

Fear lurks ...

Kavita Shastri*

Elusive and mysterious,
Someone watches stealthily,
Stalking and trailing
Camouflaged, masked
In dark...I dread ...
Travelling alone:
I look around,
In the empty compartment
Oh! Seats unoccupied
the wee hours,
of the morning,
manifold my fears:
I sit unguarded;
Looking for company.
Someone enters:
Heavy feet thump
A little away...
I rush to the door
Leaving all behind.
He saunters and deboards
in a jiffy,
a sigh of relief:
I feel I race back,
Back and forth,
Madly searching
For all that I have lost!
In this journey of life.
All those who deboarded
Unannounced, friends, foes
Belongings, possessions
Time, money space...
Bereft, amiss, I sit staring in
Vacuum, crying over
The lost money ...
My Identity Card,

Which defined my identity.
The driving license,
Which certified my driving skills?
Penniless...I gape at my lonely self.
Sad, sorry, miserable, glum,
I alight....
Waiting for the next train
Passengers, belongings, company
At least...this time.

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She was the chairperson of the PG-English Board, Bengaluru City University and has been a member of Board of Studies and Board of Examinations. She has been involved in generating the III, IV Semester BSc /BCA and The Optional English Textbook for III, IV, V, and VI Semesters. She is a budding poet and translator. Some of her poems have appeared in E – Journals. She has co-authored six anthologies, and is working on her seventh anthology.