

Nithya Mariam John

sloth

a sliver of sun
plops in the morning
suleimani

the once-upon-a-time raptor eyes
snuggle under the tired lids and
a parroty tongue curl beneath the palate

each limb refuses a tickle;
cold fingers dip in the dreamy milkiness
of my innards, a leaf yellow inside the
four walls of my ticker

done a long, long time remembering:
i rest in your absence.

(*suleimani* is spiced black tea, a favorite in Kerala, India)

Nithya Mariam John is a poet, translator and editor from Kerala, India. Apart from her three short collections of poems titled *Ruminations and Reflections: A Pinch of Poetry & Perspectives*, *Bleats and Roars* and *Poetry Soup*, her scribblings are housed in *Indian Literature*, *The Alipore Post*, *Borderless*, *gulmohar quarterly*, *theravenquoithpress (Dreams)*, *latinanthology(Memories on Food)*, *Hyderabad Literature Festival-Khabar*, *Muse India*, *The Samyuktha Poetry*, *Malayalam Literature Survey*, *Ink-Kochi*, *Usawa Literary Review*, *Sanglap* and *DoubleSpeak* and forthcoming in *Last Leaves*. She loves pothos, sugar and milk. But nothing matches her love for books.