

ZOHRA SAED

Jalalabad Will Never Be JBAD

Jalal Abad, once Adinapour,
is the mythic city of shine—
the whim of a Mughal King, Jalaludin Akbar,
known for his fondness for citrus and fountains.

Akbar became a cane in this city of citrus—
a long leaf of green from which
a garden sprouted.

Jalalabad nurtures fresh springs beneath her skin.
At night, a *peri* appears for the sake of Akbar
and wraps her wings around the city.

If you press against a wall here—
it will turn to water.
If you dig your face into the earth—
the carpet of grass will erase the bombs.

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