

## Assimilating Indian TV Screen

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*Channel 29*

Newsreader: the water has risen above the danger level

And a hundred are missing

Text flash: Next—Salman Kahn slaps Katrina Kaif

Subtitle one: Sensex down 400 points

Subtitle two: SMS 25252 for Ting-Tong Win Five Crores

We Indians have always been obsessed with harmony  
Three thousand years back we merged life with death  
Made a cycle of them and threw out an *atman*  
In case you got tired and wanted to take a break

In our wisdom  
Muddled myth and history until time became fuzzy  
And went for a vacation only to be dragged back  
By Europeans, addicts always classifying things

They saw to it that we made a habit of it  
Broke the country into two  
Broke the states into two essentialist empiricists  
Observing the cell division of hate

Glory to India we live in a world of divide  
The TV and the country the word and the world  
We savour the senses in segments for we are the gods  
Who can merge glory and gore on the sofa of equanimity