

**RE(CREATING) HOME FROM AFAR:  
MEMOIRS OF AN EXILE**

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*Abstract: It is through preservation of memories that an exiled person is able to survive. Threatened with death by political fundamentalists, censored, attacked, targeted by a long press campaign, she was eventually forced into exile. Controversial feminist Bangladeshi writer, too much often identified, or rather, construed by Western media as the “Female Rushdie”, Taslima Nasreen is one of the many voices that reclaim homeland. She has learnt to live dangerously due to the openness in her writings. This paper analyzes the way in which the exile furnishes a new experience, that of (re)writing ‘home’, taking as point of departure the two volumes of her autobiography, her first major work written in exile, Meyebela: My Bengali Girlhood (2002) and Wild Wind. My Stormy Youth (2006). A second aim of this paper is to analyze the writer’s celebration of female sexuality, one of the catalysts in the Taslima Nasreen affair. “Exile, for me, is a bus stop where I am waiting for a bus to go home”, she wrote in an article. Excluded because she invites subversion, Taslima Nasreen’s only choice at the moment is exile, waiting to get on the bus one day.*