

Inmate

Zestful life led by dreams and gay
Crowned by innocence carefree
Till you made a path right away
No admonition, made me prey
Conquered my thoughts
With all your might.

Hostile I lay in your folds
Compelled to do your wish
Blinded vision to your fright
Failed to discern the right.
Your persistent rituals
Aimed at getting me habitual
To perfection which was mythical
Attainment so illogical
Even when I felt I am done
It kept starting all over one by one.

You torment through the day
Howl through my nightmares.
Rendered deaf in this din
Devalued lie comforts, even bread
Drove me away from peers and kin
Leaving me alone to dread.

Imprisoned I felt lame
Until learned help came
With pills that left you jolted
Against you I revolted.

Fight for you to stay
And for me to get away
Yes for now you would stay by
But no matter how hard you try
I would not let you lead my life
Nor would let you win any strife.

Facing the persistent suppression
Battling the parasite within
Belittle seem external conflicts
Till I stand to all opponents.
For now I am a warrior
You -only a rival inmate.

--Nidhi Shetty