

## **A MESSAGE FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

**Mum, Mom, Mama,  
Mother, Mater, Amma,  
Mummy, Mommy, Ma,  
Mother mine, in every tongue,  
Yours the praises the world has sung.  
So I have only this to say:  
I love you now and every day.**



© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



## केक बनाना

मां ने मुझे बताया  
केक बनाने की सामग्री  
- प्यार भी उसमें से एक है।

(वाहिबा देनाई और उसकी मां बादिया के लिए)

## BAKING CAKES

Mother taught me all  
the ingredients of cakes  
- not forgetting love.

(For Wahiba Denai & her mum Nadiya)



शब्द और पोस्टर डिज़ाइन: देबजानी चैटर्जी, प्रेरित वाहिबा देनाई, उम्र 15, रोशनी में प्लेसमेंट जुलाई 2010  
हिन्दी अनुवाद: उषा वर्मा (2010)

© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee,  
inspired by Wahiba Denai, age 15, on placement at Roshni in July 2010.  
Photo of Tulika Banerjee's birthday cake, 2008.



### کیک بنانا

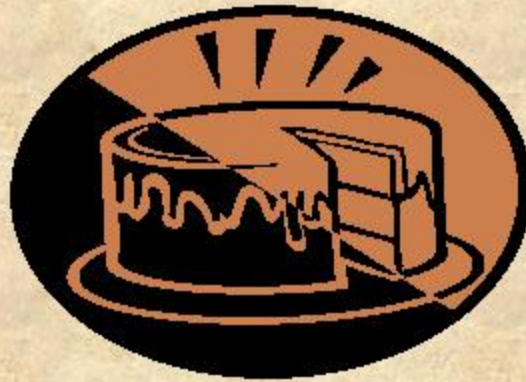
ماں نے مجھے بتائے  
کیک بنانے کے اجزاء  
- پیار بھی ان میں شامل -

(وصیہ دینائی اور اس کی امی دادیہ کے لئے)

### BAKING CAKES

Mother taught me all  
the ingredients of cakes  
- not forgetting love.

(For Wahiba Denai & her mum Nedra)



قریباً سو سالہ عرصے سے راجستھان کے راجستھانی زبان کے لکھنؤ میں مقیم رہنے والی 15 سالہ ونہیا دینائی نے اپنا کیک بنانا 2010ء میں راجستھان کی ایک رسالہ 'Roshni' کے ذریعے۔

© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee,  
inspired by Wahiba Denai, age 15, on placement at Roshni in July 2010.



## HOPE HAIKU

Grandmothers, mothers,  
daughters, each generation  
chants a hymn of hope.

(for the Roshni Safe & Secure  
Project members)

## আশার হাইকু

দিদারা, মা'রা,  
মেয়েরা, প্রত্যেক যুগ  
আশার গান গায় ।

(সেইদিন মোক আর সিন্ধিউর প্রকল্পেই নবমুখের কল্যাণ)



খোপটোপ্রাফ: দিঘা, তার দিদা ও মা',  
(বাঙালী মহিলা সাহায্যকারী সংস্থা, ২০১০)  
কবিতা, অনুবাদ এবং অঙ্কন:  
দেবযানী চ্যাটার্জী, ২০১০



- © Photo of Diya with her grandmother & mother belongs to Diya Sinha (Bengali Women's Support Group, 2010)
- © Words & poster design by Debjani Chatterjee, inspired by members of Roshni's Safe & Secure Project, 2010

## DOUBLY MY MA

My Ma's love is a warm blanket  
With the softest cosiest fleece.  
I like to snuggle beside her  
And shut tired eyes in peace.

Didi's love is doubly rich  
Because she is my Ma's Ma.  
When she hugs and kisses me  
I am a maharaja!



© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010  
© Photos of Rishi Banerjee with Didi & Aunt belong to Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



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Debjani Chatterjee, 2010  
© Black & white photo of  
Basanti Devi belongs to the  
family of Durga Chakrabarti  
from Roshni's Carers Project  
& Bengali Women's Support  
Group.  
© Durga's image is from  
Kolkata's Durga Puja  
festival, 2010. Photo by  
Indranath Mukherjee

## DURGA'S NAME

(for Durga Mashi)

My birthday could not be special,  
Though my father showered his love.  
I have searched in photo-albums  
And the memories of sisters.  
Sometimes I think I hear her call  
Me in the deepest night: 'Durga'.  
Durga – the whisper on her lips,  
Durga – her vision as she died;  
The family named me Durga,  
Durga – the Goddess we welcome  
Each year in the Puja season.  
'To call you, Daughter, is to pray,'  
My father said. 'Your mother lives  
Within you. All have their mothers,  
But yours is the Mother of all.'



# FAMILY HAIKU

We may have our ups  
and downs, but we will always  
be a family.



© Words: Sabah Iqbal & Uzema Nawaz  
(Roshni Deeya Youth Project, 2010)

© Photo: Debjani Chatterjee & Roshni staff members, 2010



© Poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



# GRANDMA

These are Grandma's spectacles,



This is Grandma's woollen cap.



This is the way she folds her hands



And lays them in her lap.



© Words: Anish Munir & Viral Popat (Roshni Deeya Youth Project, 2010)

© Poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010.

Photo of Sreelekha Mukherjee & Piku

## نانی

माना कि उसके झुर्रियां पड़ी हैं,  
माना कि वह वृद्धा है,  
उसके बाल हैं चांदी, लेकिन  
मैंने लिए वह सोना है।

## تانی

جی ہے اُس کے ہتھریاں پڑی ہوں  
اور جی ہے وہ بوڑھی ہو؟  
اُس کے بال ہیں چاندی لیکن،  
میرے لئے وہ سونا ہے۔



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www.womensupportgroup.org  
www.womensupportgroup.org  
www.womensupportgroup.org

शहज़ाद के साथ नानी की फ़ोटो शहज़ाद खान की है।  
(बंगाली महिला सपोर्ट ग्रुप, 2010)

शब्द: अनीशा मुनीर, सबा इकबाल एवं हैना हुसैन  
रोशनी दीया यूथ प्रोजेक्ट (2010)

हिन्दी अनुवाद: उषा वर्मा (2010)

पोस्टर डिज़ाइन: देबजानी चैटर्जी (2010)

## GRANDMA

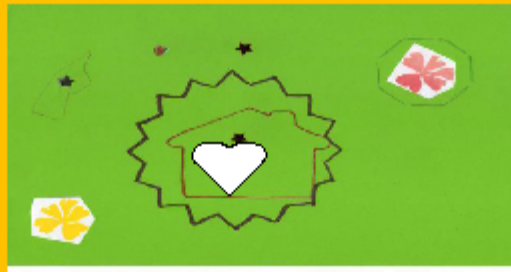
She may have wrinkles  
and she may be old;  
her hair is silver,  
but to me she's gold.

© Photo of Shahzad with her grandma  
belongs to Shahzad Khan (Bengali  
Women's Support Group, 2010)

© Words: Anisha Munir, Saba Iqbal &  
Hana Hussain (Roshni Deeya Youth  
Project, 2010)

© Poster design: Debjani Chatterjee  
(2010)

'HOME  
WHERE  
HEART



IS  
THE  
IS!

Grandma was a bag-packer,  
moving between us siblings.  
'Daughter, I feel most at home  
with you children,' she told me.



Our home's heart is my mother.  
My father calls her a queen  
who rules her heartland with love.  
She is my safety anchor.

But today my daughter said:  
'Mum, home's not home without you!'



© Artwork: Roshni Safe & Secure Project, 2010  
© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee,  
for the Roshni Safe & Secure Project members, 2010

# MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

We may have our arguments  
And we may have our fights,  
But we're mother and daughter,  
So we'll always be tight.



© Words: Anisha Munir, Saba Iqbal & Hana Hussain,  
Roshni Deeya Youth Project, 2010

© Poster design & photo of Rashida Hussenali & her daughter



Umme Salama, by Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



# MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

*This relationship is a complex one:*

*sometimes it's full of joy*



*and sometimes there is none.*



*I loved my mother a lot*

*but she loved my sister instead,*



*and I was the one she forgot.*



© Poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



© Words: Saswati Dey (Bengali Women's Support Group, 2010)

# MOTHERS' MOTHERS

Many grandmothers  
Step in to raise the children  
If their mother can't.



© Haiku: Sabah Iqbal & Uzema Nawaz (Roshni Deeya Youth Project, 2010)  
© Photos of grandchildren with Sreelekha Mukherjee & Durga Chakrabarti  
of Roshni Carers Project & Bengali Women's Support Group,  
by Indranath Mukherjee, 2010



© Poster design: Debjani Chatterjee, 2010



# MY GRANNY

My granny in the Punjab has henna-red hair  
like the kitchen fire on which she carefully turns  
cobs of yellow sweet-corn.

She rubs a garden lemon and rock-salt  
before handing me the treat. 'Bite it hot!'  
she bids; 'it was your mother's favourite snack.'  
Her mouth is red from daily chewing paan -  
heart-shaped leaves that remind of mother-love.



Group poem & poster by Debjani Chatterjee & Roshni staff  
members: Ghazala Razaq, Naila Shaukat, Fouzia Ali, Nadia  
Akram, Nazia Begum, Farzana Camran, Nishi Vadhra

# MY MOTHER

**M**y mother passed away at eighty-six but she is  
always

**Y**oung in my mind.

**M**other, you were a living poem;

**O**pulent was your store of words.

**T**uneful, sonorous, wreaths of rhymes

**H**ung around you, wherever you went.

**E**verything you touched and all that you did

**R**everberates still in melody.

**Poem & artwork:** Ashoka Sen

**Poster design:** Debjani Chatterjee



# PUNJAB DREAMS



My dreams are mellow:  
holding Mother's hand, I skip  
through warm mustard fields.

Let me wear yellow  
in England's autumnal grey  
and bask in sunshine.



(for Anjana Mahindra & Kamlesh Atti of Roshni's Safe & Secure Project)



© Words, poster design &  
photographs of Anjana &  
Kamlesh are by Debjani  
Chatterjee, 2010



**TO  
MY  
MOTHER**

**I love you more  
than  
you can know;**

**you have my  
total respect.**

**If I had my  
choice of  
mothers**

**you'd be  
the one  
I'd select!**



© Words: Anisah Munir & Viral Popat  
(Roshni Deeya Youth Project, 2010)  
© Photographs of mother & daughter  
Parven Akhter & Anita Hossain by Debjani Chatterjee  
(Bengali Women's Support Group, 2010)



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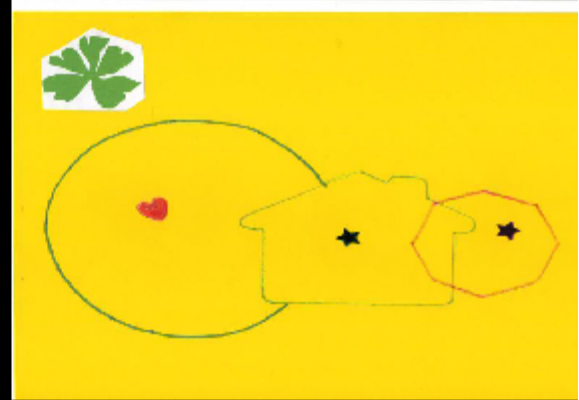
## तीन रंग



मेरी दादी का श्वेत परिधान,  
रंग चमेली का,  
सुगंध पावनता की।

मेरी मां का भूरा परिधान,  
जमीन कश्मीर की,  
वह पुत्री उसी मिट्टी की।

मेरा चमकीला हरा रंग,  
जैसे खेत गन्ने के,  
बचपन की यादों से।



कलाकृति: सुरक्षित और सुनिश्चित रोशनी प्रोजेक्ट, 2010

शब्द और पोस्टर डिज़ाइन: देबजानी चैटर्जी,  
केअरर्स प्रोजेक्ट मेम्बर्स से प्रेरित, 2010

हिन्दी अनुवाद: उषा वर्मा, 2010

## TRI-COLOUR

**My grandmother wears white,  
the colour of jasmine,  
the scent of purity.**

© Artwork: Roshni Safe & Secure Project, 2010

© Words & poster design: Debjani Chatterjee,  
inspired by members of Roshni's Carers' Project, 2010

**My mother wears the brown  
of the Kashmiri earth,  
a daughter of the soil.**

**My colour is bright green  
like the sugarcane fields  
I recall from childhood.**

# MOTHER IMAGE

Holding her sari, I followed quietly,  
I stood in a kitchen corner and watched  
her activity – always busy and bustling -  
the lynch-pin of our home and lives.  
Whenever she sat down with knitting  
or a plate of rice or lentils to carefully  
clean,  
I settled on the carpet, nestling by her.  
Mother was lavender scent and  
softness.

Now she's a grandmother,  
I watch her: how small she is,  
an ageless beauty I can't define.  
Did I cause those tired lines  
of pain and laughter criss-crossed?  
I see myself and our little ones in her  
as I watch her with the eyes of love.

Photo: Tara & Debjani Chatterjee  
by Coverbook Studios, 2007

© Poem: Debjani Chatterjee  
(published in *I Was That Woman*,  
Hippopotamus Press, 1989)





# MY DAUGHTER



My daughter loves pizzas and chilli  
pepperoni,  
pasta, pretty pink clothes and silver  
jewellery.

They say she takes after me:  
she has my temper and scribbles  
nonsense poetry,  
she has my grandmother's features, my  
mother's beauty.

But I say that she's one of  
a kind in our family.

© Group poem + poster by Debjani  
Chatterjee + Roshni staff members:  
Ghazala Razzaq, Naila Shaukat,  
Fouzia Ali, Nadia Akram, Nazia Begum,  
Farzana Camran, Nishi Vadhra  
© Artwork: Anita Hussain (Bengali  
Women's Support Group, 2010)





## **BANDIT QUEEN**

**Her aunties named her after a  
star of the silver screen  
and I nicknamed her after a  
bandit queen.**



**My daughter loves porridge  
and Grandma's poppy-  
seed cakes,  
she adores sweet lassi and  
strawberry milkshakes.**



**Wearing my silk dupattas and  
high heels,  
she practises karate and turns  
cartwheels.**

**Her teachers say she's very  
clever  
but doing her homework takes  
forever.**

**Group poem & poster by Debjani Chatterjee & Roshni  
staff members: Ghazala Razzaq, Naila Shaukat, Fouzia  
Ali, Nadia Akram, Nazia Begum, Farzana Camran,  
Nishi Vadhra**





मेरा परिवार

मेरी दादी की आस्था,  
बच्चों की हंसी और प्यार,  
संवारते मेरा परिवार

## MY FAMILY

My grandmother's faith,  
My children's love and laughter,  
Shape my family.



रूपा, उसकी मां और उसकी बड़ी बेटी नीला की फोटो डा.रूपस्री तिवारी की हैं  
(बंगाली महिला सपोर्ट ग्रुप, 2010)

हाइकू श्रवण, बाकी फोटो और पोस्टर डिज़ाइन: देबजानी चैटर्जी, सुगक्षित और सुनिश्चित रोशनी  
प्रोजेक्ट मेम्बर्स से प्रेरित (2010)। हिन्दी अनुवाद: उषा वर्मा (2010)

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& her daughters belongs to Nazma Begum (Bengali Women's Support Group, 2010)

© Haiku, poster design & photos of Jayati Mukherjee with baby & Kailash Puri with Tara  
Chatterjee: Debjani Chatterjee, inspired by Roshni's Safe & Secure Project members (2010)