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The Driftwood

Atul Chandra Sarkar

Half-baked, sand besmirched,
Shrivelled and bleached,
Under sun and rain;
Ridges and grooves,
Chiselled by briny waves;
A driftwood stuck erect,
Washed up on shore;
Its one third submerged;
Perched by a kingfisher,
A tern, a cormorant;
Its sculptural seduction,
Against the sun-rise backdrop,
Awoke my conscience and, I thought:
Shall this piece of sylvan tale,
Be a perch until it dies its death,
Or be chopped for fuel to cook,
Or warm a winter night? Or should I,
Elongate its mortality?
No sooner, I jerked out,
Its wet feet and brought home:
A subject for my creative play;
To my aid came pencil, sketch,
Drill, sandpaper, dowel, scroll saw,
Paint, glue and, fantasy too;
Dexterous fingers discovered,
In it an angelic mermaid;
Who away from waves and tides,
Had hidden from common eyes,
To emerge as my faithful companion,
To help me overcome my loneliness,
Watching me with caring, visionless eyes,
Conversing with static, quiet lips;
Definitely, she'll survive me.