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## Meeting an Unknown Threat

Shyamkant Kulkarni

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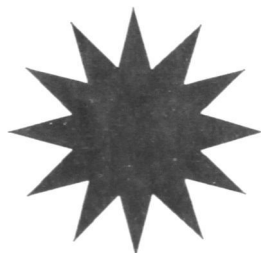
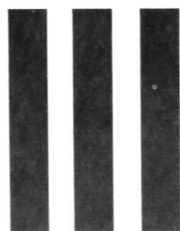
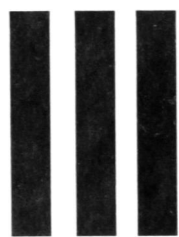
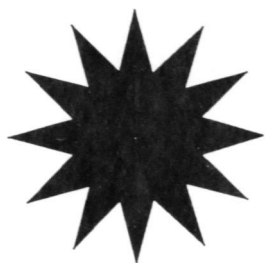
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# Meeting an

—By Dr. Shyamkant Kulkarni

A wreath of leaves to crown—  
 Clad in silken cloth brown,  
 Face and chest painted  
 With black, green, and red.  
 He is dancing  
 On the rhythm of ancient beat  
 Waving hands in the air  
 Along with others in the circle  
 Around the spirits and souls from the  
 unknown.  
 Shrill shrieks and tender voices  
 Whistle from an eagle bone—  
 Tender touch of a brown piece  
 Leading through the time to  
 Reach eternity  
 Underneath an ancient cliff  
 With bare skin, offering and praying  
 Voices traveling along the drift  
 To a distance far  
 Like this Sundance  
 Throwing everybody in the stance.  
 Makes me wonder  
 Why I am here—  
 Why do I compare  
 When heart is thumping, pulse bounding  
 To catch up with the beat.  
 My face is wet with the sweat  
 Like all others around  
 Standing in circles in a daze  
 Watching this Sundance.  
 This sweat is proud  
 Making and reaching beyond oceans great  
 To meet an unknown threat. \*

*(DR. SHYAMKANT S. KULKARNI, age 52, is a physician in Watonga. He recently published a poetry collection titled THE SONG OF SEED AND OTHER POEMS, and others of his works have previously appeared in WESTVIEW. His compelling urge as a writer is to portray ever-changing life through poetry and fiction.)*

*Design by Joey Conkin*

# Unknown Threat

SUNDANCE



*Illustration by Duane Andrews*