

*Anupa Lewis*

**The Conservatory**

A lone Lily leans over the skyscraper turf of the synthetic cloud forest, tasting the saline foam of a very blue *wallpaper sea*. Far from home, the womb of a Bone China vase yawns wide, groaning under the lurid glare of an LED sun.

Feral flowers stare, exhibiting the fierce stigma of forests hived in captivity. Amazonian Blood Orchids hiss in dissent. Indian Tiger Claws scowl menacingly. Champing jaws of Venus Fly-traps stage a mute spectacle of protest.

Alongside, tourist faces wrapped in a bouquet pose for a group selfie pout.

Entry sign: Jurassic Lawn - 2020.

## Winged Fluorescence

A wayward caterpillar, a little too fluorescent green in verve,

I was expected to grow a ‘decent’ pair of gauze wings:

As all in the world ----

- SHOULD *be*?
- WOULD *be*?
- COULD *be*?

Er, what is technically called ‘metamorphoses’!

Wings, *they* believed, ought to be ----

- Not too light as to shuttle speed and let fly too fast
- Not too wide as to waver beyond norms and let glide too far
- Not too bright as to plume desire and let soar too high

But my wings turned out to be ----

Neither the gay glitter of the early butterfly,

Nor the dry sloth of the late moth.

I grew to be a creature of twilight,

WINGED enough in heart, mind and soul,

To know where I started, and where I belong.

**Anupa Lewis** holds the position Assistant Professor – Senior Scale at Manipal Institute of Communication. She is the coordinator of the Tagore Centre – MAHE, Manipal. Moreover, considering communication as the broad spectrum, she has about a decade of experience in engaging lectures, being the resource person for workshops, as also organizing international conferences in various spheres of academia. Her current areas of research interest include cultural studies, comparative literature, literary anthropology, speculative fiction, ecocriticism, feminist rhetoric and narratology. On the creative front her flash fiction is published in volume one of the Bath Flash Fiction anthology titled – *To Carry Her Home*, printed by Ad Hoc Fiction (2018).