

## **Mourning Sickness**

No husband crowns the Tyburn pyre – note  
no royal standard flies at half-mast yet,  
no black armband, nor minute's silence – still  
no wailing wall, no mourning ring inscribed,  
no locket, jet, nor relic round the neck,  
no bell will toll, no blackened weed appears,  
no longboat bears this Lady of Shalott,  
no whitened wardrobe garbs this queen. Observe

our merchant traders halt, perform hartal,  
our shops are locked, our clocks are stopped, we starve,  
our clothes are rent, our mirrors cracked and veiled,  
our hands are stilled, our beards and hair uncut,  
our faces turned against the world, we sit,  
our wail of death laments the loss of love.

Hartal: (India) closing of shops as a form of passive resistance.