**8th Form National Poetry Recitation Contest**

**Title of Poem**: Rain

**Poet**: [Kazim](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/nick-carbo-57ac93a4c8948) Ali

**Link**: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/54262/rain-56d23467ac47f



**About the Poet (From Poetry Foundation)**:

Poet, editor, and prose writer Kazim Ali was born in the United Kingdom to Muslim parents of Indian descent. He received a BA and MA from the University of Albany-SUNY, and an MFA from New York University.

Ali’s poetry collections include *The Far Mosque* (2005), which won Alice James Books’ New England/New York Award, *The Fortieth Day* (2008), *Sky Ward*(2013), and *Inquisition*(2018). Ali’s poems, both lyric and musical, explore the intersection of faith and daily life. In a review of *The Fortieth Day*, *Library Journal* noted that Ali “continues his task of creating a rejuvenated language that longs to be liberated from the weight of daily routine and the power of dogmatic usage . . . writing in the tradition of [Wallace Stevens](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=6576), Ali is clearly a poet of ideas and symbols, yet his words remain living entities within the texture of the poem.”

# Rain

# By Kazim Ali

With thick strokes of ink the sky fills with rain.

Pretending to run for cover but secretly praying for more rain.

Over the echo of the water, I hear a voice saying my name.

No one in the city moves under the quick sightless rain.

The pages of my notebook soak, then curl. I’ve written:

“Yogis opened their mouths for hours to drink the rain.”

The sky is a bowl of dark water, rinsing your face.

The window trembles; liquid glass could shatter into rain.

I am a dark bowl, waiting to be filled.

If I open my mouth now, I could drown in the rain.

I hurry home as though someone is there waiting for me.

The night collapses into your skin. I am the rain.

**Study Guide:**

What does “Yogis” mean?

Why do you think the author compares himself with “a dark bowl”?

**Vocab:**

Strokes – a mark made by some sort of instrument

Curl – action of forming a curve or spiral

Sightless – without vision