

MAMA'S BOY

By C L Khatri

He took his first decision
in life at an age when
I could barely decide my dress.

He decided the country and the city
dealing, un-dealing
negotiating himself with old foxes
calling support from his friends
as he calls me for aids
or for updating my knowledge.

I told her, "Your son has grown up
more than his age or yours."
I need to check my boot.
I felt something slipped out of my hand:
a loss or a gain I can't explain,
the time to vacate the old space.

Parenting is over; facilitating is on.
I should bask in the reflected glory.
Look he is flying like a falcon
who may not listen to the falconer.
He knows how to navigate
through prayer and preying.

I feel the vacuity in my heart.
I will fill it with memory drive.
I can see him looking up to me,
walking to the sweet vendor

holding my warm fingers,
nagging for a toy plane or crackers,
demanding joy rides in zoo....

But in her world he is still a child
and will always remain a mama's boy
listening to her chides.

Bio

C.L.Khatri, a reputed, perceptive critic and editor of *Cyber Literature* and several anthologies of criticism, is an emerging voice in Indian English poetry. He is a bilingual poet writing in English and Hindi. His four poetry collections in English are *Kargil* (2000), *Ripples in the Lake* (2006), *Two- Minute Silence* (2014) and *For You To Decide* (2016). He was awarded Michael Madhusudan Academy Award for his poetry collection *Kargil* in 2002. His poems are widely published, anthologized and translated in different languages in India and abroad.

Currently he is Professor, Dept. of English, T.P.S. College, Patna.

He can be contacted at drckhatri@rediffmail.com