

The Pygmy Kingfisher's Repose

by Darya Farrokhi

The soft gleam of moonlight trickles through the canopy break
above the stream
The water below black as night
A branch stoops over the meandering tannic tea
Here the pygmy kingfisher takes its nightly repose

Translucent hatchet fish glisten near the surface below
Bright yellow tree frogs on a vine
Identified by *Boana fasciata*'s quacking call
Orange, black butterflies hang upside down to dream

The feeling of being watched when seemingly no being is around
The slightest light revealing the glow
Of yellow, green spider eyes all around
Here the pygmy kingfisher takes its nightly repose

Red-eyed moths pass by the kingfisher's perch
Marine toads waiting on the stream's banks
Fishing spiders skating by
Helicops snake wrapped in the dense brush

In the darkness, the pygmy kingfisher is left
Blinder than the bats passing by overhead
Green striped baby *Plica* lizards on the tree trunks and
pink-toed tarantulas crawl below
Here the pygmy kingfisher takes its nightly repose

The moonlight wanes with the first fishing boats winding
through the breaking dawn
The kingfisher awakens
Ruffles its feathers
Starts its morning routine