

A prison without walls (1984)

There are no walls
in this prison
It is built on a foundation of
fear, intimidation, and threats.

*Keep the history book closed
Keep the historian in prison
The prison without walls
Has room for many.*

How to subdue
the anger of millions
who see their sweat and blood
enriching but a few?

*Concentration camps and stone prisons
are never enough.
Gallows will not silence them
they are too many...far too many.*

Quick, open the gates
Gates of the prison without walls.
Create a terror
worse than death.

No evidence of violence
No, not even a scratched forehead.
Yet opposition is silenced
millions are struck dumb.

*Blame the victim
Make the innocent guilty
for questioning their misery
for ... being.*

Interrogations, threats, and insults.
Why think? Why not be an animal?
Threaten by suggestions, intimidate by looks
will your child be safe?

*The prison without walls
is never full
Bring in more...and still more
till the whole country becomes
a prison house...without a single wall.*

And yet
Questions keep coming
voices of protest keep singing

minds keep working day and night

*The prison without walls
will never solve the problem.
Only the united will
of the people
will.*

Shiraz Durrani
London
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