

Harekrishna Deka's Poem

Frog

Stopping by the waterside he said,
Where 're you going, wait I am also going.
I didn't listen to him
and went forward.
Met him again.
Mounting a toadstool he said,
Going on in the same manner? I rose up
In his ribbiting voice
a sneering smirk.
The ear with which I heard it
Seemed to be not outside!

Drenched in the unforeseen shower of rain
I was in a quandary.
This time from below an arum leaf
the frog said,
You stupid human, come here if you're not ashamed,
Here, too, there's space.

Drenched and glum I walked down.
The heavy shoes dragged me forward.
Leaping, the frog fell in front of me,
Said, got the taste of being human, eh!
Why didn't you become a frog?
Similar critters
You call only yourselves human.

Translated by Uttam Dourah

Harekrishna Deka is a Sahitya Akademi award winner poet, short story writer and literary critic of India who writes in Assamese.

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