

A brief commentary on the work that appears in the *Notre Dame Review*:

In Fall, 2022 I taught Prageeta Sharma's *Grief Sequence* in my Poetry Studio course. Sharma's experience as a caregiver chimed with much of my own recent work and grief in that crucible; I read and reread the text and wrote a flurry of poems in conversation with it. This was roughly contemporaneous with the attack on Salman Rushdie and my teaching of Natalie Goldberg's "Meeting the Chinese in St. Paul" (from which I borrowed Luoshan Daoxian's koan), which wrangles with isolation and belonging, meaning and its absence. My poem is a Venn diagram comprised of these and other circles. As Goldberg writes, "This was one whole world."