

A Subject's Mobile Phone

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Kashmir

[It has become a new normal in Indian-occupied Kashmir that the Indian army forcibly grabs the mobile phones of young boys and rummages for God knows what. Here in this poem, the speaker (who is pressured by an army trooper to surrender his mobile phone) shows courage to speak up and resist this unacceptable breach of privacy.]

This is my phone!
And I will not show it;
And I do not need to,
And I do not want to.
Are you infuriated?

This is my phone!
I use it my way:
I surf the net,
I swipe over social networking sites,
I connect to people.
Are you infuriated?

This is my phone!
And I am reluctant to unlock it;
Why do you force me to?
Why do you intimidate?
Yet if I turn down your 'command,'
Will you be infuriated?

This is my phone!
That you seize in your grip;
What is it you want to see?
Why do you take it away?
To check:

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If I store pictures of our rebels?
If I listen to the songs of resistance?
If I endorse everything that is anti-colonial?

Well then!
See for yourself:
Commander *Burhan* is my wallpaper!
Faiz, Amir, MC Kash and others
Dominate my music library!
I store pictures that unmask your depraved visage!
I save columns that expose your masters,
And debunk their narratives!
Are you infuriated?

This is my phone!
See for yourself:
I curse my usurper on social media!
I 'share' reports that they wish to dismiss!
I 'like' posts that dare to speak
Against everything that subjugates, tyrannises,
Hegemonises, dispirits and exploits
Kashmiris, whose dignities but you already robbed!

I verbalise your colonial moves in my tweets!
And retweet everything that reveals you – torturing me – in short clips!
This, I admit to! And my phone
Bears witness to that and to lot more!
You open it and view my protest
Against a parasitic Body –
So, are you infuriated?