What happens?

A speaker connects a name and language to migration, cultural stories and misrecognition.

The main idea

The journey of a name exposes a struggle to keep cultural history audible within an environment that mishears it.

1. “wilderness”

Method: Cultural allusion

An epic landscape supplies a language for displacement.

2. “silk”

Method: Textile imagery

Cultural and personal journeys are imagined as interwoven rather than isolated.

3. “milk teeth”

Method: Bodily metaphor

Language loss is linked to a vulnerable phase of growing up.

4. “echo chamber”

Method: Metaphor

An apparently receptive language-space instead repeats its own assumptions.

Form and structure

Free verse arranged in couplets; enjambment links cultural allusion, migration and the physical effort of speech.

Development, voice and tone

Epic identities — Searching and intimate. Connections to Rama and Sita frame personal experience through existing cultural stories.

Journey and changed speech — Strained. Migration becomes audible through the body’s effort to accommodate new sounds.

English reception — Frustrated. Other people’s difficulties with the name become a wider failure to recognise its history.

Context

Mundair brings South Asian epic references into an English-language poem, requiring the reader to encounter an inherited cultural world.

Comparison links

Homing: language and identity. pot: displacement and the demand to recover history.

Recall question

How do the opening cultural references challenge the final absence of recognition?