चाह (chaa-h): an archeology of desire

[redacted]

on soft glowing screens, desire knows no bound
selling you back, the wanting that it found
it knows your lack before your longing ends
a flood that drowns the very thirst it tends.

the self, assembled carefully for a gaze
an asset built, and endlessly displayed
they engineered the longing and the lack
built a stage before we even knew to act.

YET

a moment of stillness the feed cannot fill
the quiet commodity no market can buy or bill
a hunger no algorithm knows to name
like a seed splitting the concrete, wild and untamed.

shall we reclaim the longing, push it off the feed?
desire as a commons, not a curated need
चाह: the longing, the unconsoled
to wonder before wonder could be bought or sold.

AI Use Statement: Claude Sonnet 4.6 was used to look up the phonetic pronunciation of the Hindi word, and to finalise the poem's rhyming scheme.