

## DAMINI

### A WOMAN WHO WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE IN OUR MEMORY

**Dr. Rajeshwari Singh**  
Senior Lecturer  
National University of Samoa,  
Apia, Samoa

Life became more difficult than the death itself,  
The life that gave you hellish agony,  
The terrible act of shame by fiends in the shape of humans,  
starved aberrations of inhuman abuse and assault.  
each moment must have felt like death,  
how I wish I were there and like a Kali killed their lust,  
take care of your well being and small pleasures,  
you were brave and bold, a fighter and dreamer.  
Full of life, young and promising, courageous-  
looking forward to happiness, life full of respect,  
what do the world know of what plans you might have held,  
so closely to your delicate heart which was so ruthlessly trampled?  
Each moment through your fight for life,  
we died with you, we the womankind of the new world,  
shaken, hurt, hit and agonized-  
their womanhood is crushed to pieces.  
With false promises of so called honour, care and security,  
The shallow, hollow gestures, acts to protect us,  
Do we still have hope for our Daminis?  
Can we walk freely ?  
can we laugh and chat and enjoy our little femininity,

holding our head high where you claim to praise us like a deity?  
your prayers must have been fake and adoration pretentious,  
every day many Nirbhayas and Daminis are born,  
Let not their sacrifice go in vain,  
Can you not promise a very simple boon of dignity to them?  
This New Year Day and all the years to come,  
Let them be annals to a world  
A world that is free from crimes, lust, agony, shame, fear and darkness.  
God we are asking of you to remove the darkness,  
Let Light, Grace and Bliss commissioned to take hold of us.

*\*Damini:* It is a pseudonym given to the gang-rape victim Indian girl. This name was borrowed by media from a fictitious character in a T.V. serial which showed the female lead character Damini fight the cause for women and then became synonymous to gender struggle for empowerment in India.