

- A poem written by Khairul Haque Chowdhury on the thematic of Jibananda Das's "Pakhi"

a living thing

*You are asleep after a long journey,
Who should I tell – how am I stuck with an appalling astonishment?
I'm talking about my discovery – the breadth and length of my discovery
A note just received from the stars: – you are not waking,
Here is a bird sitting on my chest,
Is it a bird? Or, is it a nearly extinct, red and blue butterfly? Is it a bird?
Or, is it a lonesome firefly?
It has covered itself with brown, golden and blue feathers,
Comes to me in such a lonely cold night
From which quiet string of grass has it originated?
From which string of paddy has it originated?
From the egg of a silk-worm has it acquired this weird pulsation?*

*On a moonlit night
Who does he want to spend the night with?
Does the lonely string of straw pain him? Is there anything without pain on earth?*

*No – a – his face glows with the unconquerable courage and positiveness;
He knows no pain – he depended on the complexity of life
Feathers – beaks – feathers
These create his fantastic cape.*

*On a moonlit cold night
He has to come to my grip
Why do I hesitate to kill you when there are death-traps all around? I'm also
sitting in the clasp of someone who will not hesitate to take my life anyway; I
know I will not let you free by any chance;
Yet, I do caress your wet and soft body,*

*I see fear in your golden eyes; this bird – so tiny – yet, he learned – the
greatest mystery of life – the eternal pain and the fear of demise of
everything beautiful;*

*There is no hope, no desire – not even love and there cannot be dreams in our
earthly life*

*An eternally flowing sense of parting and bereavement looms all around;
this painfulness resides in their chests as well; in their chests as well; draped
in the numberless deep coloured feathers; why then his eyes look for the ocean
of moonshine? Why do the golden eyes search for the ocean of moonshine?
Why does he strive to understand the creation myth?*