

# THE GENIUS

Vol-1

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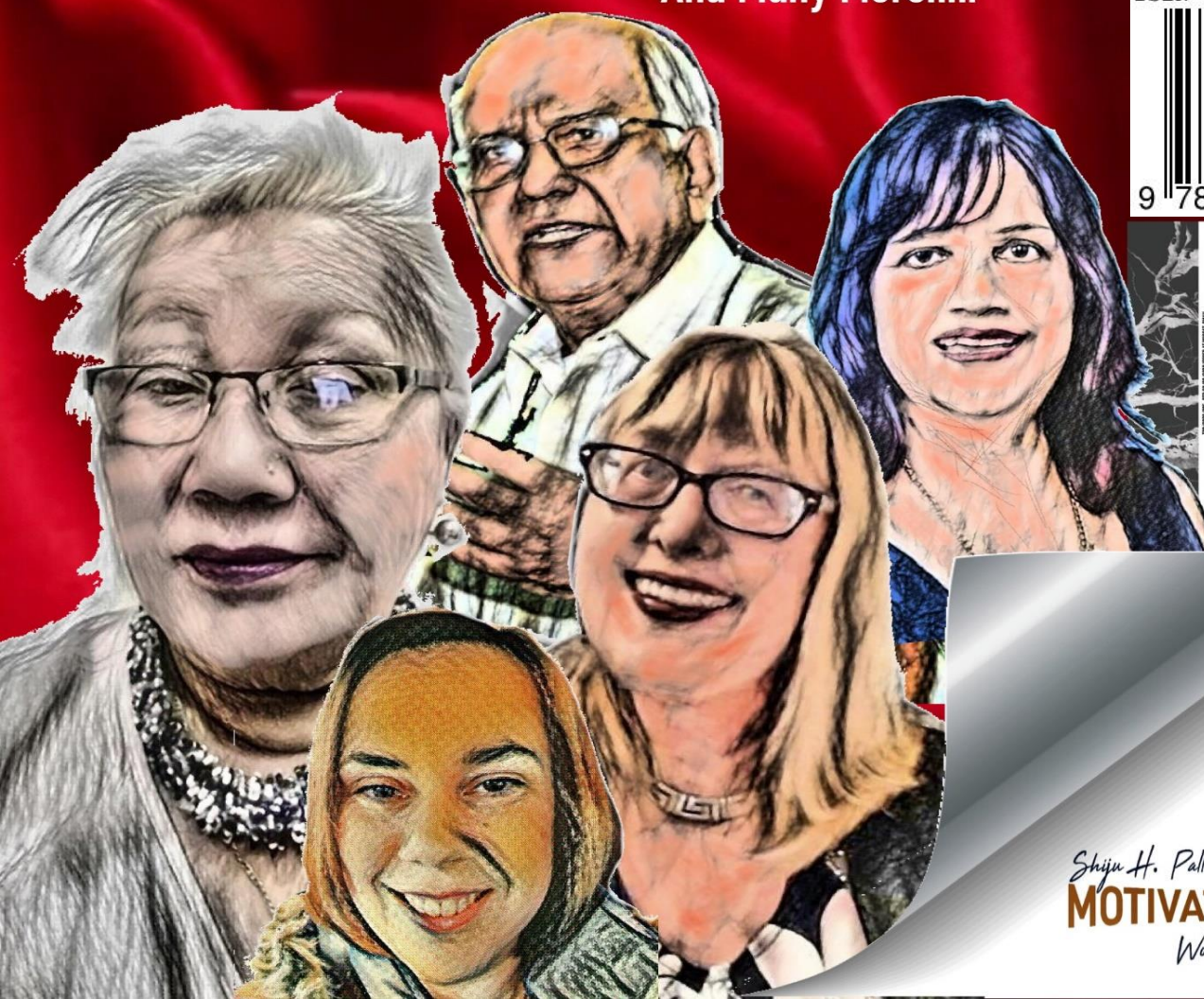
## Highlights:

Sarah Northwood Interviews Author Magie Faure-Vidot, Seychelles  
Article: 'What Is Poetry' From Author Samantha Beardon, United Kingdom  
Dr Vishnu Pandya, India congratulates Order Of Shakespeare Award Winners  
Trinidad Author Brenda Mohammed Gets Peacock oPinion Award  
Award Winning Poems From Across The World  
And Many More.....

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FROM...



Shiju H. Pallithazeth's  
**MOTIVATIONAL STRIPS™**  
World's Most Active Writers Forum

# THE GENIUS

JAN-MAR 2020 | VOL 1

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Shiju H. Pallithazheth  
Sultanate of Oman

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- Samantha Beardon  
United Kingdom
- Sarah Northwood  
United Kingdom
- Brenda Mohammed  
Trinidad
- Sabrina Young  
USA
- Barbara Ehrentreu  
USA

## FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK.



Shiju H Pallithazheth

The world needs literature if it has to think and act wisely. This magazine is brought to you with immediate effect starting with this edition, to satisfy your quest for world quality literature spanning the globe.

All the authors in this edition were chosen after an exhaustive evaluation of their writing skills. Motivational Strips is today the world's most active writers forum.

So what does that mean?

It means that **The Genius** will be an ocean of wisdom for its readers. So ensure that you subscribe to every edition and receive the best of the wise world at your door step.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,  
Shiju H Pallithazheth  
Managing Editor  
The Genius

## FOUNDER OF MOTIVATIONAL STRIPS HONOURED IN INDIA

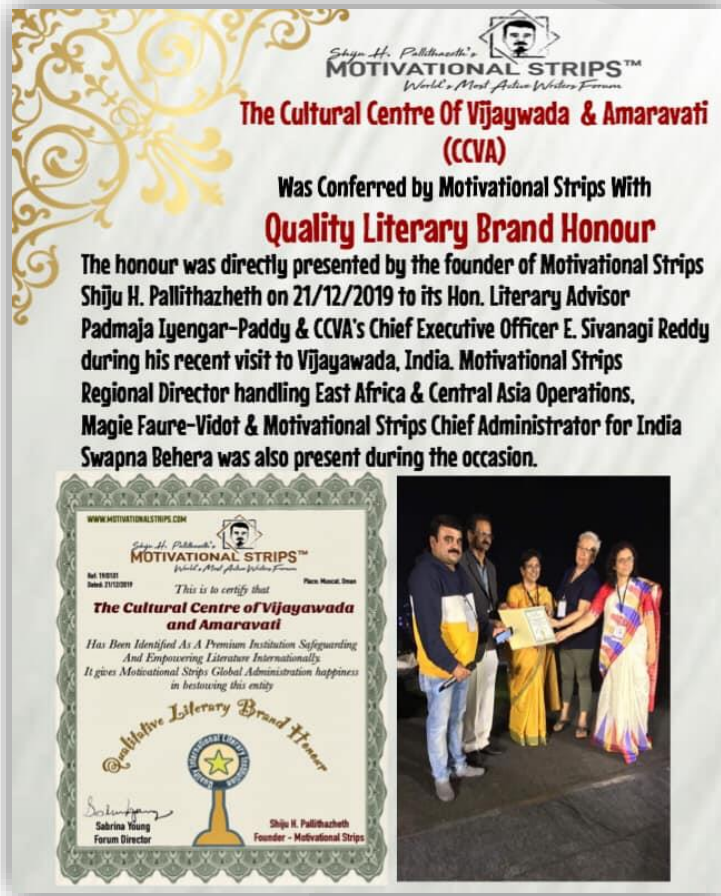


In December 2019 the Founder of Motivational Strips, Shiju H. Pallithazheth was honored at an International Multilingual Poets Meet at the Cultural Center in Vijayawada, India, for Literary Excellence. The event was organised by Padmaja Iyengar-Paddy, Honorary Literary Advisor.

Shiju was garlanded and presented with an award by the dignitaries at the center.

Present at the event were Motivational Strips Chief Administrator for India Swapna Behera and her husband, author Rohini Behera. The MS Regional Director for East Africa and Central Asia, Maggie Faure-Vidot (Maggie Vijay Kumar), and Sahitya Akademi, Gujarat, India Chairman Dr. Vishnu Pandya were also present at the event together with other quality Indian and international writers.

Our Founder took the opportunity to present to Maggie Faure- Vidot the highest award in Motivational Strips, the Peacock Pinion Award, for her Literary Achievements. He also presented Padmashri Dr. Vishnu Pandya and Shreekumar Varma with Ambassador De Literature Awards



## THE CULTURAL CENTER OF VIJAYWADA & AMARAVATI (CCVA)

At that same event, Shiju H Pallithazheth as Founder of Motivational Strips, and in the presence of the other MS representatives, certified the Cultural Center of Vijaywada & Amravati as 'QUALITY LITERARY BRAND' equaling international standards of quality literary operations.

The certification was directly presented by Shiju H Pallithazheth to the Hon. Literary Advisor Padmaja Iyengar - Paddy & CCVA's Chief Executive Officer E. Sivanagi Reddy of the distinguished institution for literary empowerment in India.

Congratulations are in order for our dynamic Founder Shiju H Pallithazheth and all Awardees.

Submitted by Brenda Mohammed

Regional Director – Operations- Motivational Strips



**Brenda Mohammed** from Trinidad is a multi-award winning author of 24 books, and Regional Director – Operations- Motivational Strips. She is also a Vice-Chancellor of Motivational Strips Academy of Literary Excellence and Wisdom. Brenda is the Founder of How to Write for Success Group., Poems for Suicide Prevention, and Library of How to Write for Success. The Group, How to Write for Success, was formed in February 2018 to improve the writing skills of new and aspiring authors. To date, there are 5400 plus writers. Poets and writers from around the world meet daily to learn from each other in this dynamic group which is affiliated with Motivational Strips.

## ARTICLE BY BRENDA MOHAMMED RE A SPARK OF HOPE {VOLUME TWO}



A Spark of Hope: An Anthology for Saving Lives, Volume I, was published on February 2nd, 2019. It was a joint effort by Facebook Groups How to Write for Success, Motivational Strips, and other affiliated groups. All the forums have as their mission SUICIDE PREVENTION.

The project was initiated by a very caring author and Administrator of How to Write for Success, Narendra Rajkumar from Trinidad and Tobago.

Authors Destinyy Lightt Speakss of India, Sabrina Young from the USA, and Poetess Farhana Sait of India were willing and ready to assist Narendra in making his idea a reality to produce this Anthology.

When they approached me to use the Group How to Write for Success, which I founded, to attract writers to contribute poems for this venture I readily agreed.

We obtained the blessings of Shiju H. Pallithazheth, the Founder of Motivational Strips and Chancellor of Motivational Strips Academy of Literary Excellence and Wisdom., and he took the time to contribute to this endeavor.

When I read that the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that each year approximately one million people die from suicide, which represents a global mortality rate of 16 people per 100,000 or one death every 40 seconds, and it is predicted that by 2020 the rate of death will increase to one every 20 seconds, I said we must use our literary skills to prevent this.

It was the hope and prayer of writers of Motivational Strips, How to Write for Success, and affiliated Groups, that the poems would rekindle the will to live and enjoy life regardless of the challenges potential suicide victims would have encountered.

If our writings could help to save persons from taking their own lives, we would feel indeed gratified.

However, the publisher of the original book. Dr. Julia Antoine, God rest her soul, passed away two months after publishing it.

We tried to retrieve it from her Author Page where she published it, but Amazon did not allow it, and we had no choice but to republish with a new cover.

Because of the many reports we received stating that the book did indeed save many lives, we established a new group 'Poems for Suicide Prevention' to collect more poems to publish Volume 2 of the book.

A targeted publishing date of April 2020 has been set.

We do not intend to stop in our efforts to prevent suicide.

We extend hearty congratulations to the undermentioned key officials who are supporting this venture, to make it possible, as well as to all other Admin members who are working behind the scenes to promote the project wholeheartedly, and to every participating poet.

**Shiju H Pallithazheth** - Founder of Motivational Strips

**Narendra Rajkumar** - Administrator - How to Write for Success - Project Concept

**Farhana Sait** - Administrator - How to Write for Success - Assistant Editor

**Destiny Lightt Speakks** - Administrator - How to Write for Success - Cover Designer

**Brenda Mohammed** - Founder of How to Write for Success - Editor/Publisher





**SARAH NORTHWOOD**

INTERVIEWS

AUTHOR MAGGIE FAURE

VIDOT VIJAY-KUMAR FROM  
SEYCHELLES

**SARAH:** Please introduce yourself, what is your name and where do you live? I believe you have three nationalities but are settled in Seychelles. Can you tell us more about that?

**ANSWER:** I am Maggie Faure-Vidot Vijay-Kumar living in the Seychelles. I was born in the Seychelles as a British Citizen in view that we were a British Colony. Upon becoming a Republic, we had to adopt the Seychelles' passport and surrender the British.

I am French through my mum who is Franco/Seychellois, and also French by virtue of my first marriage to a French National. My first husband passed at a very young age, and after some time I remarried an Indian National, through whom I obtained the Indian status, CIO (Citizen of Indian Origin), thus giving me three nationalities.

**SARAH:** What responsibilities do you have in literature, can you tell us about SIPAY and how you came to be Involved?

**ANSWER:** I have been involved in Literature from a very young age to date. I am involved with the following:

MOTIVATIONAL STRIPS as a Program Council Member, MSALEW Academic Functional Structure, Chief Admin for South Eastern African Zones. I am the Chief Consultant for LASOSYASYON LAR SAN

FRONTYER, Seychelles Government accredited Literary Association affiliated to MS, and CONGO ECRIT (ASEAD) Congo Government accredited Literary Association, affiliated to MS, Chief Consultant.

**SARAH:** What responsibilities do you have in literature, can you tell us about SIPAY and how you came to be Involved?

**ANSWER:** I have been involved in Literature from a very young age to date. I am involved with the following:

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FRONTYER, Seychelles Government accredited Literary Association affiliated to MS, and CONGO ECRIT (ASEAD) Congo Government accredited Literary Association, affiliated to MS, Chief Consultant.

SIPAY which is now very internationally known started in Sept/Oct 2008 and got registered in June 2009. A newly appointed Professor at the Seychelles French International School proposed that I join him as co-founder of the Literary Journal which would treat the three national languages of the Seychelles with French at the top list with 40% of the space, and the two others 60%. We did two editions together before he and his family proceeded to Colombia with a new contract. He asked me if I wished to continue with SIPAY. At first I was a bit hesitant but then accepted. SIPAY is now over 10 years' old and affiliated to MS and published in four languages, French, English, Creole and Spanish.

I am the Chief Editor/Director of SIPAY and am at ease with it. SIPAY is published twice a year in June and December and covers more than 25 countries.

SIPAY is distributed to the Ministry of Education of the Seychelles for all schools around, the National Library, the Ministry of Culture which in turn distributes our Ambassadors around the world, to the National Information Services Agency, Lenstiti Kreol, Foreign Affairs and to some members of the public, such as Lawyers, Dentists and Government CEOs.

**SARAH:** How long have you been writing for? What got you started or inspired you?

**ANSWER:** I have been writing for more than thirty-eight years (38), I started from school where we started to study literature and my first poem was about a fish that was trapped and I broke the trap and set him free. I personified him. To me it was Cruelty.

**SARAH:** Which genre/poetic type is your favourite to write in and do you have a piece of work or book which you feel especially proud to have written?

**ANSWER:** I have written and published six books: The Enchanting rebirth in 2019, L'Oasis Des Mots 2016, Reves Creoles 2012, Flamme Mystique 2011, L'Ame Errante 2003, and Un Grand Coeur Triste 1983.

My writing is free-style and I am proud of all my books and writes.

**SARAH:** Recently you were made the person responsible for the validation of texts in English of the Congo Ecrit Review Board. Congratulations. What will this involve?

**ANSWER:** Congo is a country that falls under my responsibility as Chief Admin for SE African Zones.

I have of late been appointed as their Chief Consultant with their affiliation with MS. My responsibility will be to continue to give the support to the committee in terms of linking with Motivational Strips, advise on best steps to take and also I shall be responsible for the validation of English texts. There will be two (2) editions per year.

**SARAH:** Tell us about any hobbies you have.

**ANSWER:** Writing, reading, cooking and I do one hour of exercises per day to keep fit.

**SARAH:** If there was one thing in modern literature you could change what would it be? Remove egotism, remove punctuations especially full stops. Use languages that every one understands.

**SARAH:** Would you rather read the book or watch the film?

**ANSWER:** Read a book.

**SARAH:** Do you have a favourite book or movie?

**ANSWER:** Any book I choose to read, I like. Of late, I have been indulged with a couple of Nobel Prize winning books and other books I found enticing. They are 'Winning Poems' by Rabindranath Tagore and 'The Power of Now - A guide to Spiritual Enlightenment' by Eckhart Tolle. I also read two great books by Author Shiju H Pallithazheth which are "Katashi Tales - Folk Tales and Fables Unheard - A Collectible Treasure for All Ages," and 'The Ghost Wisdom - A Priceless Book for Achievers.'

**SARAH:** Is there anything else you'd like to add or wish readers knew?

**ANSWER:** Wish to say thank you for the interview. Let us use literature as a medium to make people happy through appreciating them. Let us be truthful to ourselves and to others. Literature is our everyday living. Let us make our world a better one to live in. For additional information, you may wish to consult my Wikipedia site: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/magie Faure-Vidot>

# Poetry

# 1

Uzma Parveen is a published author from UP, India. She has studied Master of Arts in English literature from Aligarh Muslim University. As a distinguished poet she is the recipient of many awards from various poetry Forums. Her poems have been published in several National and International Anthologies, magazines, websites and blogs.

## Uzma Parveen



**BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE WITH BLACK HEART BY ALIG UZMA**

Fellow women and gentlemen

Brothers and dear sisters

I will be first or last

To let you know that you are at fault.

Of whatever creed, cast or race

You live in village, city or palace

You bear the same body with flesh and  
bone

And your tender hearts have turned to  
stone

You hate and discriminate

Between the rich and the poor you  
differentiate

You cut your fellows into pieces

Just for money wealth and riches

On the snowy land with bloodied hands  
you build your home

Whether in Italy, Greece or Rome

The shrieks of the innocents will crack  
your head

Every night when you will go to bed

Dare you count the lives you destroyed  
with your heavy hands?

On the blinded path, embracing evil you  
can no more withstand

When the inaudible, noiseless foot of  
death enters your breath

What will you do of such stolen treasures  
and ill gains?

@ Alig Uzma

*Poetry***2**

Aida G. Roque from Delaware, USA, is a Retired Sped Teacher, an international poet, and author. She published Children's books and Anthologies of a group of poets, worldwide. Her poem was published by Spillwords NY. publishing co. and Poetrysoup, USA.

*Aida G. Roque*

## POETIC PEN HEALS BY AIDA G. ROQUE

Poet's cerebral intellect drained when,  
fluid words start to solidify. Poetic pen  
scribbled sacred vision, a poetess open up  
empathic soul, profusion of love, kindness,  
flowing with sincere intention.

A coping mechanism, healing begins.  
a misty morning of hope, opens up.  
Messages of love, peace and hope  
are in abundance. sending messages  
to heal the world.

Reflection of indisputable thoughts,  
overflowing with positive vibes,  
to heal a stained world, a destitute  
soul, abandoned cries, still unheard.  
Endless ink, never run dry, filling the  
crack.

Tirelessly pouring ink, to tranquilize  
the world at war, to calm a wandering  
soul and to cool down the pressure of  
suffocating world issue. Wondering  
what else a pen can do, to please a  
grieving earth.

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*Poetry*

3

Andrew Jones is a published author who has a passion for poetry. He is an Administrator with responsibility for United Kingdom in Motivational Strips Facebook Group.

*Andrew Jones*



**PLASTIC BY ANDREW JOHN JONES**

Plastic was fantastic  
when it first appeared.

Plastic this and plastic  
that it filled us with glee

But now it's a pollutant  
clogging up our rivers  
and seas, and killing  
Of sea creatures that's  
been around for years

For plastic doesn't rot  
so it will not disappear

We need to find an  
Alternative for our world  
to become plastic free

For plastic was fantastic  
when it first appeared

But now it's a world wide  
Catastrophe that just  
has to be cleared

By Andrew John Jones 17

*Poetry*

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Anne Thrope is an award-winning, published poet appearing in several anthologies, with a forthcoming book, due for release February 2020. She is the Chief Administrator of the US/Canada region for Motivational Strips, the founder of Full Circle Poetry, and manages 360° Poetry.

*Anne Thrope*

## MR. MARKEY AND ME BY ANNE THROPE

How cumbersome, the weight of the  
past truly is.

We carry chains, much the same as  
Jacob Marley.

Translucently, we all wander the Earth,  
hopelessly.

We forge our chains of steel with  
unique ingredients.

Some, like Mr. Marley, are made of  
avarice and greed.

Others may be weighed down by  
misfortunate deeds.

Any number of exploits are  
responsible for each link;  
cruelty, jealousy, bitterness,  
resentment, or animosity.

A total disregard for the worst crimes  
against humanity,  
an unsettled eternity is far too good  
for such individuals.

They moan elsewhere. Here, the  
restless souls are bound  
to an Earthly wanderlust by taunting  
the invincible living...

At times, I do find myself tripping  
over a seemingly thin air,  
and those are the moments I become  
increasingly aware  
that Mr. Marley is warning me of the  
pace of my growing

"ponderous chain!" This ain't no  
"slight stomach disorder,"  
it's the calculation and calibration of  
every decision I make.

And, faintly... I hear chains rattling  
and sorrowful moaning!

©2018 Anne Thrope/360° Poetry

*Poetry*

5

Annie Johnson is from Indiana in the U. S. She is 80 years old. She has two 600 page novels and 4 books of poetry currently on Amazon. Annie has three children and two grandchildren.

*Annie Johnson*

**BREATH OF LIFE SONNET BY ANNIE JOHNSON**

Oh, the intemperate swells of the heart  
That drown me in their wake when you  
    appear,  
That melancholy stills when you depart;  
And comes again to life when you draw  
    near.

Ancient forgotten love spells seem to call  
Like fading siren's songs from long ago  
And all the sighs that held me so enthral  
Whisper once again how I love you so.

Come to me from the tunnels of the  
    wind.

Let not our time on earth be lived in  
    vain.

Love is a living force that has no end -  
A breath of life for us to breathe again.

Love is a magnet that pulls heart to  
    heart;

Once together, no force can pull apart.

@Annie Johnson

# Poetry

# 6

Antaryami Mishra from Odisha, India is a bilingual poet writing both in Odia and English. He is also a Pentasi B World Friendship Poetry featured poet 2019 from India. He has a collection of Odia poems – “Maa Nishaada” (2017) and is a regular contributor to more than 20 national and international literary forums. His poems are published in half a dozen international Anthologies. Poetry for him is a passion, a manner of dreaming and leading a happy life.

*Antaryami Mishra*



## TRUTH IS BEAUTY BY ANTARYAMI MISHRA

"Truth is Beauty, Beauty Truth"- John  
Keats.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mushrooming malls display their  
garments for upturning sale  
Price -tags, colours, sizes, designs dangle  
and hook all eyes  
Kids to aged return contented swinging  
carry-bags filled  
Do they have wears for truth and beauty  
to be dressed?

Humble cottages to deluxe flats  
millions gasp for harvesting joy  
Templates of temples and known  
noted places with rules and manners  
full  
Holy books, hymns, shops selling  
offerings -compete human heads in  
ploy  
In search for wealth of peace and  
beauty, promise capsules pull  
Life speeds on roads of ads. outwardly  
seem so fit  
The aromatic beauty, internal worth-  
mindlessly missing in gust  
How to know, where to go - follow  
questions of crores for test  
Truth is beauty effusing light - is  
Godly gift or man-made art!?

\*\*\*\*\*

©- ANTARYAMI MISHRA.

*Poetry*

7

Anupreeta Chatterjee is a published feminist poetess from Chhattisgarh, India. Currently, she is pursuing Ph.D. in Women's Studies from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. Her poems have been published in various National and International magazines and Anthologies.

*Anupreeta Chatterjee*



## HOLOWNESS BY ANU CHATTERGEE

There's nothingness beyond hollowness,

We despise off our softness.

Like the walking dead,

We walk on the paths of spirituality,

Subduing our relevance of existence.

There's hollowness all around

And we are being merciless.

There's reckless shallowing of  
humanity

Which has created worldly  
conundrums.

Why do we exist just to exist?

We seek no annihilation of  
discrimination.

We are dying and creating a  
hollowness within spirituality.

What life do we perceive?

After neglecting our human instincts?

We are hovering like demons

Crastinating sublimity.

There's nothingness all around.

There's hollowness which surrounds  
us.

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Anupreeta Chatterjee

*Poetry*

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Arvind Sharma is a retired teacher from Himachal Pradesh, India. Poetry is his love and passion but not a profession. He writes for the downtrodden, universal peace, and brotherhood. He is a member of some Poetic Groups. His awards include Order of Mahatma Medal 2019, Gold Category Certificate of Honour, Diploma from WNWU, Honoured Poet of India from L.L.S.F. Some of his poems have been published in National and International anthologies. He gives credit to Motivational Strips for encouragement and providing him with a literary platform.

*Arvind Sharma*

## EGO BY ARVIND SHARMA

The deepest aspect of our personality,  
 Ego is talent ability a hidden reality,  
 Difficult to define as is an abstract  
 feeling fine,  
 Made up of beliefs from time to time,  
 Impressions acquired during life's prime.

I, My, Me are its main concerns,  
 Basic traits that ego easily earns,  
 'I ' is the self and personal identity,  
 ' My ' is heredity relations faith in  
 society,  
 'Me ' is pride, arrogance or sobriety.

Ego is both positive and negative  
 actor,  
 Determination and will power positive  
 factors,  
 Superiority complex and hatred  
 negative sectors,  
 But is always dynamic never static,  
 Changes colours by praise and moral  
 ethics.

Ego is a feeling like a fairy queen,  
 Potent to make or mar your future  
 dreams,  
 Shun negativity bathe in positive  
 stream,  
 Parents teachers can shower the  
 corrective beam,  
 Ego is the fragrance of flowers unseen.

*Poetry*

## 9

Barbara Ehrentreu is the author of two young adult novels, and an award winning poet with a poetry book dedicated to her husband. Her work has been published in Walt Whitman Bicentennial Anthology: Poets to Come, World Poetry Open Mic Anthologies, and others. Barbara is an award winning screenwriter, and the Chief Administrator for West USA in Motivational Strips.

*Barbara Ehrentreu*

**MY THOUGHTS TURN TO YOU BY BARBARA EHRENTREU**

I don't think of you often, except when  
     I do  
 a glimpse of a Klondike bar reminds me  
     how  
 we used to buy those for you sugar-free  
     and the memory brings tears as if a  
     violet  
 mist had suddenly formed in front of my  
     eyes  
 other memories slide in pushing this one  
     away  
 your smile a beacon reminding me of  
     sunrises we caught together the sky  
     brightening  
 as purple clouds tinged with orange and  
     the  
     sun peeked over the horizon  
 my sleepy eyes wanting the darkness to  
     stay for  
 a few more hours so we could slip into  
     bed

and now I skip the sunrises and the  
     mornings  
 when your voice would be telling me  
     current  
 events as you went about your routines  
     and I forced myself to wake and join  
     you sometimes  
 so I could feel the energy you emoted  
 Or on days when I remained half asleep  
     you cooking eggs for yourself—the  
     smell remaining  
     as a reminder of your presence  
 the pan and your utensils in the sink

left as remnants of your lonely repast  
 and now I sleep through sunrises and  
     wake to the  
     middle of the day when morning is  
     over  
 no smells of eggs loiter and thoughts  
     of you are not present  
 except when I look around the room  
 and remember each day you are not  
     here

and so the day begins as sunlight fills  
 the bedroom and I wish to slide under  
     covers and  
 sleep until memories of your face and  
     your voice  
 no longer flood my head and the stark  
     reminders  
 of your loss are not around my space

And though I kid myself into  
     believing

I can accept you are gone  
 What I would give for the feel of your  
     bearded face beneath  
 my hand and the brush of your lips on  
     my cheek.

Copyright by Barbara Ehrentreu

# Poetry

**10**

Bose Eneuwu Adogah is from Nigeria Lagos State. She is a teacher of history and religious studies and the Regional Director of Motivational Strips for Africa. Her hobbies are singing, dancing, and writing articles. Barbara Ehrentreu is the author of two young adult novels, and an award winning poet with a poetry book dedicated to her husband. Her work has been published in Walt Whitman Bicentennial Anthology: Poets to Come, World Poetry Open Mic Anthologies, and others. Barbara is an award winning screenwriter, and the Chief Administrator for West USA in Motivational Strips.

*Bose  
Eneuwu Adogah*



## LOVE STORY BY BOSE ENEDUWE ADOGAH

There was a blind girl who was filled with animosity and despised the world.

She didn't have many friends, just a boyfriend who loved her deeply, like no one else.

She always used to say that she will marry him if she could see him, suddenly, one day someone donated her a pair of eyes,

And that's when she finally saw her boyfriend. She was astonished to see that her boyfriend was blind, He told her, you can see me now, can we get married?

She replied, and do what? We do never be happy, I have my eye sight now, but you're still blind. It won't work out, I'm very sorry.

With a tear in his eyes and a smile on his face, he meekly said, I understand. I just want you to always be happy, take care of yourself, and my eyes.

©®Bose Enezuwe Adogah

# Poetry

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Cypriel Onyebuchi Ukpabi was born in Eastern Nigeria. He graduated from Onuoji community secondary school in 2015 with a WAEC certificate (O level). He loves Literature.

He has contributed to many anthologies including the 51 poetry salutes to the late poet Ike Ogu Oke, Nigerian world class writer.

*Cypriel Onyebuchi Ukpabi (Pen Name)*





## IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY CYPRIEL ONYEBUCHI UKPABI [PEN NAME ....

the silent sword ]

Seek me, I am reality.

I am a mad man.

Maddened with pen and paper, fighting  
truth and lies.

Seek me, reality I am.

I am an Emissary, A hunter for  
humanity, with two edge swords pen  
and paper.

Seek me, reality I am.

I am a messenger.

I am an old prophet.

Divinity I preached, reality I am.  
Search me in the book of revelation  
where fulfilment and reality spew in  
verses.

Yes, reality I am, seek me.

I am an old prophet.

Truthfulness I speak, reality I am.

I am a painter and builder, the painter  
of words and builder of life, seek me.

I am the light behind your cloak dark  
paths, seek me, I am the fountain of light  
I will enkindle your life .

In case you don't know me, I am the  
servant of all poetic peoples.

Shakespeare, and Wole Soyinka, are  
my god fathers.

We commune in communion of  
poetic spices, just to quench your taste  
in poetic soup.

Seek me, for I will make your life  
tasty.

In case you don't know me.

I am a poet. I am an etymologist, and  
the word excavator and creator.

I am a living ghost in the world of  
poetry.

Humanity I preach.

Seek me, I am reality.

# Poetry

**12**

Debendra Sahu, is from City Indore, Country India. Post superannuation from UCO Bank as Chief Manager in Corporate Finance, floated into writing poems and short stories in English. His poems/stories have been published in more than thirty national and International Anthologies including e-publications like SETU, Story Mirror, Best Poetry, etc., apart from being awarded and felicitated in the competitions. His poems, compiled in the form of a book are scheduled to be launched on 28th February 2020. At present, he is a fulltime writer and a decent gardener of his home garden.

*Debendra Sahu*



## EVERYWHERE BY DEBENDRA SAHU

Under the rain, when I sit near the  
waves

Gazing at the sky and the sea  
The birds and the floating clouds  
I catch the wisdom that the God's  
Bending the winds and the minds.  
When I see the crawling black ants  
Strolling into the cracks of the rocks  
Carrying carcass of a baby lizard locked  
in jaws,  
Tiny pink agile crabs cantering and  
sprinting  
Then sneaking into the sands, there  
hiding  
Sleeping and waiting for the next  
morning,  
I catch the glimpse that God's  
everywhere  
From the dew drops on myriad leaves,  
Teeny souls of the fluttering butterflies  
To the mighty rivers and mountains  
Twinkling stars and meteors.

When I sit near the waves gazing at a  
distant boat

Listening to the rhythmic beats of my  
heart,

A resplendent feeling discerns that  
God's

Trotting deep inside my soul and my  
whole.

# Poetry

**13**

Edem Okon of Nigeria, is a public administrator, and awardee of World Poetic Star, Golden Pen, Golden Angel, Global Literature Guardian and the Order of Shakespeare.

*Edem Okon*



## THE FISHERMAN BY EDEM OKON

My heart is an ocean; not a book.

And my quill, a lovely hook.

Like a fisherman,

I catch poems using my quill -

My ink is the bait,

Patiently I wait

For my prey

Every single day.

When I sense a moving sensation

In my delicate "ocean",

And my quill, heavy and shaking on  
paper;

I know it's a catch.

With utmost proficiency,

I pull out the fish onshore.

Today, this poem is the fish

Provided by nature;

This I know for sure.

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# Poetry

**14**

Author Poetess Janice Fisher is from the Western Coastal ranges of USA  
She is a writer and Advocate of Human Relations  
She has six published Poetry books, another finished, with a Novel in Edit.  
and working on a Children's Novel.

*Janice Fisher*



**UP HERE BY JANICE FISHER**

They say get your  
head out of the  
clouds

Reality happens  
down here

But I say ...

I like it up here  
where clouds  
block my view

And

Time slows the  
beat of my  
heart

Where thoughts  
are free from  
criticism

And

The soul is at  
rest

Where I can talk  
To my inner  
self

So

Let us be in our  
Moments

Of

Self-indulgence

As

We'll be back  
when rays of  
Sun

Part the clouds

@ Janice Fisher

# Poetry

**15**

Dr. Amb. Prof. Joseph S. Spence, Sr., is a professional military veteran, poet, speaker, article researcher, and book reviewer with over 50 book reviews posted. He has authored seven poetry books: "A Trilogy of Poetry, Prose, and Thoughts for the Mind, Body, and Soul" a best seller. "Trilogy Moments for the Mind, Body, and Soul" won Best Christian Poetry Award, "The Awakened One Poetics" won second place in the Critters Writers Workshop and the publisher's bestseller. He also co-authored four additional poetry books with the Worldwide Poetry Alliance, UK, where he served as a co-founder and poetry chaplain, with 100% of the royalty donated to charity for medical help. He is one of the Chief Advisors to the Founder of Motivational Strips

*Joseph Spence Sr.*





# QUIETLY SILENT EERIE LANDSCAPE- NIGHT FIGHTER'S DREAM BY JOSEPH SPENCE SR.

Synopsis: Narrational storytelling is another form of creative writing. This story piece illustrates a military unit normally operating with forward scouts and observational elements. Such scouts and observational posts are located at a protective distance out front and to its flanks. They operate as the eyes and ears of the main element. They are always ready to lead the fight on any terrain or landscape, as fearless fighters, in the middle of the night!

~~~~~\*\*\*\*\*~~~~~

It's 2400 hours' military standard time and he was on the front line. Barbed wire was all around him especially in the area to his immediate front restricting where he could go, and preventing others from coming forward toward his position. Signs with special markings were visible giving signals alerting the senses of untold danger capable of immediate unfolding. The earth and vegetation were riddled with sharpened metal pieces which would destroy anything with or without life. His warrior soul was protected for another night as he looked at the stars above with reflection on the quiet sky.

With special magnified glasses he surveyed the surrounding landscape to his sides and front for any movement. He displayed a heightened sense of cautiousness maintaining survival. If there were any moving of breathing things or persons, he would detect such within his range and scope easily. Unable to lower his guard he maintained a dedicated heightened sensitivity within his environment—his desire is maintaining life! Knowing the dangers of the

he realized that a live dramatic suspense could unfold in a split second and will be very costly. Occasionally, a blasting sound of explosion echoed in the distance, a flash of light appeared then disappeared, machine gun fire rattling, then quietness sets in. He had an eerie feeling as a cold chill ran down his spine in the misty and moonless night.

His uniform was partially wet and the slight chill down his spine grew more intense as the night's rain slightly drizzled. At times, he cautiously tapped the back of his neck as if to ward off the nuisance of a mosquito—a sensitive twitch! He had an eerie feeling that the weather was not on his side. A slight fog started rising on the landscape. He felt it was too silent and the thought of “A calm before the storm” kept rambling through his mind.

Suddenly and without notice, the landscape erupted in a violent explosion before his eyes. One could see the whiteness in his eyes from his wide glaring stare. He was dazed momentarily, searched for his weapon and held it at the ready as he looked through his high-powered night vision scope. Seeing movements heading in his direction he picked up the radio receiver and dispatched a preselected code, “Bravo 23 fire Tango 004!” In a moment's notice he was no longer alone as explosions blast away in his immediate front lighting up the night. He is ready to fight as an elite soldier with eyes and ears opened manning an observational post. He was the tip of the spear in a forward element, on a wet battlefield in the heat of the night, displaying cold steel of courage from his heart of a valiant night fighter. His mission—keep his comrades in arms notified, alert, safe, and ready to engaged all enemies through fire and maneuvers in the middle of the night ending in a victorious fight!

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# Poetry

**16**

Kalipada Ghosh from West Bengal, India is a bilingual poet (Bengali and English), author, Critic, Social thinker and Academician. He has notched up an important place for himself in the literary world today. To date he has authored eight books of poems and criticism including one to be published soon in the Kolkata Book Fair. The main themes of his poetry are Nature, Humanity, Universal Brotherhood, World Peace, Against war and Violence, and love for Man. He has bagged many International Awards and recognition.

*Kalipada Ghosh*



## LIFE AND DEATH BY KALIPADA GHOSH

Life advances in its course  
but Death lies in wait and retreats  
sometimes conflicts, excitements and  
agonies...

Time is being drenched with the blurred  
mist of winter

Life and death is an inevitable truth  
craving and gratification glide away  
towards the light and darkness.

Life marches on in a meandering course  
I look for life in the mirrors of life and Time  
I seek for light, air and water  
I gaze at the blue sky!

Death lies in wait and knocks at the door  
in the light and darkness...

©KALIPADA GHOSH

# Poetry

**17**

Lena Power is an avid writer of poetry whose works have been published in many Anthologies, currently residing in London, U.K.

*Lena Power*



## ENTER MY WORLD BY LENA POWER

Come my Earthbound Angel,  
fill my heart with magic,  
soothe my fears; un-shed tears,  
release me from havoc.

Calm the storms of my doubts,  
let your love help me see  
that I'm worth the effort  
to change reality.

When I fall into deep  
darkness, reach out your hand.  
Come, share your light with me,  
help me to understand.

Your love shines so brightly,  
a beacon in my mind,  
stark call to sanity;  
leaving my past behind.

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reserved.

*Poetry*

18

Linda Nabia is a poet from the Far East country of Philippines. She has been quite active in social media with her unique poems connected to nature and life. She won the 'Order of Shakespeare Medal' by way of this poem which was selected for this edition.

*Linda Nabia*

## NATURE BY LINDA NABIA

Golden drops of crystal rain,  
Sunset rays on headless grain,  
Nature lies beyond unseen,  
Mankind fall, without a bean!

Time blows, Summer mourn,  
Old Methods died to set adjourned,  
How to bloom the arid land?  
Now the time for us to stand!

Cold nights on winter scene,  
Swift by the breeze, no one to lean.

Waves that glow, appear to lie.  
Grieves of fame, mankind sigh!

Sunshine smiles on morning dew,  
Creed of Hope, desire to brew.  
Grayish clouds, allure the flow,  
Only God would have dared to know.

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# Poetry 19

Lilian Woo is a prolific poetess from Malaysia. She has won several International Awards for her soulful writings. Her poems have been published in various International Anthologies and Journals. She is the author of the poetry book 'The Pearl Wonder.' Lilian is Chief Administrator for Malaysia in Motivational Strips.

*Lilian Woo*





## SOLACE AND SIMPLICITY BY LILIAN WOO

The rhythms of nature are swiftly  
 flowing

Soft breeze whistling and hissing  
 Butterflies fluttering, birds are singing  
 A beautiful orchestra synchronizing

Nature is the virtuality of the mind  
 The soul is the juicy fruit of life  
 Liberty is the flower of necessity  
 The beauty of life comes with harmony

The soul finds solace and simplicity  
 A peaceful existence brings serenity  
 A strong mind removes negative  
 impurity

Let your heart embrace empathy

Morning dawn is always a wonder  
 Rapturous visions of hues a splendour  
 Valleys of blossoms, the sweet aroma in the  
 air

Heavenly delight captured everywhere

The grandeur of nature enriches our lives  
 Look at the smiling sun and the blue sky

Every breath we breathe is a bliss  
 Momentous moments in life we must feast.

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A Post Graduate in English Literature and Indian Classical Music, she is a short story writer, translator, and poetess writing in English, Hindi, and Assamese. Her poems often deal with human issues – love, life, pain, tears and the anguish that individuals suffer from within. Poetry is her passion. She was awarded the ‘World Laureate in Literature – 2018’ by World Nations Writers and one of the winners of Rabindranath Tagore – 2018. She has contributed poems to many literary anthologies and magazines.

# Poetry

**20**

*Malakshmi Borthakur*



## AN UNWRITTEN VERSE OF FORBIDDEN LOVE BY MALAKSHMI BORTHAKUR

Dear O Dear, when I die, don't hurry to  
 approach my grave  
 Just to throw a handful of soil to the mud  
 blanket made for me to lay in eternal  
 existence!

I don't want your favourite shirt to be stained  
 in muddy spots  
 As you stand as common, when all stitch a  
 soiled gown to cover my immortal remains!

Rather I yearn to feel your solo presence on a  
 vibrant twilight  
 With your face reflecting a magical smile that  
 night!

To my forgotten soul, rays of light that  
 presence would shed  
 Helping me smile even beneath my destined  
 eternal bed!

Being with you on such a night is the feeling  
 of fresh jasmine and roses adding on my tomb  
 To keep me loved throughout my eternal  
 existence, and spreading love till the sight of  
 my every bone!

That visit will resemble a scent, which  
 aggravates only during the night  
 Be that solo knight my love, to add fragrance  
 to my night!

Use a small knife to pierce it in my soil gown  
 Engrave your magical verses of love with it  
 that you wanted to write for me to make me  
 feel cozy and your own!

Don't forget to inscribe the first letter of  
 your name to my gravestone after mine  
 I would feel happy so that even during  
 afterlife it carries your name with mine,  
 keeping it in shine!

I cannot take it now when alive  
 At least let death bear yours as my surname  
 and make the world believe!

I was yours forever,  
 And beyond that if ever!

My plight reminds of Candida Morell In  
the 1904 theatrical performance  
She's has always been my favorite female  
theatre character!

A woman so pure and feminine she was,  
Candida was the wife of a clergyman

And in the end, she had to choose  
between her husband and her dream  
man

She had supported the weaker of the  
two, knowing it was none other than  
her husband!

And that's how Candida ended staying  
with James her husband  
Refusing Marchbanks, the one who had  
made her life worthy to depend!

But unlike Candida, I am not one so  
strong, but the one feeble  
Tamed and with both in me, conflicting  
in an emotional battle!

I don't dare to choose him or you as one  
blind  
Rather I'd choose death as my last bliss,  
and escape this emotional fuss!

With you in real life, I couldn't add  
wings to our dream of living together  
Or peacefully hear your verse of love,  
written only for me, sometimes opening  
my eyes wide in wonder!

I can't be that Snow White who you named  
me as once

I remember still, you whispering, "You're  
my Snow White, a soul so pure and soft!"

Snow White name when you placed on me  
It enlightened me to forget every pain my  
life had given to me!

It was a gift what every dame would  
earnestly wish to hear or being called  
A name so stunning, yet respect and  
affection it holds!

You always had added bliss to my existence  
Though being a poet so insane and  
persistent!

Your verses are one that bears attraction  
And reading it keeps all in connection!

But remember, that the moment you pen it  
only for me,  
Just the me, it never gets its affection, as our  
love is forbidden!

I'm living only as yours, but to others, never  
the real

They see me as what I'm not, and this  
remains one big ordeal!

It will only be seen as another verse of  
forbidden love  
And will never get its due recognition as  
the one magical!

But do think, if I had died with the verse  
of love written over my tomb  
It will enlighten and embolden my soul to  
make the eternal sleep content and whole!

O Death! Kiss me once and let me be what  
I want to be!  
Can you?

My death would make my 'man' to the  
world a poetic mentor  
Keeping him the shining star to new verses as  
one inventor!

And I would be known as that queen  
Who inspired a poet to be known in the  
world as a literary king!

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# Poetry

21

Mala Naidoo is an author, teacher, university advisor, upholding peace and justice on all matters of life.

*Mala Naidoo*



## THE CREATIVE MINDSET BY MALA NAIDOO

The mind is a powerful source of creativity and destructiveness.

Creativity blends, binds and benefits humanity.

The practice of conscience mindfulness is essential for inner and outer harmony. A calm state is conducive to creative thought when mind and emotions are on an even keel.

Dwelling on the positive by eliciting this mindset through meditation, listening to inspirational or relaxing music or a motivational talk increases the pheromones that enhance joy and a feeling of general wellbeing. Consciously choosing what we give our attention to either benefits or dismantles our equilibrium. The choice rests within.

‘Consciously choosing what we give our attention to...’

To foster the creative state, a mental and emotional journey has to be undertaken, nurtured internally. Pain can be turned into positive creative energy by daily writing about the pain, the angst we feel. Keep a daily journal or diary at your bedside or on your desk and write to diminish the gravitas of the pain endured — this conscious decluttering allows freshness or the sunlight of positive energy to seep in.

‘Turn pain into positive creative energy’

Climbing a mountain takes sheer physical effort and stamina to reach the summit, so too is harnessing positive energy — it needs work. Who we engage with and how we engage is as important as what we read, write and listen to. Surround yourself in the company of positive people. Choosing what we eat has an impact on physical wellbeing, and if neglected it erodes thinking and escalates a downward slide of negative perceptions of every aspect of life. Equally reward yourself with what you enjoy, taking in a movie, nibbling a piece of chocolate, buying yourself flowers or picking a bunch from the garden.

Elevating the mind state can also be as easy as taking a walk in a park or alongside a river.

For me the ocean holds clarity and peace. Walking along a shoreline cleanses my mind and frees my soul. Take time out to seek the simple pleasures of life. We don't have to climb a mountain to prove how strong we are.

‘See the delights of nature...’ 55

Look around you and see the delights of nature  
— leaves dancing in the breeze, the light peering  
through clouds, the ripple on a river or the  
gentle breaking of a wave on a shore. The  
twittering of birds at first light is a celebration of  
life, a new day and a clear mind.

Make positivity your journey to a creative state  
by writing a positive thought, your wish for  
your day upon rising, and a thought on what  
you are grateful for in your day before you sleep.

Mala Naidoo



# Poetry

22

Mr. Malaya Kumar Jati was born at Karanja, Mahakalapara, Kendrapara, Odisha, India in 1974. He is a lecturer in English in the Govt. of Odisha and is a promising voice in the literary global scenario in Modern English Literature. His poems and creative literary critical articles have been published widely both in national and international anthologies and magazines. On 15th August 2019 he was honoured by the Seychelles Government Accredited Literary Society. He received the WORLD POETIC STAR award from WNWU, Kazakhstan, Russia on 23rd Aug, 2019. He has been felicitated by many poetic groups and literary organisations as a star poet and a star creative literary critic and plays a vital role in introducing a new trend of criticism namely Creative Literary Criticism in the English literature world. He is also the author of a bilingual book on grammar, AN EASY WAY TO ENGLISH.

*Mr. Malaya Kumar*



## YOUR SILENCE SPEAKS.

Your silence speaks better  
Sings sweeter than ever before  
Touching heart and soul together  
Oh! I am in a deep rapture!

Silence is golden I realize now  
Your lips are in a mounting glow  
Like your cheeks cherubic  
Your flashing eyes and floating hair

Better you Keep away from me  
As I can muse upon you in a rare glee  
Sweet is sweeter in silence  
As roses in the full swing of spring

When you are very near to tear  
A chance of an elegant fear  
As eyes terrible in violence  
Living is reckless in silence  
Yet let me be alone to live more  
To live closer and sweeter  
And to sing our life's song better

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# Poetry

23

Maria do Sameiro Barroso (Portugal) is a medical doctor and a multilingual poet, translator, essayist and researcher in Portuguese and German Literature, translations studies and History of Medicine. She has authored over 40 books of poetry, published in Portugal, Brazil, Spain, France, Serbia, Belgium, Albany, USA, and translations and books of essays. Her poems are translated into over twenty languages. She was awarded national and international prizes.

*Maria Do Sameiro Barroso*



# MY HEART IS VIOLET SHAPED BY MARIA DO SAMEIRO BARROSO

My heart is violet shaped,  
lilies and butterflies  
cover my waist,  
wrapped in rose satin,  
blue rhymes and sunflowers.

My heart is a tattooed skin,  
floating on the sea foam,  
sailing in a dream.

Maybe I am just real  
like that foam or a piece  
of mother-of-pearl  
carved in the primordial perfection  
of a spiraled fossil.

Maybe my mouth is a blue violin,  
my breath is a sweet breeze,  
so just the nightingales  
will come to take my song.

When the wings of the darkness  
carry me to the surprising  
irradiant light,  
I will not move,  
falling like a seed into the depth  
of the earth womb.

Maria do Sameiro Barroso (Portugal)

*Poetry*

24

Mary Lynn Luiz is a Poetess, Author, Writer, Global Media Coordinator, and USA Administrator for “Motivational Strips” Poetry Forum! She has published poetry books and has been featured on talk shows, in magazines, and other publications. Her poetry has been translated into many languages! Her awards are many, the latest being, January 20, 2020, the “Order of Shakespeare Medal.” Her Motto is: Love God, Love People, and Change the World with Your Words.

*Mary Lyn Luiz*



# Poetry

25

Monalisa's poems are featured in international literary journals "Year of the Poet VI", "Galaktika Poetike ATUNIS", "Different Truths", "Muse India", ARC Poetry and Indian Ruminations. Spillwords Press Magazine, NY, USA publishes her poems regularly. Her poems are published in prestigious anthologies in countries India, Bangladesh, Iraq, USA, and Seychelles and have been translated into Nepali and Gujurati languages.

*Monalisa Dash Dwibedy*



## A LITTLE GIRL BY MONALISA DASH DWIBEDY

They frightened me,  
Often dreams of a little girl,  
I used to know.

Curly brown hair, light blue eyes,  
Innocence dripping from her face,  
Never returned from school.  
Her school bus turned into a fireball,  
By someone who thought,  
Killing school kids,  
is the way to reach GOD!

The optimistic me,  
Likes to dream.  
Going back in time,  
Taking the little girl away, just before  
she got into the bus,  
Telling her a story of her favorite  
princess,  
Chasing the wind with her hand in  
hand,  
Seeing her grow into a soulful being.  
Her whole life un-lived,  
Did you ever see her wander fearless in  
your dreams?

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# Poetry

26

Muhammad Shanazar is a poet from Pakistan. He has devoted his entire life for poetry. He is a recipient of more than 80 prestigious awards and enjoys vantage positions in different world organizations. He is an author of several books and has translated the work of many contemporary poets. He has been recognized around the world as a poet against war..

*Muhammad Shanazar*



**MY DREAMS WILL DANGLE DOWN BY MUHAMMAD SHANAZAR**

Life is in the jaws of death  
 And I dream for my descendants  
 The earth as a peaceful planet  
 I stand forlorn in the wilderness  
 And look with curiosity to all directions,  
 For commodities that may nourish my  
     generation,  
 But I sniff the smell of exploded  
     explosives,  
 It has dulled my all senses,  
     Now I don't yearn for  
 The fragrance of jasmine or roses,  
 Nor I yearn for the touch of unravished  
     petals,  
 As now I have formed my opinion,

The warriors are resolute  
 To make the planet sterile,  
 On some day all bombs and shells will  
     explode,  
 Smoke will engulf the earth from all  
     sides,  
 And my dreams will dangle down,  
     On the tassels of impossibilities.

Muhammad Shanazar (Pakistan)

(Written at the very moment when a  
 TV channel broke the news that Russia  
 has made a nuclear bomb two thousand  
 times more powerful than those which  
 were dropped on Hiroshima and  
     Nagasaki).

# Poetry **27**

Narendra Rajkumar is a retiree who enjoys writing poems.

*Narendra Rajkumar.*



## TAKING READERS ON A JOURNEY BY NARENDRA RAJKUMAR

Writing Literature is sharing your own  
 feelings,  
 With all Mankind to see through your  
 eyes and pen.  
 They hear the sounds, the music, the  
 noises with you,  
 When you paint a picture, they see what  
 you do see.

So? What does that tell us? Think  
 carefully, then write,  
 Whatever we do, show respect, and be  
 polite.  
 Our Readers could make or break us, no  
 joking!  
 Uphold ethics in Literature - show in  
 writing.

Taking Readers on a journey, always  
 take care,  
 They may have seen the sight you are  
 now describing.  
 We ought not to use language that is  
 unbecoming,  
 Instead, let them gasp at the Wonder in  
 writing.

Let us all simplify our Poems, so they  
 like,  
 The idea is to encourage them, so they  
 write.  
 Remember we all would like to see  
 Unity,  
 Literature must be here for all over the  
 World.

Be yourself when writing, we will love  
 your own Style,  
 Help all Readers to have that "Ah Ha!"  
 experience.  
 Riding a wave or a cloud, they must be  
 riding,  
 Poetry will be always here, just be  
 mindful now.

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# Poetry

28

Omar Nasser is a poet from Kenya who mostly writes on philosophy, people and contemporary life. He has won varied literary awards from Motivational Strips where he has been a long standing active member.

*Omar Nasser*



## THE WRITERS WORLD BY OMAR NASSAR

Writers have a mission, and vision  
 with passion and compassion  
 Gifted with the power of imagination  
 and creative spirit  
 A writer's everyday world has many  
 faces and angles  
 With countless voices and choices  
 where life dangles

Where every aspect of nature needs  
 utmost care  
 Between hope and despair forever  
 begging repair  
 Where life ebbs and flows and every  
 season has reason  
 Magical, comical, tragical and hectic  
 all rolled into one life....  
 When the writer acquires new trends  
 and new friends  
 Who neither glorify their tribes nor  
 flourish on bribes..  
 Writers as literary operatives uphold  
 truths as imperative  
 Considering writing a utility to foster  
 human unity  
 Where from adversity peace glows.,  
 and sadness melts into joy  
 As mercury is attracted to gold, the  
 weak become bold...

When nights become days and the  
 poor have their say

The writer culls public views to  
 create progress

From research fashion better life  
 out of existential strife

To provide oxygen and sunshine  
 to the deprived:

A seasoned writer  
 is a fighter

for human rights

an enemy of social blights  
 protects human children

and beasts of the wild  
 trees and bees

ecosystems

and bio-diversity

when environmental justice  
 is on test

protect our rain forests  
 pragmatic

writers help the rustic  
 promote good nurture

to conserve nature  
 and all life!

# Poetry

29

Dr. Peter Paul Sebastian PhD (English), Malaysian Government Human Resource Ministry Certified Trainer is currently the Principal Corporate Trainer in his own organization, Business Skills Training Centre (BTC). He has written more than 1000 poems, and some are published in several anthologies. He plans to publish his own books soon. He is a popular contributor to international forums of poets and websites.

*Paul Sebastien*



## SUNSET BY PAUL SEBASTIEN

Evening curtain gently falls,  
The sun's worn and wearied:  
Bows out, gets no curtain calls.

Lingering, reluctant to go to bed;  
Showing its swollen face, red  
Is now blanketed by an orange-red  
mantle sky,  
Resigns to sleep over the horizon: night  
is nigh.

Seated in a seaside restaurant was I;  
Embracing the God-painted, beautiful  
sky.  
Contemplated on the needs to be done;  
Planned the steps I would take, one-by-  
one.

I searched for directions;  
Penned down some clear intentions;  
Charted my course of actions;  
There, I made some clear decisions.

Sunset days hasten their coming,  
Oh! So much to be done!  
I can't go on lingering...  
This sunset is passing...

Sunset days hasten their coming.  
Oh! So much to be done!  
And when my sunset days come...  
They are fast approaching...  
I shall not say: I have nothing done

Sunset days hasten their coming.  
I will go about doing as much as I can  
I shall not waiver, directed must I stand  
Accomplishing each goal, is a blessing  
So shall I keep counting God's blessing  
And when those rushing days come,  
I shall face them with the things I've  
done

Rest my head with my heart in full  
content  
My life well lived, not in vain, spent  
Count my blessings  
Offer thanksgivings.

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# Poetry

30

Rajani Mula is a teacher from India and an excellent poet and writer. She is a Moderator with responsibility for India in Motivational Strips.

*Rajani Mula*



## MY ODE TO YOU BY RAJANI MULA

Dear

Come back

OH, my light!

I'm your choice right

Melted years in waits

When do you come back knight?

Craving for bath of your sight

Dear dreams we dreamt starve for your  
sight

Heart mine chants thy name all day and  
night

Stars ain't twinkling for me any more

Since my moon stopped me adore

Wind isn't ready to whisper

Leave me not alone, dear

Let me be your shade

Listen my heart

Hold it tight

My dear

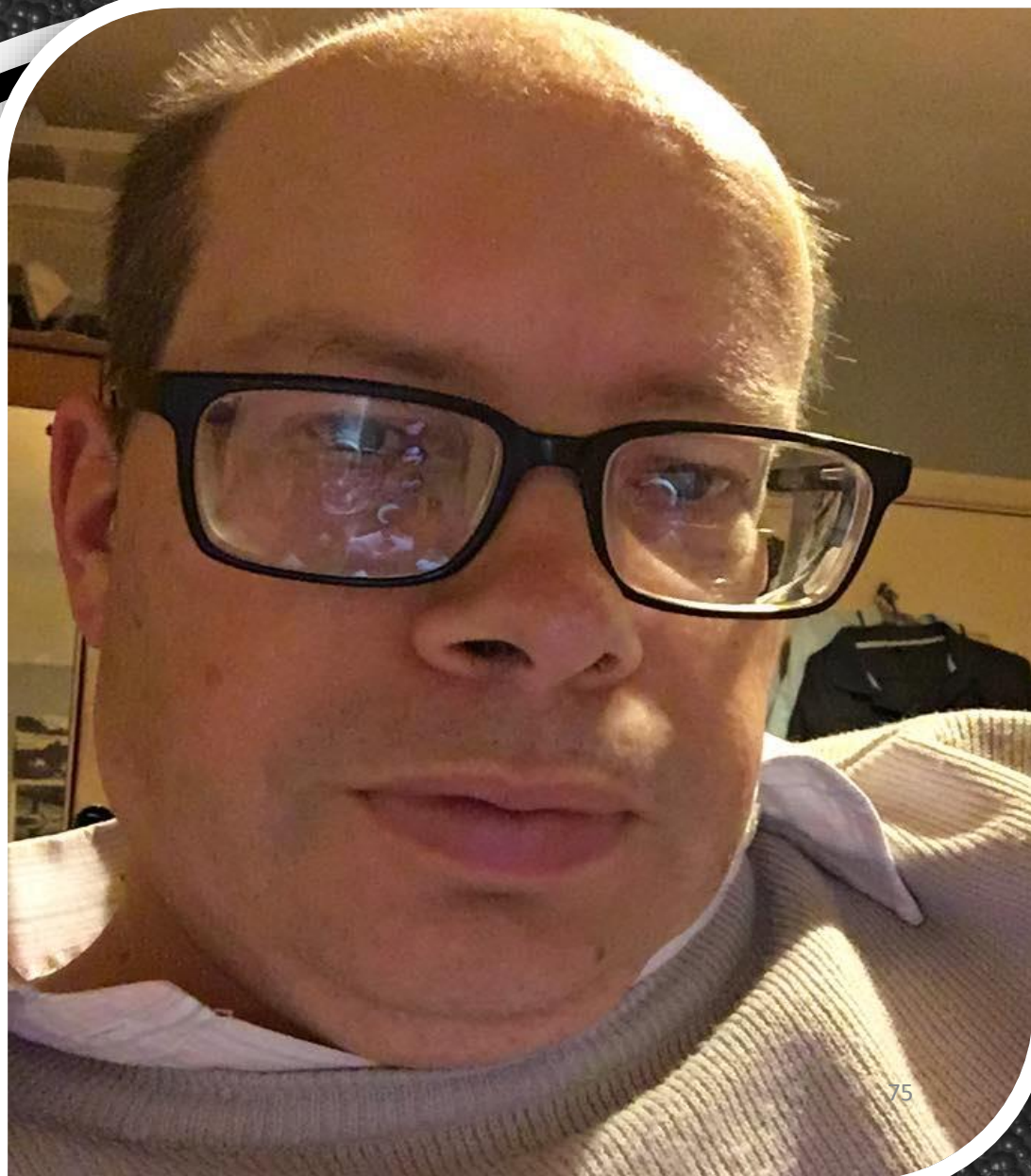
Knight

Raji♡

*Poetry*

31

Rick Riccled is a 51-year-old amateur composer, musician, writer, poet and virtual artist from Warrington in North West England.

*Rick Riccled*

## AMIDST THE WOODLAND TREES BY RICK RICCLED

Tall as they stand there  
Blocking out the light  
Branches reaching out in supplication  
Turning daylight into night.

Walking through the woodland  
Listening to them chat  
Whispering leaves confess their secrets  
Talking idle chat.

And as darkness falls  
Shadows creep, lengthening their stride  
The sounds of daylight fading  
Heralding approaching night.

Night  
The Tawny Owls hoot together  
The Fox barks, echoing around the  
woodland floor  
A sound of hunting nothing more  
Amidst the tallest woodland trees  
A shadowy world that no one sees.

(C) Riccledy Writings

# Poetry

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Roula Selinas is the author of *Stronger*. She is a speaker and a poetess who has been awarded World Poetic star by WNWU, Ambassador de Literature, and Order of Shakespeare Medal by Motivational Strips. Roula was also a finalist for a video presentation. One of her poems was featured in a recent Anthology and she was a winner in MS Santa's Magic Ink. She is a chief administrator for Australia in Motivational Strips and an Ambassador for World Institute of Peace.

*Roula Selinas*



## ODE TO MY FRIEND BY ROULA SELINAS

Why you and not me?

Life is a mystery it's plain to see

I remember the days we had so much

fun

Young and carefree spending hours in

the sun

There's so many memories of us in and

out of school

The fun times we had were so very cool

You were witty and funny and always  
made me laugh

I hope they capture your spirit on your  
epitaph

Why you I ask? As I bring you flowers  
in a basket

Seeing you lying so still in a casket

Although you're now gone and  
departed

You'll join the others who left me  
broken hearted

If I cry a river will it turn into wine  
As your spirit and my tears intertwine  
A beautiful soul who is now up above  
Who now joins the ocean of never  
ending love

Roula Selinas copyright 2019

# Poetry

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Sabrina Young hails from the United States. Writing most of her life, she writes about real life situations. She is Forum Director in Motivational Strips and is the Founder of Soul Thoughts Poetry group. She is also Founder of I Beat To My Own Drum where Her love for photography and short quotes are showcased. Her other interests include singing and reading.

*Sabrina Young*



## REFLECTIONS OF A PAST LIFE BY SABRINA YOUNG

Each day I gain a higher level of peace, as the pain digs deeper it uncovers the real me.

Outgoing and energetic I was once upon a time, but now the only importance lies in my spiritual side. In my garden I have found most of my hidden pieces, taking time to reflect on the most articulate of the species.

When humans are hurt we lash out or hide in a room, while animals run in packs and lick each other's wounds.

Animals hunt for food and have plenty to share, but a human will eat in front of a starving man offering nothing but a stare.

An animal keeps their promise and stays loyal to the end, while loyalty to a human depends on the trend.

My garden has awakened me to my pieces destroyed by man, putting them back together little by little, again and again.

My pain reaches out to heal the hurt in a beggar's eyes, perhaps I was an animal in a past life.

Sabrina Young



# Poetry

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Sahjahan Ali Ahmed is an Assistant Professor of English at Barpeta Girls' College, Assam, India. He writes basically in English and Assamese poetry, short stories, reviews, etc. His writings have been featured in more than 20 International Anthologies. He has been a winner of around 100 poetry contests and recipient of more than 10 Awards from various International Poetry Groups.

*Sahjahan Ali Ahmed*



## KINDNESS BY SAHJAHAN ALI AHMED

Kindness is a virtue that oozes out  
 of heart  
 And falls on the needy as rain on  
 dry desert.  
 It blesses both the giver and the  
 seeker,  
 The former turns noble, fortunate -  
 the later.

This world is full of myriad needy  
 people,  
 A single man can't turn their lives  
 beautiful.  
 Yet, can lend a helping hand to his  
 neighbors,  
 Can stand by them in need with  
 kind words.

Feeding some gaunt, infirm hungry  
 beggars,  
 Gifting them clothes that you use  
 no more,  
 Or teaching the alphabet to illiterate  
 children,  
 Cost little, yet from their hearts lots  
 you gain.

Loving others irrespective of color  
 or religion  
 Forgiving faults of foes sans any  
 condition,  
 Accepting the world as home for  
 all creature,  
 Are kindness we need to show  
 every hour.

The state of world is deteriorating  
 day by day,  
 Machines have made man heartless  
 so to say.  
 Seeking kindness for human we  
 need to pray  
 "Oh Lord! Fill every soul with  
 kindness today.

Let men live on earth as brothers  
 and sisters  
 As million bees live in a single hive  
 together."

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Sabrina Young

# Poetry

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Sakina S. Dossaji was born in Mombasa, Kenya and currently residing in Tanga, Tanzania with her husband and 3 children. She is an outstanding poetess, teacher by profession, and a privileged member of World Nations Writers' Union, Kazakhstan.

*Sakina S. Dossaji*



## A NATURE WALK BY SAKINA S. DOSSAJI

The gentle breeze  
Stirs the emotions

In my heart,  
The icy raindrops  
Caresses my soul,  
I close my eyes  
Inhaling the intoxication in the air.

The petals break free  
From the flower,  
On my tresses lay coyly,  
Blown by the wind  
Plopping on the water stream.

Walking barefoot on  
The carpet green,  
Toes hugging the curly  
blades of grass,  
I upturn my face  
Bathed in rain.

Drenched in exhilaration,  
The sound of rain  
Mingle with the jingle  
Of silver beads,  
The world in a watery sheen  
A spectacular scene  
Nature's beautiful spread  
In lilac, fuchsia, aqua marine and green.

@Sakina S Dossaji

# Poetry

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Samantha Beardon is a Writer, silk painter, and poet from the East of the United Kingdom. She has written a novel, a poetry book, and a book about the intricacies of poetry writing. She teaches and mentors poets in online forum and is fascinated by the use of meaning and sound in poetry.

*Samantha Beardon*



## WHAT IS POETRY BY SAMANTHA BEARDON

Poetry from the ancient Greek word 'poieo' I create. Poetry is a form of art that enhances the musicality of language and should be a vehicle to enlighten, move excite its readers.

'Writing a poem is' like trying to find a black cat in a room where no lights are switched on. And you know you've touched it, but where was it, where ... (and even though you touched it, it's probably moved!' Anon.

Defining poetry precisely is rather the same.

A poem is the best expression of what the poet wants to say but it only works if excites, resonates or moves readers.

What poetry is, is a question you will ultimately have to answer for yourselves.

There are many definitions and many ways of looking at poetry. The big issue with the arts in general is that there are

many different genres and each genre has people polarised in their views about whether the piece of art makes the genre at all and if so whether it works as a piece of art. If it does make the genre - whether it's a love - hate relationship with the reader.

Let's look at music: I love much classical music although some music I find irritating, unfulfilling and uncomfortable to listen to. I love rock music; I grew up with it, it pulses through my blood. Folk music has great tunes and often memorable stories, rhymes, rhythms. I like jazz, some modern pop and hip hop. You get the picture music is a bit like poetry, it is not really one thing. The different parts all have their fans and often the fans positions are polarised. Everybody will have different views.

The art of poetry resides in technical detail more than one might like to believe. The writer artfully uses technique with the express purpose of getting you to feel what he or she wants you to feel. The poet manipulates emotions and sound just as a composer may write a piece of music to evoke a particular mood. The composer orchestrates not only the instruments but also the listener. This is the case in poetry too.

There is no “accepted” definition of what a poem is. Many people will tell you there is, but they are wrong. Most poets or writers on poetry have formulated their own ideas and definitions, usually to exclude the areas of poetry they do not like, but that is all they are. Poetry is not about rhymes, but it might be. Poetry is not about metre, but it might be. Poetry doesn’t follow one format.

There are few rights and wrongs. Many opinions.

There are principles of good poetry practice and there are different levels of poetic prowess. Poets fall along the continuum of novice to expert and the poetry we see and read will reflect that.

Much poetry in this instant age will be transient written, posted on line, read and ultimately fade into oblivion it will be exceptional poetry that will survive to be read and discussed in fifty years’ time.

What you have is poetry that falls into different categories

- Rhyming poetry – that where each end line rhymes but is not written in a special form.
- Free verse – poetry that doesn’t have a regular rhyme or metre.
- Classical forms – poetry where rhyme schemes and metre are proscribed for example Sonnets, Odes, Ballads, Rondeaux.

Real poetry doesn't always say anything concrete or literal although it might; it just ticks off the possibilities, opens all doors. You can walk through any one that suits you. Poetry uses a mixture of literal and figurative language and other poetic devices to tell its stories.

What we can do is look at different ways to define what poetry is, explore its sources and look at ways in which to write original poetry.

Poetry can transform, change perspectives, move us to a different place, astonish us.

Poetry is art, it's music, it's light and darkness. Entering a good poem, a person feels, tastes, hears, thinks, and sees in altered ways.

Poetry is exciting, liberating, and versatile; you can be artistic, use sounds, patterns and pictures. Patterns of words and sounds build any number of different pieces. You can use concrete imagery, abstract imagery and write with wild abandonment. There are few real rules but what you do have are tools that can help you to write poetry which stands out from the crowd. These are the things you need to explore.

Is poetry mostly about the expression of feelings? One common misconception is that its function is simply this. Does poetry tell the absolute truth as true an account as possible akin to a journalistic account? Probably not. Poetry works differently. Our personal lives and history inform our work, but the poem transforms or exchanges the one sort of truth – biographical truth – for another, poetic truth. A poem is more than a simple expression of feelings, more than what 'really' happened.

You can go online and find hundreds of definitions of poetry.



## SECOND PART: IT WOULDN'T ALL FIT.

You can go online and find hundreds of definitions of poetry. Yet to truly understand what poetry is its scope and potential you need to read and explore poetry that is rated as excellent. It is not enough just to write.

For me the essence of poetry is the use of concentrated language to make specific emotional responses through meaning, sound and rhythm.

Here are two quotes from Billy Collins from his Masterclass.

"Poetry is a dance of rhythms and sound it is words that mean more and sound better."  
"

"Poets put out their poetry to an audience of strangers because they want those strangers to fall in love with them."

You have a host of poetry to read in this magazine I hope you enjoy an exploration of different styles and genre and it broadens your view of the art of poetry.

Samantha Beardon Poetic Mentor  
Motivational Strips.

## THE FRAGRANCE OF POETRY by SAMANTHA BEARDON

I walk past Dahl, Byron and Jekyll  
all scenting my world to inspiration,  
as a sea of sage surges adding  
a heady aroma to the mix - clarity -  
memory  
whilst wisteria whispers her fragrance  
a trail to follow to source.

Flower's songs permeating the air

Choirs calling

for the vibration of the bee

is this poetry enough -

Or should I wait for

the burgeoning buds

ready to burst

the seeds of poetry?

@Samantha Beardon.

# Poetry

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Samuella Conteh is from Sierra Leone. She works in human rights promotion and protection and has coauthored many national and international anthologies on poetry and short stories. She has received many accolades including Ambassador of Literature, Order of Mahatma, World Poetic Star and Order of Shakespeare.

*Samuella Conteh*



**AFRI- POLITICO BY SAMUELLA CONTEH**

On the sidewalks of power  
They play hop scotch in the sun  
Tanning their whole nakedness  
With their cloaks of shame  
Flapping in the political wind  
Blowing over the different sides

Fairweather politicians reek  
Of rotting selfishness and greed  
Bartering the will of the people  
To keep their fingers in the pie  
Loyalty hinges on a pendulum  
With the winner winning all

On the sidewalks of power  
Pride lives but on a short span  
Integrity stays atop the long list  
Of endangered human attributes

Gluttons who feed endlessly  
Play in and out of their season

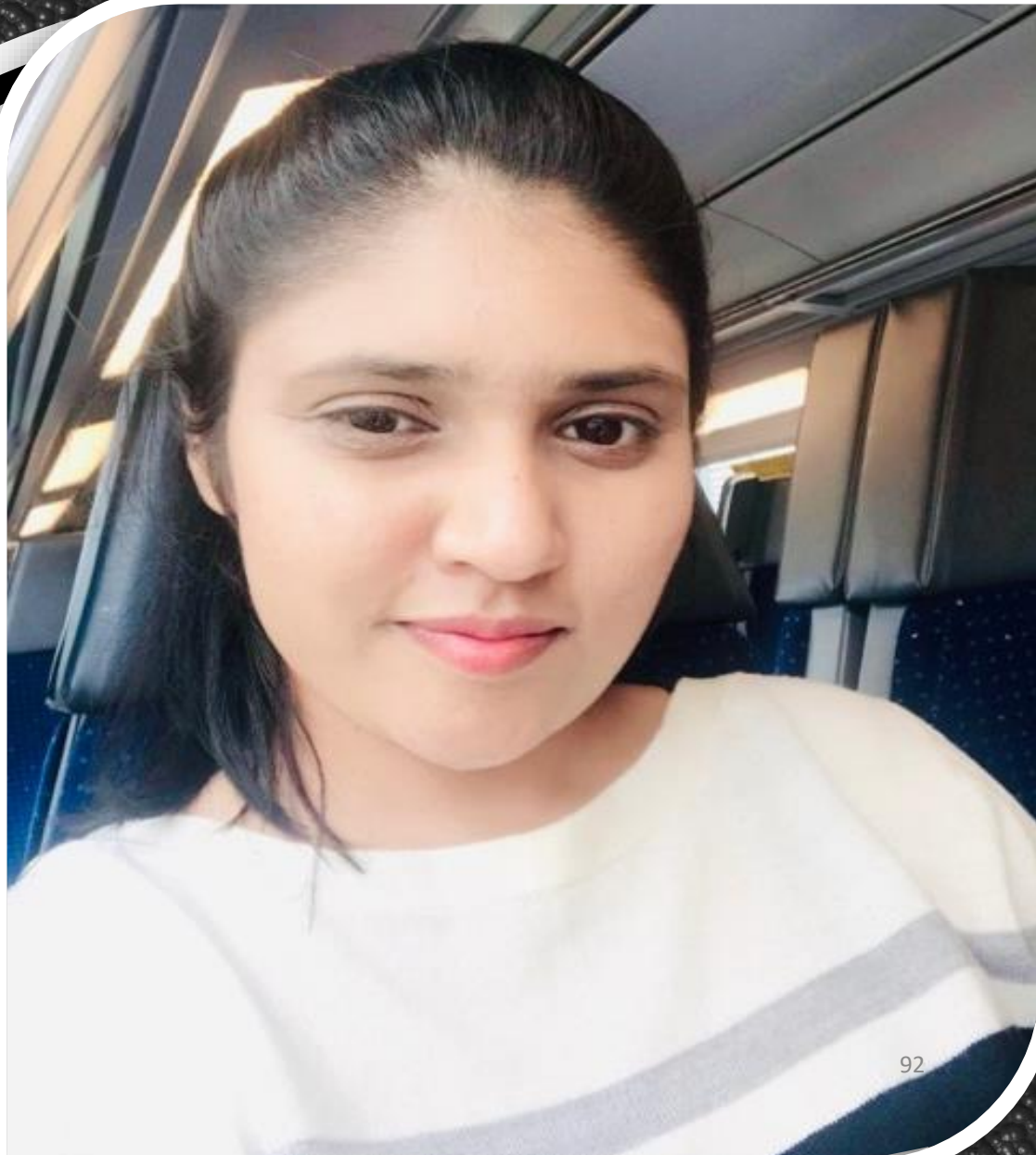
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# Poetry

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The budding Poet and Artist Ms. Sania Zakir, is an MBA Graduate from London, United Kingdom. She has written many poetries for which she has won several awards. Currently she is looking forward to publish her book called “Footprints”.

*Sania Zakir*



## DEMENTIA BY SANIA ZAKIR

Dementia is being described as a revolutionary disorder of memory loss and impaired cognitive capability.

While a person is confronted via a memory-loss, experiences dystonia, struggles with questioning and have issues solving a problem of their day to day lives are meant to be experiencing “dementia”. According to Alzheimer’s Society, dementia can affect someone at any age. It is more normally identified in human beings over the age of sixty-five years and is meant to have several cognitive symptoms.

Dementia has been classified into three different stages by the clinicians. These stages are normally termed as “early (mild), middle (moderate), late (severe).” On the basis of these stages the health professionals decide on the best treatment for their dementia patients. There are many exclusive reasons for dementia. The most common ones are:

- **Alzheimer’s Disease:** This is the maximum common kind of dementia in the UK. It is due to the modifications within the structure of the brain, where an abnormal protein namely amyloid accumulates around the brain cell in the form of plaques and the protein namely tau form tangles within brain cells.

This could result in a shortage of critical chemical compounds that assist with the transmission of messages.

Alzheimer’s ailment can affect concentration, decision making and everyday residing skills.

- **Vascular Dementia:** This is another common sort of dementia. It's far caused by troubles inside the supply of blood to the brain, usually due to strokes or a series of small strokes, called Trans Ischemic attacks (TIAs), which motive regions of cellular harm in the mind. The signs and symptoms of vascular dementia depend on which place of the brain has been affected. Language, analyzing, writing and verbal exchange can be affected in vascular dementia.
- **Mixed Dementia:** It is when a person has more than one type of dementia, and a combination of the symptoms of these types. For example, a person having both Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia.
  - **Dementia with Lewy bodies:** Dementia with Lewy bodies is a revolutionary condition that affects motion and motor control. Memory is regularly much less affected than with other kinds of dementia, but a person would possibly experience unexpected bouts of confusion that may trade on an hourly basis.

- Frontotemporal dementia:

Frontotemporal dementia is a revolutionary circumstance, which has a tendency to have an effect on more youthful humans, commonly elderly 45 to sixty-five years, and can be tough to diagnose. Frontotemporal dementia influences behaviour and personality, and this may purpose disinhibition and inappropriate social behaviour.

A few human beings with Parkinson's ailment or Huntington's disease develop dementia too as the infection gets worse. People with Down's syndrome also are at a particular risk of developing Alzheimer's ailment as they become older.

Different people experience different dementia depending upon which type of lobe within the hemisphere of the brain has been affected. Similarly, you can't keep away from getting dementia but you may lower your danger of growing it. Furthermore, Dementia's are not inherited except in case of Huntington's disease.

According to Dementia UK, approximately 10% of humans diagnosed with young onset dementia have a genetic shape of dementia. Lastly, dementia is now quite known to people who are more likely to visit their GP to discuss and get an analysis.

@Sania Zakir

# Poetry

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Sarah Northwood, a wife and mother, is an award-winning, multi-genre weaver of fiction from the UK. She enjoys writing poetry for children and adults and also plays the piano in her spare time. Sarah is Regional Director for the UK and Europe Zone in Motivational Strips, Dean of General Literature in MSLAW, and a member of the World Nations Writer Union and literary council.

*Sarah Northwood*



## I WOULD TELL YOU HOW TO BE A WOMAN BUT BY SARAH NORTHWOOD

She's the sunrise growing in your eyes

Scattering rays of joy

Where your gaze comes to rests

Slow at first, then fast

And all at once ablaze

She's the cold night wrapped in a warm  
blanket

An ember in the fire

waiting to catch light

She's the horse riding high

on the crest of a wave

Each one brings her down but still she  
climbs

Still she rises to catch the sun and kiss  
the day

Or night, for she is as much a friend to  
the moon

The stars twinkle and glisten  
they laugh at the light of a kindred soul  
almost as bright as their own

They cry too when she gazes at them

She is there too in the early mornings

At the beginning of all things

All possibilities

Every passing hour grows brighter

Her light shines lighter

And the spark in her eyes becomes a  
flame.

@Sarah Northwood

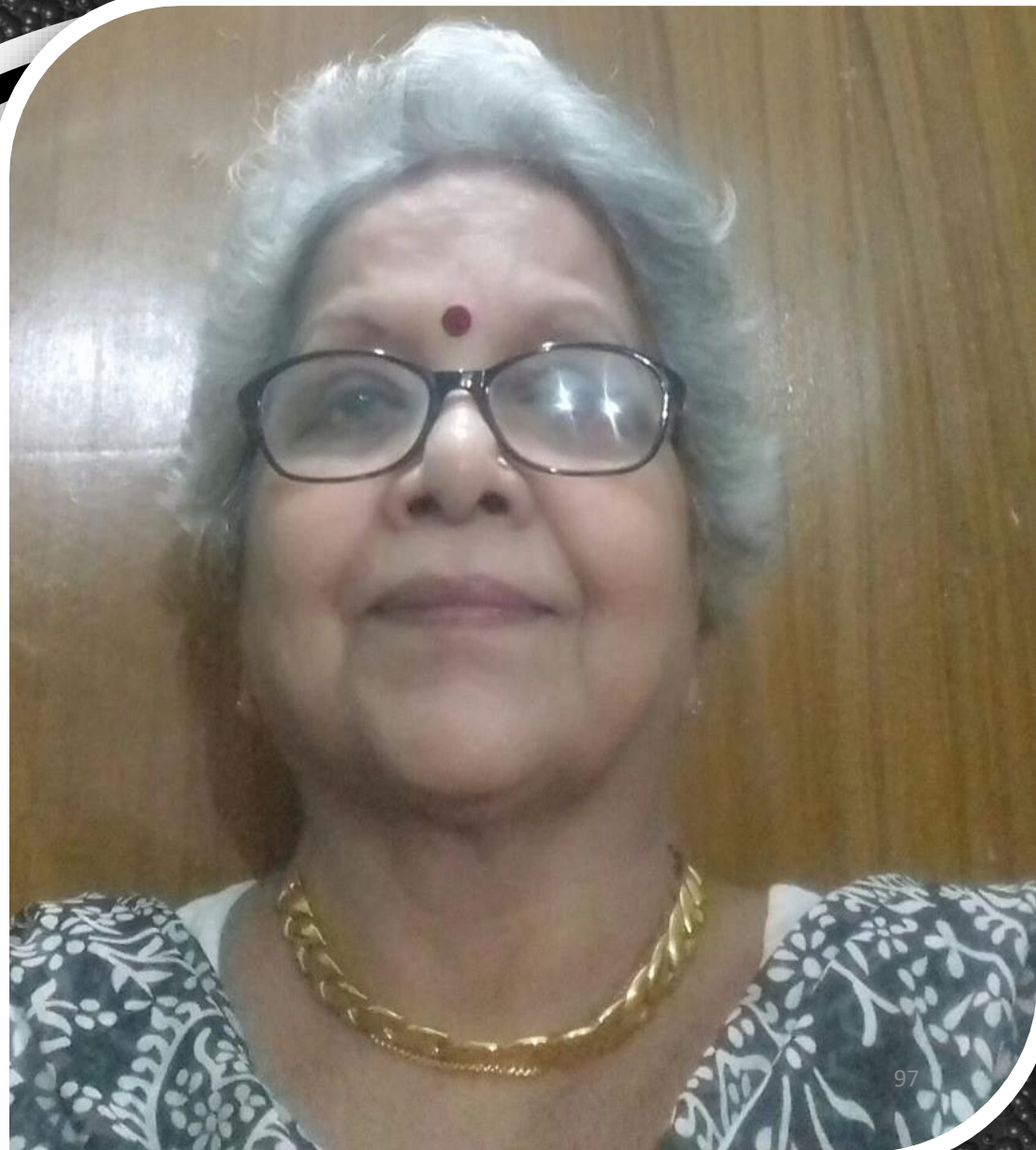


# Poetry

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Sarala Balachandran is an author, free verse poet, and freelance writer. She is a contributing poet to Different Truths. Sarala lives in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

*Sarala Balachandran*



## OH WOMAN BY SARALA BALACHANDRAN

Let's celebrate the power of women

The life giver of man

So far she has been given

No place in the society

She was supposed to be in the kitchen

whole day

Cooking cleaning and washing

Bringing up her children

To the best of her ability and the income

her man provides

Many a night she goes to bed with

hunger after feeding her family with

love

Yet she is abused and beaten

Not taken care of!

Today her life is changed

She is also a bread winner

More than her husband

She runs the home and office and

commands respect from all!

She multi tasks

Home and office and kids

And her parents and in laws

Without an eyebrow raised!

She wears modern clothes and moves

around with high officials and takes

decisions

She makes sure the underpaid in the  
office are given a better income as she

knows how a home is run!

She is now an all in all

She does online transactions and is very

self-confident unlike before!

Let's give an applause to this wonderful

creation of God Almighty without

whom the world would not move!

Oh women! we salute you!

# Poetry

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Sarika Harikumar Shyam hails from Kochi, India and is a bilingual (Malayalam and English) poet/short story writer. She has revived her childhood passion for writing since last year after joining Motivational Strips. She is one among the recipients of “World Poetic Star” award from WNWU and “Order of Shakespeare Medal” from Motivational Strips. Though a Banker by profession, she is on a career break since June 2019 and currently resides in Toronto, Canada with her family. She showcases her work via her Facebook page and blogs.

*Sarika Harikumar Shyam*



**WAILS OF A YOUNG WOMAN BY SARIKA HARUKUMAR SHYAM**

The woman in me trembled,  
As effeminacy left me in a jiff.

Middle age has not yet embraced me,  
And the ripeness of womanhood is not  
yet seasoned.

But, brown freckles adorn my shaggy  
face,  
Like the stubborn dirt on a white linen.

I fear as night approaches,  
Since sleep has stopped coming my way.

I burn and quiver like the boiling tea,  
But, fail to hide my emotions in a cup.

This is me, the girl born in the modern  
era,  
Who lost her womanhood to early  
menopause!

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# Poetry

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Saroja, lives in Bangalore and is a post graduate in literature, graduate in Science, and a diploma holder in commerce. She writes in English and Kannada (Mother tongue). Many of her writings have been published both online and in paperback in Periodicals, Anthologies, and also in YouTube videos.

Writing poetry is her passion.

*Saroja Krishnamurthy*



**PLEA BY SAROJA KRISHNAMURTHY**

Looks as though  
everything is coming  
to an end  
Yet something  
inside me stirs  
hoping to get back  
my life

Oh rain  
hold me for a  
longer period  
Let my body  
turn into green  
It kills to see  
my friends dying  
a slow death

I'm not afraid of death  
Death is a metaphor  
Life seeds I have Bourne  
are enough to grow a forest

Oh rain  
let your compassion flow  
and loosen the earth  
Seeds we have down  
shoots up and  
I don't fall till I see the dawn

Hurry up oh God  
Make some  
sensational changes  
and I live to see  
this transformation

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# Poetry

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SATHIAN KS is a teacher, writer and poet. He has published his poems in more than 25 Anthologies of international repute. Many of his poems have been published in National and international periodicals. He has won many awards and certificates of excellence from many Poetic groups on Facebook.

*Sathian Ks*



**IN THE EYES BY SATHIAN KS**

In the eyes of a child  
I see the innocence

In the eyes of a girl  
I see the rainbow

In the eyes of my daughter  
I see the flower

The flower of fragrance  
That makes life sweet

In the eyes of a mother  
I see the sacrifice

The sacrifice of affection  
That makes a family happy.

In the eyes of a beggar  
I see the greed of hunger

In the eyes of a father

I see my own reflection.

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# Poetry

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Dr Sonia Batra is a dentist by profession but a writer by compulsion. You have seen her in anthologies like Cherry toppings, Awareness, Rising to higher awareness, Florets of Fancy. She has been awarded by Govt of Seychelles and Kazakhstan for her poetic skills. She has had numerous publications in international journals, Cultural Reverence, and WordPress. She has been nominated for Nobel Laureate Kabi Rabinder Nath Tagore award.

*Sonia Batra*



## THE LAST TEAR BY SONIA BATRA

She could still hear the distant  
     rumblings  
 Cajoling her soul to make a decisive  
     turn  
 The path on which she stuttered...  
     Was too painful n cluttered ...  
     She was sick n tired of tears ...  
 Tears of self-pity condemnation,  
     rejection n fears...  
 Tears always blurred her vision...  
     She knew in heart of hearts  
     She was a flamboyant being  
     With a warrior spirit ...  
     She simply didn't like sad tears  
 Until she held the last tear in the  
     palm of her hand...

It was the tear of complete surrender  
 The tear of unquestionable acceptance  
     The tear of ultimate redemption  
     The tear of total benediction  
     A tear of total faith in life's process...  
 It was a tear of a journey back home ...  
     Today there are tears  
     But only of ...  
 Reverence, gratitude, love, regards n  
     cheers  
     A smile is what she wears.

@Sonia Batra

# Poetry

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Thinley Tobgay is from Bhutan. He is a former teacher and now a full time writer. He has authored three novels till date, titled 'Under the Same Sky,' 'MENDREL' and The Ignored Shadow as a coauthor.

*Thinley Tobgay*



**THOUGHTS AND WORDS UNSPOKEN BY THINLEY TOBGAY**

An artist's art is given the light

Only after his death,

A writer's work is renowned

When s/he is no more,

A scientist's theory gets around

Decades after the ceremonial rites,

People become legendary

Once they leave the earth,

Here I am filing a complaint,

Not because I want to rise and shine

Because I want to remind that

Deaths don't talk, they don't work

till their bone gets tired

Only the living does,

If you don't value a person

When they are alive,

Please don't mourn during their last

breath

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27/10/2019

# Poetry

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Timothy Wade Payton, is an American writer, Artist, Award-winning poet, and literary critic. He began writing at the age of 15 and would write for family and friends, as a hobby. He also helped and encouraged many with his selfless contribution to the world of literature and continues to thrive and enlighten the world around him.

*Timothy Payton*



## WHY I LOVE TO CREATE BY TIMOTHY PAYTON

WHY I LOVE TO CREATE Poetry, drawing, paintings... whether it's one thing or the other, I love to create and bring happiness to many people around me and the world.

In this article, I would like to share something personal with everyone on how this came about and where it all began.

At the tender age of ten, I was a daydreamer and had a very vivid imagination.

I would love to go outside and climb the trees and play with the kids in the neighborhood where we play tag or kickball.

However, what I really loved doing would be to make or create something!! After it rained I would go outside and play in the mud and make mud pies or grab a bunch of sticks and make forts and get my G.I. Joe's or army figures and play war.

I also had a lot of Legos and would make houses, cars or whatever I could think of. Living in the small rural country of Summit Point, West Virginia, a kid had to have an imagination because there wasn't much to do.

I had fun and loved my childhood. I also had little arcade video games machines like Pac Man, Q-Bert and donkey Kong Jr. that used D batteries.

Sometime they would stop working for whatever reason, so I would actually take the game machines apart and fix them so I could keep playing with them.

We didn't have a lot of money so I'd have to be a little game mechanic to keep them going.

I would love my Saturday morning cartoons as well.

Some of my favorite cartoons were Looney tunes, He-Man and Fat Albert among a few names.

I was also a huge Super Mario Brothers fan and would draw out pictures on the paper with the characters in the cartoons and video games.

In 1986, My mother and I moved to Martinsburg, West Virginia. I was in the fifth grade at that time and didn't know anyone there but later got to know a few kids around the neighborhood and started to play football and baseball with them.

I continued drawing up until the age of 14-15 when I started going to North Middle School and before I knew it, I stopped drawing and started writing ideas and stories I had in my head.

At 15 I started writing poetry ( which I still do to this day) because I actually had a crush on my best friend at the time, Andrea Boreman, and wanted to impress her.

It worked. But as I grew up, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd and doing things I shouldn't have been doing.

For example, I started drinking alcohol and smoking weed.

Little did I know that this would suppress so much creativity within me.

It never occurred to me that I had this creativity within me except when I expressed it through my poetry.

Let's fast forward to February 2nd, 2017, where I started going live on Facebook and reading my Poetry out loud and for others as well.

Now mind you I was still drinking, smoking weed and cigarettes, but was hanging out with an artist friend, Chad Banks.

We were chatting one night and something inside of me wanted to draw something.

It had been 26 years at this time since I had drawn anything and I actually drew my nickname TIMMS in a graffiti type of style.

Little did I know, two years later, it would transform into something more.

Well, it's now the year 2019, I was an alcoholic and weed smoker for 28 years and just wanted to stop doing what I had been doing for so long and do something different with my life.

I decided to give it up. I also had started smoking cigarettes at the age of 25 and gave this up after 17 years!! The year 2019 was my quote "Sober Year" and it felt amazing!!

I was no longer an addict after so many years and certain things started to happen within myself.

I remember walking into a local Walmart and saw a painting kit with two canvas, paints & crafts for \$25.00.

Something inside of me said to buy it, so I bought one of those kits. I then started watching YouTube videos on how to paint and to learn abstract art. Due to the freedom of how you can do it and however it came out, it would be beautiful, it felt like total artistic freedom for me.

So I tried an example from what I had seen and when it was finally finished, that is when I found out, I liked doing it.

I fell in love with painting. This was around June 10, 2019. As I continued with my Paintings,

I started posting them on Facebook and showing them to people. I worked with friends and I really got lots of positive feedback, so much so that two prominent and Award-Winning Authors used my Paintings as book covers.

One author and teacher was Vandita Dharni from India where she used it for her book "Rippling Overtures,"

The book has been making waves with many people in her Homeland and the world. It's available on Amazon for purchase.

In November, another Award-Winning Author, Jyotirmaya Thakur of India used another Painting for her book "Rhymes of The Soul".

What started out as something therapeutic turned out to have a life of its own and has really made an impact on the world.

@Timothy Payton

### SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR by TIMOTHY PAYTON

Happiness is truth, negativity is an illusion,  
Don't let your thoughts, change your perception into delusions,  
Life is what you make of it, do the best that you can,  
Show positivity & respect to every woman, child & man;

It may not be received the same, yet don't break stride,  
Some will settle for what they have & will not rise,  
Be the exception, stand out in the crowd,  
Let your words & actions be like the sunshine & shine so loud;

Be a helping hand, words of advice,  
Words have power, that can uplift & suffice,

What others think of you, doesn't define you,

You are the conductor of self, so strive to be true;

Be inspiring & motivation for others,  
Life is truly a wonderful privilege that matters,

Don't dwell on the past or mistakes, smile & keep going forward,

Be humble and kind, in your days,  
Because you'll never know how many doors it will open.

Written by Timothy Payton

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# Poetry

47

Umeh Collins Ebube is an upcoming poet from Eastern part of Nigeria. He started writing poems from the age of 20. He has written "The drummer Boy" as best of his works. He was born in 11, May, 1999. Went to Okun Ajah Community Senior High School, in Eti Osa, L.G.A, Lagos State. He is a lover of literature and Arts.

*Umeh Collins Ebube*



## WAR AND CRIME BY UMEH COLLINS EBUBE

There was a country  
 Where the sun often smiles,  
 Where peace and unity reigns,  
 Where hope leads the people to a great  
     future,  
 But something happened one day.  
 And it started from our home  
 That the sun could not beam its face  
     with smiles again.  
 It disappeared and reappeared in a black  
     garment.  
 Now the peace and unity has taken to  
     their shells, like the wise tortoise.

Some gunmen came to our place  
 To eat our flesh like vultures  
 And to suck our blood like a vampire.  
 They torture men like slaves of the ages  
     past.  
 They blast our sky reaching buildings  
     with bombs,  
 So many walls fell down flat to the  
     ground  
 Like the walls of Jericho.

This made the people, who once had  
     great hope, hopeless.  
 For blood spilled the innocent child  
     cried.  
 Even the stream water, we drink, turns  
     red.  
 When men voted to vanish,  
 Our bodies are burnt charcoal.  
 And we cannot be gathered back, like  
     firewood, anymore.  
 But we are only blowing in the wind,  
     like dust and ashes.  
 This day has been like the fateful day of  
     Sodom and Gomorrah.

#The potential pen 

© Umeh Collins Ebube.

# Poetry

48

Yanita Ismail, a young writer as well as a poetess, was born in Bojonegoro, East Java, Indonesia. She has been an English teacher for almost 9 years. She writes poems on various themes in English. In addition, she composes poems in Indonesian language. She has won many poetry contests at international level and devotes herself to the literature world.

*Yanita Ismail*



**DESPAIR BY YANITA ISMAIL**

There's nothing more to say  
My heart screams of your presence today  
I am in despair  
Being in menace is unfair

Mark your words, I am frail  
Describe myself an eggshell  
Can't illustrate it in detail  
Now isn't the right time to reveal

I thought I have closed the book  
I have done writing my story book  
Now I should live in caution  
It's a dire terror of your mission

Copyright @Yanita

# Poetry

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Monica Maartens is a South African Poetess writing under the penname of Zararia Yul, which means, "brightness of dawn river beyond the horizon," sharing her life experiences through her poetry.

*Zararia Yul*



**AFRICAN TURMOIL BY ZARARIA YUL**

Tears like rivers flow all across Africa,  
rebellion and violence rip it to shreds,  
great unrest tears the nations apart  
plunder and aggression has become an  
art.

Fear flashes like lightning all across  
Africa,  
sorrow and heartbreak the daily norm,  
children are swallowed by wicked  
powers,  
fatherless homes are shattered by evil.

Mothers are drowning in darkened  
distress,  
battling to meet the needs of their  
young,  
silent oppression hangs like a heavy  
cloud,  
nations enfolded in a sinister shroud.

Come on Africa, strive to be free,  
crush the evil that grows like a tree,  
remove the hatred that eats the heart,  
cast away the wickedness that rips  
apart.

We fight not flesh but evil powers,  
spiritual darkness that rise like towers,  
we need to pray to God above,  
to bring forth peace like a gentle dove.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES



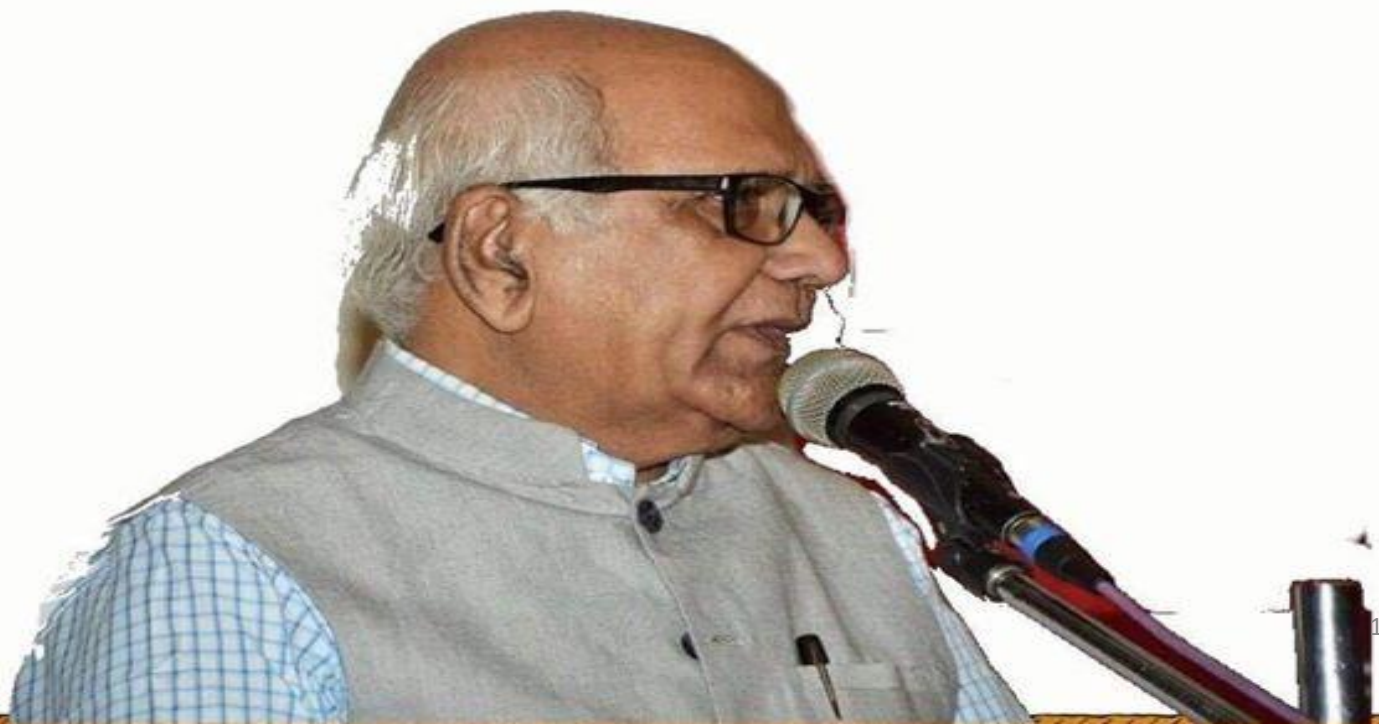
सत्यमेव जयते



I'm happy to hear that Motivational Strips, is coming out with their global magazine called 'Motivational Stripzine'.

Sahitya Akademi, Gujarat, India extends all good wishes and support for this global and noble literature venture for writers. My congrats to winners of 'Order of Shakespeare' medal from Motivational Strips.

**Vishnu Pandya**  
**Chairperson**  
**Gujarat Sahitya Akademi**  
**Gandhinagar, India**



It's a new dawn of light for writers globally to have such a premium magazine as 'Motivational Stripzine'. World Nations Writers Union congratulates all global writers in Motivational Strips on this occasion. This is a great venture...



Kairat Duissenov Parman  
 Founder & President  
 World Nations Writers Union  
 Kazakhstan







**Unión  
Hispanomundial  
de Escritores**



## **Sub: Motivational Stripzine From Motivational Strips**

**I on behalf of Union Hispanomundial De Escritores (UHE) and our 142 branches worldwide officially congratulate our global associate "Motivational Strips" for the launch of the periodic magazine known as "Motivational Stripzine". We all in the union is sure that it will help to bring out the best literary talents of the world. We are proud to be associated to it.**

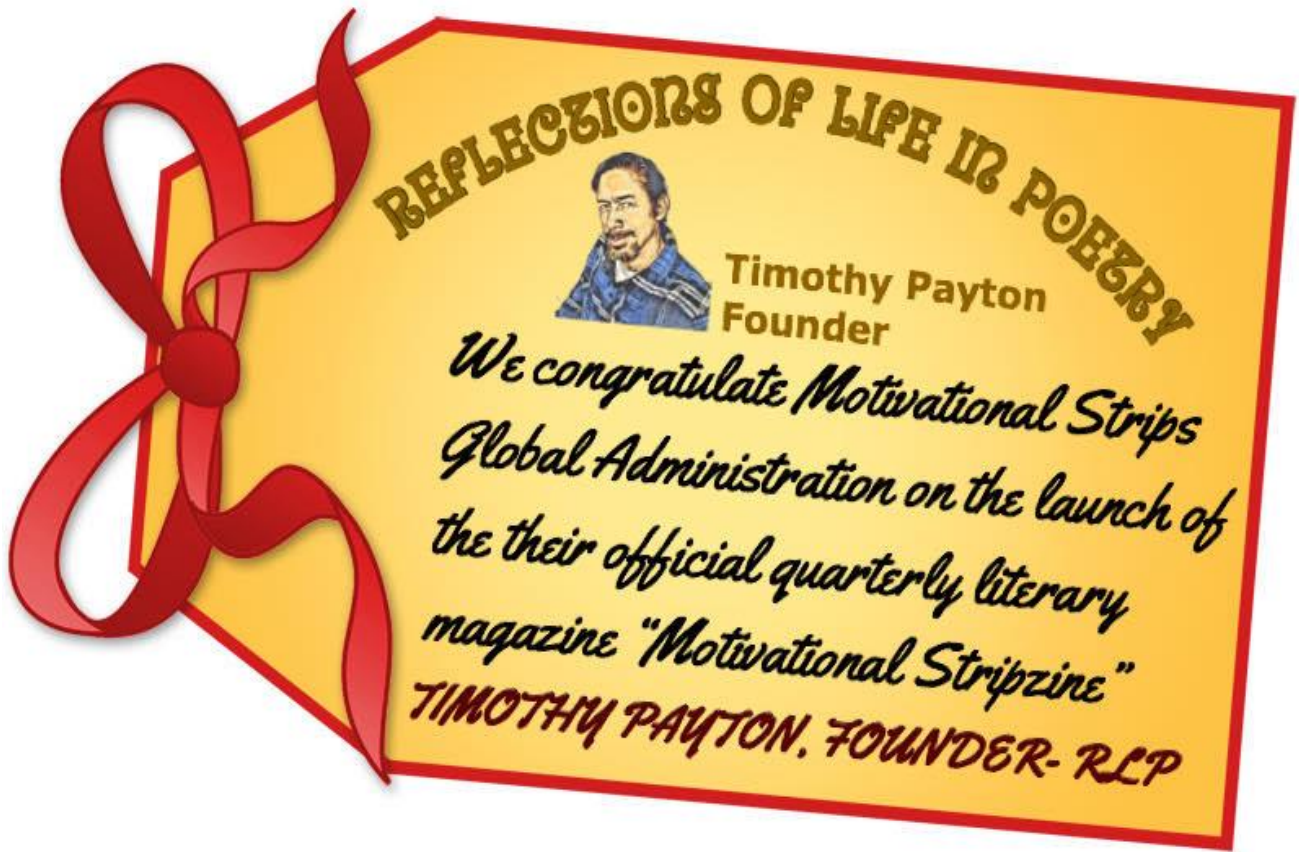
**Dr. Carlos Hugo Garrido Chalén  
Executive President & Founder**

**Union Hispanomundial De Escritores (UHE), Peru**

**How to Write for Success Group extends  
heartiest congratulations to the Managing  
Editor Shiju H. Pallithazheth, and his Editorial  
Team on the release of Motivational Strips' first  
Global Quarterly Magazine 'Motivational  
Stripzine.'**



**BRENDA MOHAMMED - FOUNDER**



REFLECTIONS OF LIFE IN POETRY



Timothy Payton  
Founder

*We congratulate Motivational Strips  
Global Administration on the launch of  
the their official quarterly literary  
magazine "Motivational Stripzine"*

**TIMOTHY PAYTON, FOUNDER-RLP**

TPP/2020/005 DTD 20/02/2020 ISSUED AT MUSCAT, OMAN



Shiju H. Pallithazheth's  
**MOTIVATIONAL STRIPS™**  
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Confers  
**BRENDA MOHAMMED**



A First in order, distinguished honour  
For Providing Quality Assistance To  
World Literature



*Sabrina Young*

Sabrina young  
Forum Director



Shiju H. Pallithazheth  
Founder - Motivational Strips

OUR GLOBAL ASSOCIATES



## TRINIDAD AUTHOR BRENDA MOHAMMED CONFERRED THE PEACOCK OPINION AWARD

On February 20th 2020, the Founder of Motivational Strips Literature Forum, Shiju H Pallithazheth, announced that he was conferring The Peacock oPinion Award on Trinidad Author Brenda Mohammed. THE PEACOCK oPINION" Honour is the first order and distinguished honour conferred by Motivational Strips. It falls under LEVEL 1 in terms of all honours summed up and is awarded to authors who have shown exceptional support to World Literature.

BRENDA MOHAMMED, a former Bank Manager from Trinidad is a multi-award-winning author of 24 books, and Founder of the Literature Groups How to Write for Success, Poems for Suicide Prevention, Library of How to Write for Success, and Poems against Domestic Violence. Her award-winning book HOW TO WRITE FOR SUCCESS is popular amongst writers and University students.

She is also Regional Director – Operations- Motivational Strips with writers from 106 countries, Honorary Member of the World Higher Literary Academic Council of World Nations Writers Union, National President of the Union of Writers, Union Hispaniomundial de Escritos for Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice-Chancellor of Motivational Strips Academy of Literary Excellence and Wisdom,

She recently published two best-selling Anthologies, 'A Spark of Hope Volumes I and II,' co-authored by 49 and 64 international authors respectively, and which both topped the charts on Amazon as Bestsellers No 1. On 7th March 2020 she published a third Anthology, 'Break the Silence,' co-authored by 87 international authors and aimed against Domestic Violence.

In November 2018, Brenda received two awards from Readers Favorite International in an award ceremony at the Regency Hotel in Miami for two of her books, ZEEKA CHRONICLES and I AM CANCER FREE.

She was inducted into the Indie Authors' Wall of Fame in January 2020.

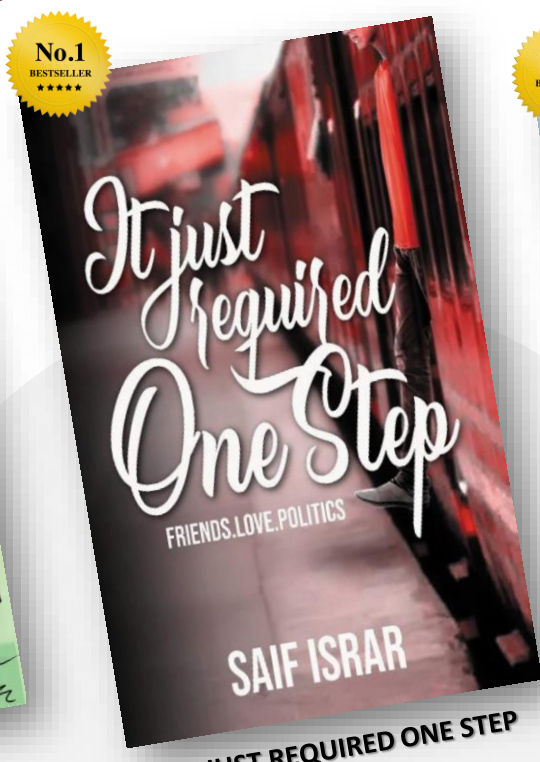
The other awards she received from Motivational Strips over the past year were the Shakespeare Medal Award, Global Literature Guardian Award 2019-2020, and Global Dove of Peace Award.

Brenda was also honoured on 22nd February 2020 by the Peru Government for Excellence in Literature, and in August 2019 by the Seychelles Government for her Literary skills, and was awarded World Laureate in Literature and World Poetic Star by World Nations Writers' Union.

“THANKS FOR BEING HERE”  
From all of us at **EVINCEPUB PUBLISHING**



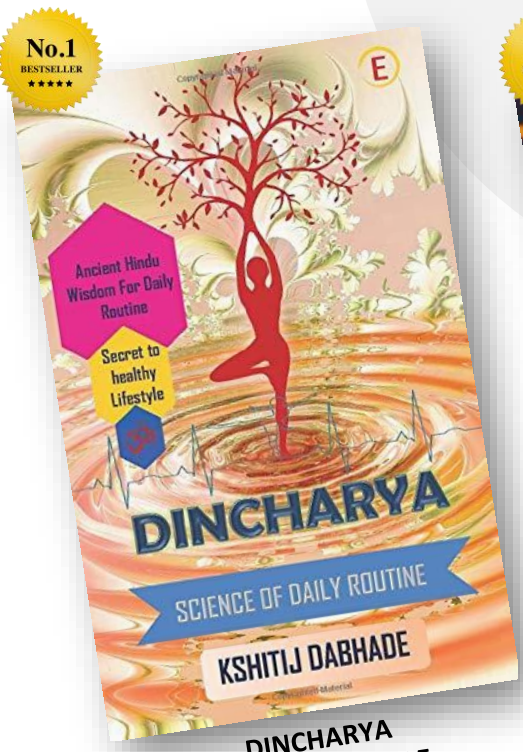
**KATASHI TALES**  
**SHIJU H. PALLITHAZHETH**



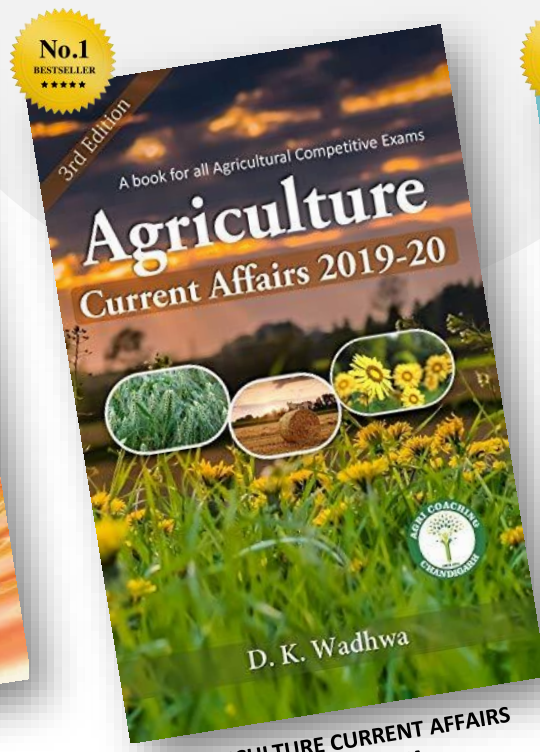
**IT JUST REQUIRED ONE STEP**  
**SAIF ISRAR**



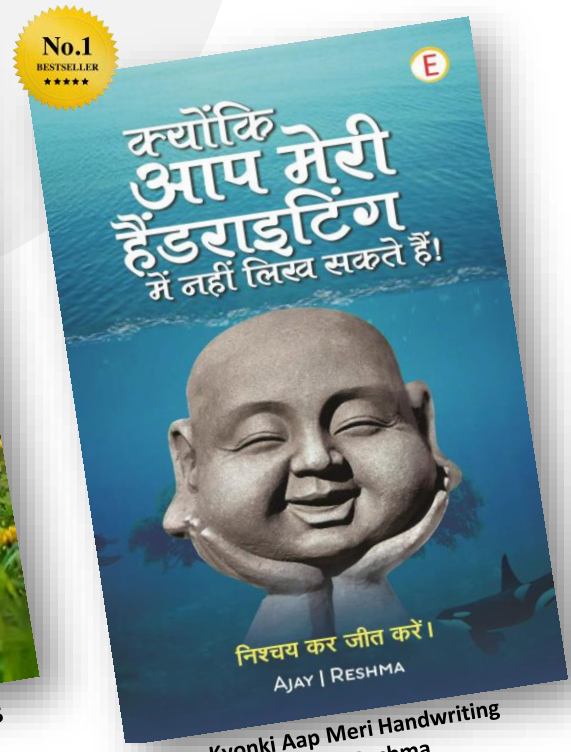
**HOW I MET YOU**  
**SRI CHINNAMATUR**



**DINCHARYA**  
**KSHITIJ DABHAIDE**



**AGRICULTURE CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
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