

The Mask

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When I was younger, it was a movie
As young kids we enjoyed it so much
And looked for any available thing to put on our face,
Fantasizing about how it could stick
And change us into some superhero character.
Growing up, we forgot all about it
And no longer found it fun to play
Or thought even of superheroes anymore.
Indeed, the symbol of the mask changed for us.
Now anyone in a mask is liable to arrest
Since it reeks of hiding one's identity
And only a criminal would want to do that.
How the image of the mask moved so fluidly
From being of a superhero to being of a villain!
Only the process of growing up can unravel it
So, while we still remain yet grown up
It can only be a shock when the image changes *yet again*
Picking up the old ways *yet again*:
“Wear the mask and save your life”
“Wear the mask and save others”
“Wear the mask all day long”.
The mask has now become in itself
The image of self-preservation and other-preservation.
The COVID world has turned us all into superheroes.