

I AM "SHE"

*I am "SHE" - a Daughter, a Mother, a Sister, a Lover
I have often been compared to a Goddess in my nation
I am taught to act well amidst problems and not whine
I am expected to be beautiful, elegant and loving, even in my worst of times
I am "SHE" - a Thinker, a Learner, a Dreamer, a Believer
I have many times outrun my peers
I have dreamt of rising above the highest powers
And yet have kept the promises and respect of others, safe in my heart
I am "SHE" - a Victim, a Survivor, a Target, a Patsy
My clothes, my sexuality, my age, and even my wisdom
Are reasons enough for him to brutally murder my respect and me
Six months, eight months, forty or fifty, well age is just a number for some
I am "SHE" - a Slut, a Shame, a Woman With No Name
I get out of my home scared, of not only new and strange
My mother has sleepless nights, planning how she can save her child
A yet to be born daughter will no more be killed for fear of dowry,
She will be killed because she is feared of becoming one more Nirbhaya in a new story
I am "SHE" - a Fighter, a Fire, a Pride, a Desire
Stop mowing down my desire by a tweak
Stop painting me soft with colors so weak,
I am no flower, no teddy, no cushion, no candy
I am as strong and motivated as you think, only you can be
No matter how hard I try
Patriarchy will always persist, all it changes is its form that we see
No matter how hard I cry
This "SHE" can not be changed, all it needs is the change in the "HE"*

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