White Wings

By Jose Enrique Gutierrez Escalante

Not even in my wildest dreams, had I considered this. My life has changed in so many ways. I have what I thought to be a pleasant and tranquil life. Alas, my arms are not there anymore, my soul is, but my body has vanished. I sail this ocean of knowledge as a wandering fishing boat, with fisherman hoping to find fish or seafood hidden within the wrath of the seas, enduring the burden of Sunna or the endless silence of dead night. Either way, one can feel lost. Woe is me, for my hope is dying! There is no space to twiddle my thumbs, my nets will catch those wandering in the vast waters. My silk lattice will grab them and bring them not to death but to enlightenment.

As I aim toward deeper tides, I come across the greatest school ever seen: bright, silver, speedy fish, ready to be caught. Their scurrying is natural; they are afraid of learning there is a newer life, calmer, softer. They don't know it, but these changes will give them a glistening future. I drift away as the dark blanket covers the dome before my eyes. It gets darker when the light is about to hit the horizon. At long last, as if they were a sole body, they come towards me. My white wings and the white foam from the charging waves crash with them and create a symphony of painful grins. Without knowing that our lives are about to change and become one, together we will reach land, tired but wiser.

Through gales and monsoons, we skim. Some days are golden, some days are dark, none are quiet. Wisdom is a hard storm to survive. I feel the wind behind us, helping, pushing us towards the promised land. I am more relaxed now. All kinds of creatures lie within me. Codfish, Tuna, Salmon, all colors and shapes. I have one goal: to reach land.

When we finally reach the shore, others are waiting: they want to feel free, breeze in their face. We reach our destination with cheer, glee, and joy. I prepare for another day in paradise, surrounded by young fish, wearing my white wings and pointing my compass towards other shores.