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SWATI CHANDRA

An escapade

Sit I here, in this silent spot Seeking a stasis, in this calm plot Away from various dins urbane Of the chaos within and without An escapade! To turn human again

Far into the green network I gaze Wondering is it the same maze The urban tangle, I have run from Hoping it to be the Arden? Wish I to vaporize my cares In this magical garden?

al Literary Journal Shall I undergo a reformation! Will the concrete city soften Its harshness? My companion! Will he fight with me no more? Or is it just a comma? The sentence shall run on as before...

I am not going to meet cooler noons But perhaps I will return afresh To withstand life's lampoons Or accept that Pandemonium or Arden Moves with us! Arden always lies On the other side! Where looks, none! Because we always keep seeking one!

The Rara Avis

Wide and loud was made a call For all the rara avises to gather in a hall To have a voting session to decide Who was the rarest of them all?

The owl came complaining, with a gloomy sound Of humans preying on his kingdom Of owning the night; preying on wisdom Chasing Lakshmi but threatening her mount!

le Then came peacock, out of his concrete jungle To shower enough rain even Kartikeya was unable Saddened at the loss of water in human eyes Forgotten were his dances and erotic cries!

Then came with a dry olive branch, the dove Turned pale; ingratitude had taken a toll Of a world despite Venus, starved of love Peace had shrunken to a mere symbol !

The nightjars, and gulls, and kapakos and their clan Stood gaping, feeling already extinct they were! When such common avises are already rare! Without them what would befall, had realized not man!

Then came lamed truth and amnesty And then maimed wavering honesty And the wingless feeble trust And then love with all the rust And the malfunctioning compassion And the hall stood up in alarm Speechless, not knowing what is best Who was more prone to harm! Came a voice-humanity is the rarest!

BIO-NOTE

Swati Chandra is an Assistant Professor in English at College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi. She is also a secretary at FSLE–India (Foundation for the Study of Literature and Environment). She writes poetry in both English and Hindi and also pens short stories when she finds time.

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