

Building a new washroom

by [Sreekanth Kopuri](#) in the [November 17, 2021](#) issue

*for Padmaja Pullagura*

There's Holy Communion tonight, so  
my mother washes her body since she  
should her soul's there she goes, but

as per *vastu* our washroom was built  
outside, stained today with our dirt,  
slippery with grime, and cobwebbed

corners, stinks of dead lizards, off the  
ant-line crevices, she reminds me again  
and again that a new one inside outs the

vulnerable old one, where the foul beings  
shared our days slithering inside, coiling  
around those rusting faucets of our privacy

we will have inside from tomorrow in the  
new one for more ablutions to cleanse the  
aging dirt of our debilitating ailments.