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Fowl Kooo-kooooo

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On a splendid sunny day,

a beautiful koel visited my humble house,
perched, nodded, smiled, winged, flapped....

Truly, I'm neither a bird watcher nor a home bird.

Koel visiting my place is not new,

I have seen many birdies with
dazzling dark brown with white and buff spots
and

gorgeous glossy bluish-black, with a pale greenish grey bill,
and grey legs and feet.

Instantly, I took a photo to make it mine,

and placed it as my status, "an adorable visitor".

Immediately, many of my acquaintances pinged me

stating that, that was not a koel but a karichan.

They averred; karichan looks like the black drongo with a fork-tail.

and koel resembles a cuckoo, with a long tail.

Proud as a peacock,

I wanted to take it under my wings.

I always callously considered this bird as a koel.

On another lovely luminous day, I was in "a box of birds"

a cute koel visited my humble abode,
glided, perched, nodded, lingered, and chanted.

"Kooo-kooooo", I can hear the Indian cuckoo, the koel,

in its attractive attire and charming voice.
Then appeared my lovable bird,
the Indian drongo bird, karichan.
A little bird told me these two are not birds of the same feather.
Eagle-eyed, I observed everything, even minute details.
Awareness to self-awareness to inevitable acceptance.

Brown or black, fair or dark, what makes the difference?
Dove to dodo, wing to wing?
Vulture to pelican, winged to soar high?
Appearance attracts the eye but character captures the heart.
I cherish these regular visitors,
they are my unforgettable nepenthe treasures.
On seeing them,
joy becomes as big as a behemoth giant ostrich,
sorrow the smallest absolute miniature bee hummingbird.

Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder,
yes true, but also ears of the hearer.
How can I compare upstrokes with downstrokes,
gorgeous feathers with plain plumes,
mellifluous voices with mesmerising noise?
Today's frustrations are because of expecting
good things from the wrong people
and detecting wrong things from the noble ones.
The lion is a lion, the fox a fox.
The sea lion a sea lion and the flying fox a flying fox.
Koel a koel and karichan a karichan.

Flying the coop, graceful as a swan, I opened my eyes.
I shouldn't have expected a karichan to behave like a koel.

Bio-Note:

Dr. Suresh Frederick, is an Associate Professor and UG Head in the Department of English, Bishop Heber College, Trichy, India, and has 33 years of teaching experience at the college level. He holds a Ph.D. in English from Bharathidasan University, India. His area of specialization is Ecocriticism. He has successfully guided 37 PhDs. He has presented many papers at International and National conferences, published 114 articles in reputed books and journals, and edited ten books. He has been awarded the *Editor's Choice Award* for his Critical Writing by *The Home of Letters* (India) in 2010, the Best Researcher Award in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, *Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2018 (for guiding more than 25 Ph.Ds).