



Pankhā

Poems
To Stir the Still Air

Compiled by Jatin Das



Pankha Poems: To Stir the Still Air: An anthology of Poems on Pankha (Hand Fan), compiled by Jatin Das. Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi (2022).
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Jatin Das (b. 1941): Compiler

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Malashri Lal

Sita's Pankha

Who knows of our little household in Chitrakoot
Bare essentials mocking Palace memories?
Rama turned forager and hunter
Laxman his sack bearer
And I rustling up meals of leaves and berries.
Pensive, tired, the men sit to their repast,
I wave the silken Pankha
brought secretly from Ayodhya
Remnant of their noble heritage,
And my remembrance of forever woman,
eternal wife.
When I sit at my meal,
The Pankha I give to my lord Rama
Gently he waves it over my *thaali*
Of banana leaf and forest fare,
Nature's efflorescence,
Our household, one with my Mother Earth.

