

**Rosaliina Paavilainen**  
**Beauty Odyssey**

When I was a child,  
I imagined that looking old  
would liberate you

I believed that after you get old  
you no longer need to worry  
about how others see you

But one day,  
I realised that gaze  
never leaves you

I saw that gaze in magazines,  
billboards, screens,  
and in the eyes of people close to me

And one morning,  
that gaze has become one with mine.  
I saw eye to eye with it

I learned that a woman  
reaches her prime  
at the age of 17

And I felt a deep melancholy,  
for my beauty had already started to crumble  
without me even noticing

You are rewarded for youth and beauty,  
beyond anything else you can achieve

I had to invent a time machine

Beauty is health  
Beauty is purity

In striving for ultimate beauty,  
you strive for a timeless attraction  
like that of other-worldly beings

Surrounded by a cacophony of remarks,  
I knew all the flaws  
and how to fix them

I have been one of the privileged few  
who could reach the beauty ideal

Volume

I considered leaving my legs unshaven  
to show them on social media

Too impure

Pretty people are getting  
prettier and prettier

It is empowering to do something  
that gives you an edge over others

Who would choose to be ugly  
when you can be pretty?

One day, I dreamt of getting  
cryogenic beauty treatments

I went to a clinic  
where they promised to freeze time

There is no natural route  
that leads to victory

At the clinic,  
I was told two things:

1. Botox treatments must be started  
before the age 30

Otherwise the neurotoxin merely  
freezes the wrinkles in place

2. My face is highly expressive

Excessive facial movements  
had already caused damage

After the procedure,  
I could not move my forehead anymore  
and I felt sad about it

If you are not able to move your face  
you cannot feel emotions

Does that matter?

After a good haircut,  
you feel like the best version of yourself

Botox is that feeling  
multiplied by a million

Volume on volume

I have not been correcting flaws in my appearance  
but enhancing my best features

The human body can be endlessly improved

Appearance is the source of success

With continuous improvement,  
you can transcend mortal boundaries

Identify underperforming sectors  
and remake them

I have found the time machine

My beauty is my capital