

## *Pigeons*

BIBHU PADHI

They embody a consciousness  
that shines among light-grey rocks.

In their bodies old stories of flight  
repeat themselves, refresh memory.

During the long Indian afternoons  
they rest upon our polished floors,

their bodies refracting the warmth  
of close contact, their small heads  
forming a community of wisdom.

A picture of extreme importance is seen—  
a picture that comprehends everything,  
all things contemporary and long past.

But before our eyes gain their fixed look  
and our envy its pale green stare,

they rise up, holy and untouched,  
to disappear in a history

of mocking wings,  
in the accepting sky.