

America

by [Mozid Mahmud](#) (August 2022)



Festival, Daniel Celedonio, 1934

Independence, freedom and democracy
We have begun to hate the three words
Not long ago they were the loves of our lives
Once upon a time these holy words
Cleansed our hearts; soaked to the skin
In full rain we talked about a scripture
We learned A for Abraham and America
J for Jefferson and saw Washington
Uplifting another planet onto our neck

We called the logic of God; yet knowing
The horrors of limitless killing we were on your side
But apparently your fall and trickery are
Dragging us into the deep den
The past beliefs are now the cause of our suffering
Your contribution to the valleys and lakes
That we thought to be our harbor
And it is you who polluted its drinking water
Withering away trust.

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Mozid Mahmud is a poet, novelist, and essayist based in Bangladesh. Some of Mahmud's work includes *In Praise of Mahfuza* (1989), *Nazrul—Spokesman of the Third World* (1996), and *Rabindranath's Travelogues* (2010). He was awarded the Rabindra-Nazrul Literary Prize, Bangladesh Writers Club Prize, and the country's National Press Club Award. Recently, his essay on literary capitals of Bengal was published by Commonwealth Writers' [Adda](#).

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