

GITA MAMMEN

Blessed with Beauty and Grace

B is for Beauty

that lives in the eye of the beholder,
a peregrine's swoop is a beauty to behold

G is for Grace

today bestowed by three visiting lamas,
the village hall's festooned in foliage and fruit

K is for Kids

minding cattle in the fields

T is for Tinsel

of fairy-stars on magic wands
of kids' dress-ups in a faraway land
(tinsel is plastic for expedience)

P is for Peregrines

that abound in the skies over the cattle fields

P is also for Pink

of fairy dress-ups by faraway kids

C is for Casing

by the peregrine

for infinitesimal ground movement

(alternatively a container for a device)

C is also for Cluster

S is for Swoop

of meticulous precision by the peregrine
(the lithest of panthers might only pounce)

S is also for Sanctity

a sanctuarist being an actuary

specialized in the statistics of sanctity

the sanctuarist for today has opined
that an audience hall, not being a hospital,
isn't exempt from a swoop
(neither, naturally, is a field)

A is for Actuation

an actuator specializes in the actuation of swoops

(an actuator is not an actuary)

the actuator for today has decreed

that a peregrine-like swoop is time-inefficient

the actuator for today also acknowledges
that although swooping with grace does help
keep public opinion on side,
regretfully, it is not always expedient

D is for Device

that comes with a choice of names

bomblet, for those with a weakness for cute

cluster munition, for those in the know

mini-ordnance, for top brass

unexploded incendiary, for literati

80 million devices grace the cattle fields
ensuring steady harvest for the next
3000 years at the going rate.