



A Youth Meet

**Crafting Peace &
Justice Politics
Today**

**25-27 January 2023
Darjeeling, India**



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
Institute for Human Sciences

Friendship

The tree standing firm with branches
spread skyward,
Bore fiery, coral flowers, as if inviting
one and all,
To come, sit on its branches and feast
On fruit, flower and nectar and stay
the day long!
The finches, swifts and bulbuls,
Perched atop the scaly branches,
thick and thin,
Either danced and hopped
to each other's notes,
Or flew by, even weaved themselves
grassy forts!
A wanderer walking the hills,
looked up at the tree,
Stopped a moment, and watched in glee:
The unfettered wings taking flight,
gone for a while,
But returning to the sanctuary of the tree,
even from a mile!

Shatabdi Das

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