

ARTIVISM: ISSUE 01

SELECTED SUBMISSIONS

A GEN Z WOKE – SHEYMAH NIYAZ

They only see,
Our faces buried in screens,
Our fingers scrolling through pages,
Liking and sharing other's voices,
Unemployed and being lazy all day.

They say,
We are allergic to books,
Worse than couch potatoes,
Softer than tissues,
More worried about pronouns than
problems.

But Let us say,
We were born in a country,
Where history is edited,
Truth hidden and buried deep,
War stories erased,
Yet forcefully spoon fed us in classrooms.

We see,
A past generation,
That failed to choose a leader,
Followed those who fanned racism,
Didn't know how to vote with power,
Or to raise voice against rot and corruption

So now let us ask,
Who held tents on Galle Face Green?
Who turned memes into manifestos?
Who made WhatsApp groups safer than
streets?
Who turned reels into war drums?

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Listen to us,
We are not lazy,
We are learning through screens.
Unfollowing the lies,
That echoes from the parliament seats.
Bounced through 4G signals,
To make protest songs.

We say,
Screens are where we found each other,
The people with same mindset.
Across day and dark,
Held hands, together chanting “GO HOME”.

We say,
No, we didn't march like our forefathers did,
But we tweeted,
We posted and went live.
We cancelled all the dictators,
And ghosted the heads that reproduce colonial power.

Let us assert,
Call us anarchists,
Blame us for not having all the answers,
But at least,
We brought you the awareness.

Once again,
We are not lazy,
We are,
Tired of the old ways,
Tired of recycled corruptions,
Tired of standing in queues,
For basic needs that are our rights.

And that is why
We Woke.