

Birds in Flight

By Aju Mukhopadhyay

Flash of light enormous, pass through the sky
Pilgrims to different sites in accord with season's cry
Exactly on the same flyway for ages they fly;
Bar-headed Geese in flight dwell in sky infinite
They live in central Asian coldest lakes in summer
Breed in Mongolia, China and Ladakh, separated from Kashmir,
Live in Pakistan and Indian plains in winter.
In flight, they generate huge heat;
Powerful flapping of their wings
Over the oceans, forests, lands and cities
Days after days, nights after nights
Create sufficient oxygen
Energize their muscles, lungs, heart and capillaries.
Birds without boundaries, citizens of the earth, water and sky
Choose different sites as suits them for different activities
Without dividing the globe by countries, nations and races;
Without passport or visa they move, live on natural resources;
Born in Nature it is their only refuge
They die in it without knowing any subterfuge.
Spreading their wings at times they fly without a single flap
Glide through the sky, a flash of joy,
Lapping the sky gracefully.

Longing to be birds in the heart of our hearts

Free from all manmade burdens of life
We can neither shake off the burden nor in us carry the bird's spirit
We faintly imitate them without reaching their site.
Birds live in Nature ever active happy and prolific
Which is hardly possible for us
With our vain human pride;
Children of Nature we are part of it
Instead of collaborating with it
We try to dominate and boss over it.

Light

Light throbbing in the heart of darkness
Shakes its density and solidity
Dawn lengthening towards morning
Mops up darkness slowly
Shadows vanish
In its brightness
It rubs them off the bodies
Of men and furniture
Lion, camel, orangutan and tiger;
Light focused on cave
Clears the obscurities
Light of reason removes
The stumbling blocks of superstition
Light of knowledge conquers ignorance
Light of conscience deals with narrowness
Pushing it towards broadness and righteousness

Light broadens the narrow space of the heart
Leads it towards benevolence
Pride and prejudice, niggardliness vanish
With the white purity
Of the effulgent Divine light
The light of lights!

Bio

Based on Pondicherry and Kolkata, AjuMukhopadhyay is a bilingual award winning poet, critic and author. He has authored 35 books and has received several awards from India and abroad besides other honours. He has so far published ten books of poems in English besides two in Bangla. He regularly contributes to journals and books in India and abroad. Besides usual poetry he has been regularly writing Japanese short verses of different genres. His works are widely anthologised and translated in several Indian and international languages. He has published works on wildlife, Nature, Environment, Spirituality and Philosophy besides his main area; Literature.