A COLLECTION OF POEMS:
IDENTITY VERSUS FAMILY

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Guilty Strings
written a year after having left Islam as my father leads the pre-iftar dua during Ramadhan, asking Allah to make me religious again.

bellies raw and throats dry
they’re chanting spells at the table again.

my head swims,
they offer me up
I go,
‘fill him with holy things’
‘pure things’
‘your things’;
my father orgasms,
and everyone moans
God’s name.

The Bunny Butcher
written in my university accommodation where over the phone, my mother asks about the ‘halal’ foods I’ve been eating.

slithering hand down my throat,
you slide into me.

‘what
can I help you with today?’,
I say,
smiling,
greens red
with rot.

The Kaguya Ritual
written after Ramadhan, ever an intense period, where I decide to craft another persona to cope with my religious, traditional parents. Took inspiration from Isao Takahata’s The Tale of Princess Kaguya, particularly the final scenes.
I’m sending you to the moon, 
away from this heart; 
away from 
these puppeteered parts. 

and though we never wished 
to be so unfree, 
we’d always be un 
happy, 
as long as you were with me. 

and so now I break 
all 
our bonds, 
mind and body free, 
the moon my witness 

and thus: 
I cease to be.