow, staggered metre contesting the speed of the train,

the locomotive no match to their grandeur.

They might have laid out their heart to be incised by iron and stifled by smoke,

but they were markers of geo time of aeons, contouring the sphere in leisure,

and when they impulsively yawned, the ground instinctively rumbled.

A cold morning light descends, waking my dreaming berth,

the train chugs into a sleepy station, literally ghum![2]

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[1] Ghum is a small hilly habitat in Darjeeling Himalayan region of West Bengal, India.
[2] Ghum in Bengali language means sleep.