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The Fervent Fish

Dr A Raihana Barvin

The lively twists of the thorny wings tatter the red walls,
It strives to thrive and jump out of this well-fenced world
To taste the pleasure of this painful globe.
The red threads come together
To tie the hopping fish to the latch.
They exert effort to tame, hold,
And to crush it inside the bloody flesh.
The slow and steady rhythms of a demure heart
Turns out to be the irregular drum beats,
And the battle begins between the wild and the tamers.
They catch it and throw it far down.
In a jiffy, it flew back to the spot and tried to win the game.
They grab its throat and ask it to be silent forever.
It scratches and baits the red hands those try to define the structure.
Though deadly, enduring the pain,
Mastering the fish is the only thing in their veins.
Closing the shutter to the light,
They fight hard all through the sombre days.
Requesting, scolding, crying, and ordering.
Again, pleading and shouting to suppress its vibrancy.
Beneath the tranquillity, the battle continues.
When the surface remains calm,
Who knows? The depth is a catastrophe.

Author Bio:

Dr A Raihana Barvin teaches English Literature at Sethupathy Government Arts College, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu. She has completed her UG and PG degree at Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Kilakarai, and received her M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Alagappa University, Karaikudi. She was the University Gold Medalist (M Phil) and also received a Silver Medal for proficiency in PG. Her research articles and poems are published in many UGC-approved international English literary journals like The Criterion, Contemporary Literary Review India, Muse India, Gnosis, The Literary Herald, etc. Her poems are well known for their deep study of human psychology, socio-political human behaviour, mysticism, and dreams. She published a poetry collection, *The Dews of Wonderland* in 2023, and a collection of Tamil verses (a chapbook), *Katrin Thedal* in 2020.