

# Stifled

By Preeti Yadav


Tasks oh so critical keep piling on,  
 When is the time to do without shame or guilt, what I want?  
 I suppose we must abide by the rules of these times we exist in  
 Living our entire lives responding to pretend emergencies  
 Sacrificing our dreams, relentlessly preparing for an insurgency  
 Why then do we act surprised, squawk and cry when catastrophe finally strikes?  
 How do we not realize that our fate of misery and self-loathing is self-fabricated?

Marked by ingenuity and greed and acts so vile  
 Bound by imaginary chains, we are not free or even alive  
 We willingly volunteer enslavement instead of choosing life  
 Our bodies tormented, moving aimlessly, void of a soul  
 Our minds demented, existing in survival mode  
 Attempting to preserve our sanity in this bedlam we call our world.  
 Our perceived reality as we see it make all else obsolete  
 Overflowing with superfluities, defined by scores of luxuries  
 Countless living beings, animals and trees, birds and bees  
 Sacrificed so we could remain confined in concrete houses with modern amenities

Laden with pesticides, unending supply of food and drinks and lavish furnishings  
 Somehow seem to make all the ugliness and sadness in this world worth it  
 Lives and minds stifled by surfeit, unable to move or breathe  
 Are we to blame for an existence so bleak?

Some may plea, we just got sucked into this vortex of life

Yes, but without a yawp or much resistance  
 Let's not pretend we are naive or innocent  
 You and I are no ordinary beasts, predictable and weak  
 Miscreants of a unique breed, insatiable, stamped by greed  
 When offered superfluity, gladly swap our liberty, even minds and souls



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