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Sufism

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SUFISM

FAISAL
SIDDIQUI

Black spots dappled
over its tiny white body,
a *Chitkubra* pigeon.

No holy dove,
locked in a cage
prayed Allah's name every morning.

Not fit to be made into biryani,
filthy little thing
sat on a ledge protruding

from the top floor of our house.
It was not one of our homer pigeons.
For weeks, disappeared in a clear sky.

On *Shab-e-Barat*, celebrating
Allah saving Noah,
firecrackers and 5-rupee bombs

lit the night on fire. To make
the bird a holy animal,
I tied an *Anar* firecracker to its feet.

In seconds it flew into the
dark, coruscated
the sky with brilliant sparks.