

POETRY

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COLORS

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I

In the fall, the old maple in my backyard
went from green and yellow to deep red.
The red was there all along,
waiting to be revealed
as the green vanished.

II

When Newton coined the word *spectrum*,
he based it on *spectre*: a ghost
of seven colors that appears
when white light breaks up.
As the sun sets,
the ghost scatters,
leaving only red on the horizon.

III

The first eye sprouted
on a swimmer in the primordial sea
some five hundred million years ago,
and right away it was drawn to its prey,
creatures flashing red.

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P.K. Saha taught English and Linguistics at Case Western Reserve University from 1966 until he retired in 1994. He is the author of over 200 items (poems, short stories, articles, books) published from Australia, England, India, Pakistan, and the United States. He lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, with his wife Ginger.