

9 March 2024

I'm about to arrive

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The future is so close
that it's the next moment,
the present so past
that it's exactly now.

Keeping the future
that's so close and the past
that's so near,
I'm present in the night.

In my old trunk
that borers have tunneled into,
is the junk of the past.
Recollected, it's dazzlingly new.

I've almost arrived.
The time should be around eight.
I want to make a place
where I can stay in the dark hours
but time has turned
this journey into night
and the direction has made it
the night of the new moon.

Until I arrive, it'll seem
that I've almost arrived,
as if I were arriving at the end of arriving.

— Vinod Kumar Shukla
(translated from Hindi by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra)