

To Be Free or Not To Be

-Karthika Periyathambi

Hung around in the circular hoop
She wakes me up every single day
Non-stop singing joyously in a loop
Upstart from rise of every sun ray!

Fantabulous green beauty she is,
Embedded with golden and red streak
To watch her is always eternal bliss
As she chews the chillies in her red beak

In a well decorated cage, she resides
Swaying proudly in my neighbor's porch
With her chirp, begins my day and then subsides
In her captivity, do my thoughts perch

How can she sing so happily, I wonder!
Never to leave the surrounding bars
About flying freely, does she never ponder?
To ever fly across the moon or the stars

Ignorant of my concerning analysis, she dances around
Sipping through my morning coffee, as I admire this beauty so stunning
Suddenly I get pulled back into reality by my phone sound
Oh no! Am late for my weekly status update meeting

Rushing through my shower, I accidentally break the door knob
Cursing my luck, I end up burning my toast
Racing my car out may have compensated for me being a slob
But that couldn't save me from the traffic- really slowest

Panting into my office cube, strikes the realization of the cancelled meeting
Instead today was my turn for dentist's appointment
Arguing my point with my boss's micro-managing
Lunch goes by brain-storming between healthy soup versus tasty gourmet

Coffee time got filled with artificial laughter by feigning colleagues
Fitness checked off by slogging in sweat filled "gym" machinery
The day like every other whizzed by into a mechanical monologue
Status and "what-my-friends-think-about-me" form the virtues of my treasury

Dinner at an expensive restaurant to satiate my social circle
Exhausted I lay on my bed planning dreaming about the future
When "chirp-chirp" her innocent voice breaks my thought chronicle
As if it's her turn to mock at my mental capture

Says she "free you might be to roam and explore
But are you indeed free from the shackles of worldly pressure?
Thousand errands to run... social formalities to implore
When do you have to time to stop and have pleasure?"

"No physical cage may resist your movement... but
Between the past and the future is your mind limbo'd
Does the society permit you to follow your gut?
Jealousy and selfishness reside on the top of your head"

As she chirps around happily and I lay on my cozy mattress...
I realize May be Freedom is not what I perceive
Beyond the bars of her iron cage, lies her innocence and happiness
Her freedom to live her life as she dreams it to be!!!