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When the Zoo Took Part in the Elections

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ALAN V. JAZMINES

When the Zoo Took Part in the Elections

To avoid charges of discrimination
and to prove that democracy is at work,
they decided to make the zoo
take part in the elections.
Which took place where
isn't exactly clear,
nor does it make a difference.
At any rate, the zoo did
take part in the elections,
with some compulsion.

At once, the lions demanded a share
befitting their specie,
using methods of insisting
according to laws
enacted in their native habitat
and had a toothsome quarrel
with crocodiles
about the subject.
The snakes, however,
were quiet all along
but got what they wanted anyway,
with forked tongues
and their frequent changing of skin.
The birds flew
from cubicle to cubicle,
kept on multiplying
and became multitude.
The seals made matters
stand on the head,
for peanuts.
With their somersaults and antics,
the monkeys turned the whole affair
into a circus.
The ostriches buried their heads
and refused to comment

about the goings on,
while the fishes in aquaria
just stared wide-eyed,
gulping everything.
The elephants wrinkled their abundant
grey matter,
surmised there had been serious
lessons in the past.
But it had been so long
since the last,
they forgot.

MARRA PL. LANOT

From the Other Side of the Sea

When you dance in the snow
Like a ball of fire
Lending hue to the sky
That's an ashtray
At three after noon,
Remember your coat
Was woven by us
Your sisters in an
Inferno factory
On the edge of a shore
At the other side
Of the sea
Where the sun
Lights the dawn.

We gather the colors
Of our land's
Fishes and flowers
For your beautiful coat
Which everyone thought
Sailed in from Peru
Brazil or Mexico
And not from our
Penniless land.