

The Longest Moustache in the World

Two black coils of hair
swoop and fall past brown
cheekbones of a man
in Jaisalmer who has grown
the longest moustache in the world.

He comes to dangle
his slippered feet
from the veranda
before an ancient four-storey haveli.
In dignified silence
he will show you
a framed copy
of his listing in *Guinness*.
Then a cardboard
with his father's photo --
the same moustache.
A yellower listing
pasted beside it.

"I broke my father's record,"
he says, if you ask.

Tourists shuffle past him,
into the cavernous mansion
marveling that a moustache
can make a man's living.

"I come every day," he says, if you ask,
"And all day I sit, marveling at you."

Shauna Singh Baldwin