

POETRY

Eliso Khatridze

Winter Without You

Agony is ignored unless it swallows the man whole.
As grief lingers between us, at the table we mention the names
Of the ones underground, where dignity comes in a nightgown...
Declaring that their image lives forever in our hearts.

Yet, in our beliefs, to be remembered is to be forgotten,...
To let the casket rot.
To be remembered is to let the flowers on the grave
Be dragged by nature's claws.
To be remembered is to host trapped ghosts
As visitors from day to night,
Year to decade,
Until your flesh is eaten,
And only bones remain.

Your grave decays. while
In the warm house that once belonged to you,
Breathing souls walk around,
Calling out the names of the ones above the clouds,
As snow falls from the home you've made now.

Author's Note



Eliso Khatridze lives with her parents and a younger brother in Tbilisi, although the family is originally from Kutaisi.

She was a valued member of the Gori Drama Club, and for their first Spring Festival in 2024, Eliso wrote and directed an original play which was performed by members of the group.

Last year, at the age of 15, she became the youngest contributor to our *Journal*. and we are proud of her continued creativity.