

Palimpsest
by Miriam Manglani

*Something reused or altered
but still bearing visible traces
of its earlier form.*

I am a palimpsest —
scared with the past,
wounds beneath
semi-transparent layers of life
revealing old pains and joys.

I have eyes that shine
and mist,
lips that crescent
and quiver.

Peel me, peel me,
like an onion
one layer of time at a time
to reach the pure core of me
vulnerable and so shiny
it could burn holes in you.

