

# Two Poems by Indu Barua

## A Few Stanzas

1)

You spread your tresses  
And a cool breeze passed by  
The gypsy lover goes mad  
Searching for an oasis.

2)

Flowers blossomed forth  
In the forest  
Was it a mistake to pluck one  
To adorn my plait to soothe my heart?

3)

A thousand butterflies cast their shadows  
On eyes pale as stale fish  
Thorns hid cactus flowers  
A crow cawed in my heart.

4)

The spotted deer runs over  
The desert sand in the dark  
The flute is silent on bed  
In trembling winter cold.

5)

The warm afternoon sun  
The birds sing in joy  
The sun moves westward and sets  
Ashes and smoke remain  
Of the funeral pyre.

## Samurai

Every man is a Samurai  
In the world he builds for himself  
In the world  
Of hunger  
Knowledge  
Humanity  
And arrogance.

Working hand  
Of honesty, sacrifice and courtesy  
Targets for his arrow  
The eye of a fish above  
Cuts out a fine sculpture  
From a hard stone of life's hill.

The sycophants who blindfold  
Show the path of darkness  
The arrogant sun  
Burns himself  
To burn others  
And wipes out the sculpture  
He builds  
In his own path.

The Samurai  
Loses kins  
After winning victory  
Or accepts defeat  
Admitting kins  
To his circle.

*Translated by* **Dr Ananda Bormudoi**

**Indu Barua** is an Assamese poet based in Guwahati.