

Lost in the Forest

From sometime ago I have been here.
How long or where from
I am unable to know.
Only by the instinct
I am walking through this lush forest yet to be familiarised without knowing why.

I see plants. I see insects among them.
At times I stare at them carelessly. And then carefully.
When you focus deeply on each individual leaf veins,
It takes up all the dominance of your world as if nothing else matters.

The sound of insects is soft.
The sound of insects is loud.

Though I stop here and there to look around,
I still don't know where this is as I feel a sense of newness
every time I step each foot forward.

As I walk in a hurriedly pace, I see a butterfly flying by.
I stop to see the butterfly flutter.
I say, "I wish I had wings like you so I could fly"
The butterfly answers, "There was a time I was down there as well"
And then it lands on the tip of my head, and flutters away.

For a moment, I glare at the butterfly distancing
and I start walking again.
Not too far from running, I find an empty chair
As I huff to catch my breath.

'Should I rest for a bit?'
'I think I should.'
I sit down to rest while looking at the sky.
The sky darkens
The silence creates stillness.

'Better get going before it gets dark'

Not being able to stay for too long, I dust myself off
And continue to walk.

I see a back of a figure, walking in front.
It has been too long since having contact with man.
I walk a little faster to catch his pace.

"Do you know where we are?"
"I'm not sure either"
"...this is the right way, right?"
"Can't say"

Silence follows and we walk side by side
He walks a little slower than me.

“Nice meeting you..” I continue walking at my normal pace.
I hear a voice behind me
“What’s the rush?”
“You should enjoy the beauty of the birds and flowers around you.”

I turn around to catch his eye and then continue to walk forward.
I see his small figure far away in the distance.
As I walk a bit more, he is no longer to be seen.

‘..where does this road end?’

Crackle.

I feel a chilly ambience rush through my back.
And then a great dark shadow casts.
I turn around to see a big tiger watching me.
I fall to the ground, surprised.

‘Should I pretend to be dead?’
‘Am I going to die?’
I close my eyes with a million thoughts rushing in my head.

The tiger lures at me for a while, but soon after his body turns towards the forest and disappears.
I stay still being so frightened.
The tiger never returns.

The tension softens in my body and I just lay there.
I can see the sky seeping between the tall grass.
I can hear the cloud passing, sound of insects, the leaves and the forest.
A butterfly flutters by.
“I’ve come this far”
Unknowing if it had heard me or not, the butterfly flies away.

‘Just a few more minutes like this’
I stay laying there for a while.