

## Burying the Sky

### I.

in Diclofenac this coda this finale  
clean fold into economic flesh ailing livestock  
defer death ideal once laced into landscapes  
a slow cyanide final denial acidic fields  
coiled ground a clan of bills ecocidal coins  
docile green bills folded enact no fines  
no felons clean economical acid-laden  
fold into colic flesh cancel this land

### II.

in Doongerwadi *dhakma* add the bodies ignore  
the sky drained of vulture adornment hooked  
beaks ordained to drain the dead iron of erosion  
vultures who wooed flesh from odorous bone  
who gnawed at the graw of the devoted a dodo  
undoing who grew ragged with gut stones  
did not know the danger of cattle could not be  
warned vultures renowned for returning flesh  
to sky who dined on the wind of us now die  
with a roar in their organs dragged bodies toward  
the bony core rewind now to a dawn a dawning  
wonder realisation of a sky raining wings  
a dawn red with ending

**Diclofenac** is an anti-inflammatory drug given to cattle and which has been attributed to the decline of vulture numbers by more than 95% since the 1990s.

**Doongerwadi dhakma** ('tower of silence') is a sky burial site in Mumbai, where bodies are, or were, left to be consumed by vultures.