

**ये घना जंगल है, ये दो कास वहीं का है...**

***(Ye Ghana Jungle hai, ye do Kaas vanhi ka hai)***

**Notes by Shantibai**

This diary featuring Shantibai's paintings and her notes combined with some *footnotes* intends to offer parallel perspectives on environment and society.

**The Guild**  
*Art Gallery*

The Guild, Mumbai, 1/A, Pipewala Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Pasta Lane, Colaba, Mumbai – 400 005  
Ph: + 91 22 22875839 / 22876211 theguildart@yahoo.com / theguildart@gmail.com  
www.guildindia.com

The Guild, Alibaug, 1028, Ranjanpada, Next to Sai Temple, Mandwa Alibaug Road,  
Alibaug - 402201 Ph: +91 2141 247847

© The Guild All rights reserved



ये जंगल है, जंगल  
के बीचों - बीचों में  
रोड है। ये घना  
जंगल है, ये दो  
कास वही का है।

Within the dense  
forest, there is a  
road. There are  
two *Kas* trees  
here.

*[Forest covers of Chhattisgarh state makes up 44.21 per cent of the state's geographical area, ranking third in India. About fifty per cent of the villages lie within a five-kilometre radius of the forest.]*

*Source: Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh]*





ये जंगल बीच में  
रोड है, हम  
बैलाडिला जा रहे  
हैं। और उधर से  
ट्रेक्टर आ रहा था।

We are on our  
way to the  
Bailadila mines  
through the  
road within the  
forest. A tractor  
is coming from  
the other side.

*[Bailadila derives its name from the shape of the hill range that resembles the hump of an ox (bail). Established in 1968, Bailadila Iron Ore Mines is the first large scale open cast mechanised iron ore mine in India]*



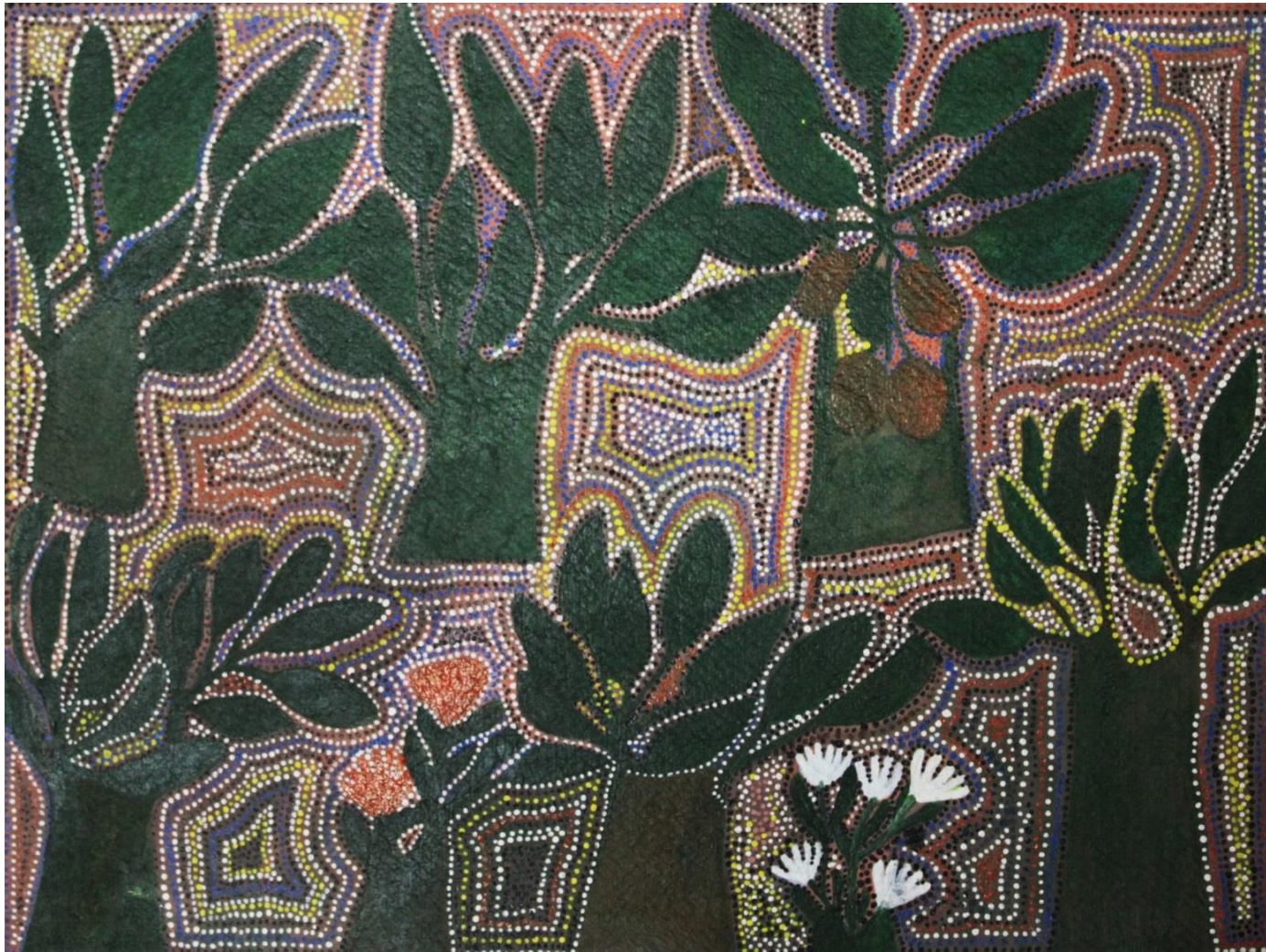


ये बम्हनी का नदी है,  
ये इतरा फूल है। और  
दूतरा फूल का फल  
है। ये पेड़ - पौधायें  
हैं। ये सब नदी के  
किनारे में है।

This is the  
Bamhaniriver.  
Along the  
riverside, there  
are trees and  
shrubs. This is  
the *Itra* flower  
and this other one  
is *Putra* flower's  
fruit.

*[South Chattishgarh, which includes Bastar Division falls under the river Godavari Basin with Indravati river being the third biggest river in the state. Indravati has several tributaries which traverse across the region becoming homes for diverse flora and fauna.]*





ये जंगल है ये  
केरमेटा का फल  
और फूल है। ये  
फल को खाते  
हैं, दवाई का काम  
करता है। ये सफेद  
कुड़ई फूल है।

In this forest, this  
is the *Kermeta* tree  
(*Dillenia*  
*Pentagyna*) with  
fruits and flowers.  
The fruit of this  
tree is eaten, it is  
medicinal. These  
are the white  
flowers of *Kudai*.

*[These forests along the rivers in South Chhattisgarh are rich in trees, shrubs and herbs and their products are integral to the indigenous health management systems. The communities who reside around the forests inherit great ethno botanical knowledge about forests.]*





ये बम्हनी गाँव के  
जंगल है, जंगल अन्दर  
में नदी के थोड़ा किनारे  
में माता मंदीर है। ये  
बाजू में पत्थर के मूर्ति  
शेर बनाया हुआ है।

These are the  
forests of Bamhani  
village. On the side  
of the river, there  
is a Mother  
goddess temple.  
Alongside there is a  
sculpture of a tiger  
made in stone.

*[Sacred groves are an integral part of the forests throughout India and have been crucial in conserving natural habitation. It isn't uncommon to spot idols or totems of gods and goddesses who abode under tress as protectors of the forests. There have been instances of Adivasi communities coming together to protect these sites from urban invasion in the past.]*





ये जंगल है जंगल के  
बीचों - बीच में नदी है।  
नदी के अन्दर  
मछलीया और मेंढक  
बनाई हूँ। और नदी के  
किनारे इतरा फूल लगा  
हुआ है।

This river is inside  
the forest. In the  
river I have shown  
fishes and frogs.  
On the banks of  
the river, *Itra*  
flowers are visible.





ये नदी है, नदी के एक तरफ पेड़ - पौधायें हैं। और दूसरी तरफ कुछ महिलाएँ टूडगूना तोड़ रहे हैं। सब्जी बनाकर खाने के लिए।

Alongside this river on one side, there are trees and shrubs. On the other side, women are plucking the *Tudguna* plant for cooking as a vegetable.

*[Almost 70 per cent of the total population of Bastar Division comprises tribal communities who are dependent on forest resources and rivers. The livelihoods of tribal, as well as non-tribal and landless communities are dependent on natural resources. The women especially know every herb and edible plant that grows on the riversides.]*





ये हम लोग घूमने  
गए थे, नदी के  
किनारे खड़े होकर  
उस तोड़ने वाले  
महिलाएँ को देख  
रहे है। ये रवीरेन्द्र  
है। और ये मैं हूँ।

We went to the  
river side and are  
standing by on the  
side of the river,  
myself and  
Ravirendra are  
standing there and  
observing women  
plucking the  
leaves etc. of this  
vegetable.

*[Shantibai places herself in the composition memorializing her joy of watching women collecting herbs.]*





ये नदी के किनारे खड़े  
होकर देख रहे थे तभी  
नवजोत अपने कैमरे  
सें फोटो ले रहे  
हैं। एक कीड़ा को तो  
हम देख रहे हैं। इस  
नदी में मेंढक,  
मछलियाँ हैं।

While we were at  
the riverside  
looking at the  
women, Navjot  
came with her  
camera and she  
clicks photos. We  
are observing an  
insect. This river  
has got a lot of  
frogs and fish.

*[Artist Navjot Altaf is busy taking a photograph. She has been associated with Shantibai, Rajkumar and other artists from this region since the late 1990s. They have set up the Dialogue Interactive Artists Association in Kondagaon, where they work together.]*





ये फरसा पेड़ है।  
ये फरसा पेड़ में  
फूल खिला हुआ  
है।

This is the *Farasa* tree (Palash - Flame of the Forest) and the tree is blooming with flowers.

*[The flowers of Farasa (Palash in Hindi) are used for worshipping god as well used as floral adornment by Adivasi girls. The flowers contain Isobutrin which is used for natural dye extraction.]*





अब हम बैलाडिला  
गाड़ी में जा रहे हैं,  
तब का है।

We are on our  
way to Bailadila  
mines in a car.





ये बैलाडिला का गेट  
में पहुँच गये हैं, ये  
कार से जा रहे हैं।

We went by car  
to Bailadila  
mines and have  
reached the gate.





ये बैलाडिला के गेट  
में घुसने के लिए  
हम सब परमिशन  
माँग रहे थे तब का  
है।

We have  
reached the  
Bailadila mines  
and are seeking  
permission to  
go in.





ये बैलाडिला लोहा  
खद्वदान है, ये  
फोकलैंड से निकाल  
रहे हैं। और टुक से ले  
जाने का गाडी है, इस  
खद्वदान के किनारे में  
एक आदमी खड़े  
होकर देख रहा है।

These are Bailadila  
iron ore mines. They  
are taking out the ore  
by a crane and  
loading it in trucks.  
On the side of the  
mine, there is a man  
watching/supervising  
all this.

*[Bailadila hill contributes to 70 per cent of the iron ore supplied by the National Mineral Development Corporation. The ore is mainly transported to Visakhapatnam port to be exported to countries like Japan and South Korea.]*





बैलाडिला खदूदान में  
कोयला निकालने  
वाला मशीन खड़ा  
है। एक तरफ लोहा  
पत्थर निकाले हुए है।

In the Bailadila  
mines, there are  
machines to  
extract Iron  
ore.





लोहा को निकाले  
हुए है, उसी के पास  
एक बैठने का जगह  
बनाये हुए है। तो  
हम सब बैठकर चर्चा  
कर रहे हैं।

There is a pile of  
extracted iron ore.  
We found a space  
around to sit down.  
We are sitting there  
and having a  
discussion.





ये बैलाडिला के गलाने  
वाला मशीन है। ये  
मशीन पत्थर को  
गलाता है, हम सब  
उस मशीन को गौर से  
देख रहे हैं।

This is the  
machine that  
breaks up the  
iron ore rocks.  
We are keenly  
observing its  
operation.

*[The process of mining involves techniques like exploding, crushing, milling, gravity separation, screening, and silica froth flotation before the ore reaches the steel plants.]*





ये हॉटल है, हम सब  
चाय पी रहे हैं। और  
कुछ बात जीत कर  
रहे हैं।

We are at this  
cafe, having a  
discussion  
over tea











# The Guild

*Art Gallery*

Artwork Images, Copyright the Artist, Courtesy The Guild

© The Guild | All Rights Reserved 2021

Text in Hindi: Shantibai

English Transcription & Notes: The Guild