

# 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.

## [Table of Contents](#)

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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