

Flowers of Peace

40 Poems for Enjoyment and Reflection

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A Birthday Reminder

A birthday is a kind reminder
Of the many years that are gone
And the more that are still to come
The need to forget the bad ones
And make the new real fun
To embrace the shining moon
And celebrate the rising sun

A birthday is a beautiful occasion
To be surrounded by loving friends
Laugh, dance, play, and hug everyone
Relax, and let the soul be rejuvenated
Forget past mistakes you've done
And commit to making good of days to come

A birthday is a gentle reminder
Of the sleepless nights, you spent alone
Negotiating deals that could never be done
Missing the birds singing in the morning
And the setting of the evening sun
Worrying about life's ups and downs

That may never, ever come
A birthday is a wakeup call
That happiness is a shadow
A ghost that is always on the run
Riding on the shoulders of someone
Your heart says he is the one
He loves so dearly
In his eyes, you see the shining moon
And next to him, you feel the warmth of the sun
In his arms, you live many dreams
And believe that the end of joy
Will never, ever come

2

Always on my Mind

You're always on my mind

Wherever I go

Whatever I do

I am thinking of you

I wish you were there

With me to share

My love for you

And together we fly

Into the magical blue sky

Where we can live and never die

You have given me no clue

If you love me

As much as I love you

And if love is mutual and true

Love goes nowhere

Unless we have dreams to share

And sail with love everywhere

Where no one else dares to sail

You're always on my mind
If I am feeling sad or glad
Being happy or being mad
Because love is so blind

The minute you say I love you
Love holds tightly on your hand
Guides you to wherever you want to go
The blind always needs a helping hand

Love can't alone find its way
Navigate the turbulent seas of life
Where no one knows his way
As darkness overwhelms the light
And night overwhelms the day

Love stays shaken
Until you feel it's true
And say with a big smile
Yes, I do love you
And accept living forever
With one heart, not two

If you get tired along the way
And say please let me go

You will break each heart into two
One disillusioned that continues to love you
The other is depressed and mad at you

You're always on my mind
Because you're the only star
That shines day and night
Let me dream as you sing and dance
And make my days so bright

3

A Pray for Love

Singing for the woman you love
Is a wishful mid-night pray
That things you wish go your way
And life becomes a dream
That lives all night and day

She whispers in your ear and says
Love you, darling
You hug her tightly
Dream beyond all dreams
With no more words to say

A lonely tear comes running
Down your smiling cheeks
You close your eyes and pray
That the love boat goes astray
And never reaches a bay

She sings and dances all night
For singing and dancing is her pray
That life treats her with kindness
And luck goes with her all the way

She enjoys singing in many languages
You hear words you do not understand
Yet, you enjoy whatever she has to say
And along, you silently pray
That love never fades away

4

Biography of a Refugee

Neither from the North

Nor from the South

The East or the West

Or the turbulent peripheries

That fight and never rest

A mixture of all cultures

Tribal norms and traditions of farmers

Strange dreams of little children

Faithful love wandering in the wilderness

An exiled man afraid of revealing his identity

An authentic product of wild plants

Growing on the top of holy mountains

Man's struggle for freedom and justice

Inspirations of unlimited imaginations

A soul lost in the madness of insanity

The deep secrets of the sunrise

The magical beauty of the sunset

The suffering of a lonely love

That refuses to abandon hope

A mind amazed by the science of the West
A heart overwhelmed by the magic of the East
A spirit refreshed by the breeze of the North
An ear enchanted by the lyrics of the South

The mind's culture is distinctly western
It belongs to the industrious North
The heart's culture is authentically eastern
It belongs to the ancient South
A mind living in times that recognize no place
A heart living in a place that recognizes no times

A shining, dreaming moon
It loves writing poetry
A cloud flying int the blue skies
And dancing with the stars
A homeless, restless, stateless soul
It knows no security or peace
Stranger in the North
Alienated in the South

A busy working and dreaming mind
Struggling to avoid violence in the North
Escape repression in the South
Maintain sanity in a mad world

Where money is the only god

An honest, faithful thinker

Accused of revealing the crimes

Committed by corrupted rulers

Chased by the security services of the North

Marginalized by the authorities of the South

Neither from the North nor the South

The peaceful East or the Wild West

Or some turbulent peripheries

That fight and fight, and never rest

A mixture of all cultures

Modern ways of living

Ancient customs and traditions

Strange dreams of children

Faithful love in loving hearts

A wondering, wounded soul

Living peacefully in the West

Dreaming hopelessly in the East

Longing for a home in the North

Missing the homeland of the South

5

Do You Have a Clue?

Do you have a clue, my friends
Why the poor people are so many
And the rich are only a few
Why do you have to suffer so much
And I must suffer with you

Do you have a clue
Why Africans die in silence
Because of hunger and pain
AIDS, war, conflict, and shame
And American leaders say
Nothing is new
Nothing we can do

Do you have a clue
Why Natives Struggle in North and South
And many are beaten and jailed
Due to the color of their skin
Their beliefs and points of view
And nothing of their history
Is just or true

Due have a clue, my friends
Why Congress want to build
More gunboats and tanks
And armies with an iron will
To invade, conquer and kill
The dispossessed and oppressed
And make their life unbearable hell

Do you have a clue
Why the rich are stealing the ray of hope
From every eye dreaming of a better day
And whoever dares to whisper and say
We want to be free like you
And live the life you do

Due have a clue, my friends
Why Palestinians throw stones
And Israelis break their bones
Confiscate Palestinian land
To bury the dream of a nation
In a grave of dirty sand
Palestinians are dying daily
Struggling to end the occupation
Defend their homes, land, and nation

Free Arab, American, European, and Jew

From all hatred, they knew

Do you know my friends

That your dreams are my dreams

Your pain is my pain

You suffer so much

And I agonize with you

You cry and pray for me

And my heart bleeds for you

We all dream of freedom

But have a lot more to do

To keep the dream alive and true

We need to join hand in hand

Tell the story of the dispossessed

Explain the agony of the oppressed

So, no American, European or Asian

Will ever have to say

I wish, I knew

6

Dreaming of Love

Today is your chance
To fall in love with love
Enjoy the ride of a lifetime
And dance its graceful dance

Love makes you so beautiful
Like a star in a clear night
Where lovers dream of peace
That makes all things right

Love makes you free
A little bird eager to fly
Go far away places
And never say why

Sing, laugh, and dance
Enjoy day and night
And never be fearful
To take another chance

Love is a wonderful sea
For all loving birds to see

Catch whichever fish they like
And sail wherever they want to be

Love is a generous stream
It runs through thirsty deserts
Creating oases of palm trees
Attracting people like you and me
with hearts to love and eyes to see

Love is life's greatest river
It runs and runs forever
It does not let lovers stop and think
Because it is everyone's favorite drink

Love is an eternal majestic mountain
To climb and set on the top a tree
Look at the world and see
How beautiful are land and sea
Wander with the deer in the forest
Listen to birds singing and winds whispering
And let dreams take you to a little paradise
Where you can live forever free

7

A Star Like no Other

As we wandered in the dark
A dazzling star like no other
Appeared suddenly through the clouds
Creating a sea of light in the skies
A million other stars got excited
They came down to light our night
And celebrate a wonderful sight

The star announced silently
Hope has finally arrived
And justice is on our side
She inspired a crowd after crowd
Millions marching hand in hand
On the never forgotten homeland
To reclaim homes left behind

As hope was being born
People began to sing, dance and cry
The inspiring star suddenly disappeared
Without even saying goodbye
The genie dived in an ocean of clouds

That darkened our nights
Saddened our eyes
Stole the joy from our hearts
Leaving us wondering and asking why
Believing that the hope she inspired
Will live forever and never die
We continued marching hand in hand
Knowing that our beloved star
Will come back without a scar
To light our nights again
And Join our victory parade
Peaceful action is the civilized way
To fight injustice and hate
Wage war against oppression
The jailers of liberty
The enemies of humanity
And the cruelty of racism
Today, freedom is fighting its fights
Quietly reclaiming everyone's rights
Our shining star will come back soon
No matter how hard she may try
To keep her neutrality and stay away

She will reappear and light our sky

We feel her presence in our hearts

Follow her shadow through the clouds

Her love for freedom is so deep

It will never fade or die

8

Farewell

I want to be free

To fly so high

Like a little bird

Roam the old blue sky

Visit forests and valleys

And never say why

Go faraway places

Enjoy the sunrise

Stories of the simple and wise

Listen to the whisper of the wind

Discover the secrets of the sea

The working ant and the little bee

I wonder and wonder why

Have I waited so long

Before I could even cry

Let so many dreams grew old

Fade in the dark

And slowly die

I want to forget the place

Where smog is so thick

It stuffs the nose

And blinds the eye

Where the air is wet

The road is wet

Men sweat, smell, and smile

But hearts are dry

I want to walk alone at night

When the moon is full

And dreaming is right

Where clouds pace the sky

And stars are shy

Where silence is longing

And the air is soft and dry

Where dreams are born

In twinkling children eyes

To live happily forever

And never fade or die

I want to be a star

On a clear summer night

To shine and smile

And make all things right

For lovers to embrace
With passion and grace
And make all shadows run
And hide their face

I want to be just me
Naked and free
For all to touch and see
Sing and dance
Whenever I have a chance

Read and write
Travel and love
Laugh and cry
And never, ever say why

Feelings and Meanings

When you feel sad, you appreciate happiness;

When you fall in love, you appreciate sharing;

When you feel sick, you appreciate health;

When you are in love, you enjoy living;

When you lose a friend, you understand loneliness;

When you lose health, you understand weakness;

When you lose your wealth, you understand poverty;

When you gain wealth, you understand envy;

When you succeed, you understand jealousy;

When you fail in life, you understand pain;

When you concentrate on the afterlife, you lose life;

When you lose the desire to love, you lose the desire to live;

When you try to be clever, you lose wisdom;

When you try to be smart, you lose intelligence;

When you become dogmatic, you lose rationality;

When you become ideological, you lose freedom;

When you become religious, you lose joy;

When you become private, you lose universality;

When you become national, you lose fairness;

When you become wealthy, you lose friendship;

When you become powerful, you lose humility;
When you become arrogance, you lose decency;
When you become obsessive, you lose life's excitement
When you become materialistic, you lose the sense of satisfaction;
When you try to succeed without doing much, you lose honesty;
When you try to be rich without working hard, you lose ethics;
When you become truthful, you gain independence;
When you manage to be yourself, you gain everything;
And when you gain everything, life becomes boring;
And that dictates that you must reinvent your life to make it interesting.

Al-Khwarizmi, the famous mathematician and astronomer was once asked about the value of human beings; he said;

A person of high morality and ethics has a human value equal to 1;

If he has beauty too, then add 0 to the 1, so his value is equal to 10;

If he has money also, then add another 0 to the 10, so his value is equal to 100;

If he is from a good family, then add another 0 to the 100, so his value is equal to 1000;

If he were to lose the first one, which is morality and ethics, the 1 would be gone and what remains of his value are the zeros.

10

A Flower of Peace

The voice of Palestine

Is crying for justice

Crying for security

Crying for peace

Standing against war

Standing against violence

Standing against racism

Dying in need

In need of a holy seed

Seed of freedom

Seed of equality

Seed of dignity

Seed of tolerance

And the seed of peace

I am the voice of Palestine

Planting a flowering tree

On the wings of a honeybee

Traveling across land and sea

For everyone to see

A yellow flower for mercy

A green flower for justice

A white flower for peace

A red flower for love

A flower for you

A flower for me

Christian, Muslim, and Jew

Black, yellow and White

To set all souls free

Together we can climb mountains

Dance and sing like love birds

Cross every river and sea

Embrace each other and laugh

Enjoy the night with smiling stars

Share the holy land we love

And live forever free

11

Freedom

I am a free man

And freedom is a home

For my soul to live forever

And fashion a beautiful endeavor

Freedom is the spirit of our time

It refuses to be a witness to a crime

Be oppressed for long

Or imprisoned forever

It is a love boat for the heart

A haven for longing

A sacred temple for love

And heaven for lovers to share

Freedom is light for the eye

Music for the ear

Sea for poetry

Life for thinking minds

Inspiration for dreamers

It is a sun for all living life

A candle that lights the dark alleys of exile
A cause of trouble wherever freemen land
And the source of alienation in the homeland

Freedom is a fate that never dies
Like thought and the works of art
Science, knowledge, and poetry
And the eternity of the times

I love freedom like my mother
It teaches me to be kind to all others
Breast-feeds its children loyalty to the land
And love for people who stand
For the liberty of all mankind

I refuse to accept any other mother
Even if I must experience pain and suffer
Be accused of being deranged and mad
And expelled from my beloved homeland

Freedom is my faithful, loving mate
It goes wherever I go like fate
It recognizes no time, place or date
Even if the times get too old
And seem ready to weather and fold

When the time comes to finally go
And leave the life we all know
Freedom becomes a kind coffin
Embracing my body and soul
And take me away from it all
Leaving my works to play their role
And make my departure a wakeup call
For a nation hiding behind a thick mental wall

A Storm Like no Other

I spent the last night lonely in bed thinking without an end
Making passionate love to my ideas, as deprived lovers do
I woke up at the birds singing, celebrating the sunrise with joy
But the mind was confused; it couldn't recognize the place
And fear was running through my veins from toe to head

Suddenly I found myself standing at my bedroom window
reading the landscape as astrologers read people's fate
A forest inhabited by deer stretches as far as the eye can see
As the sun's rays crept into it, the buds of spring looked like a full moon

As most people were busy dreaming and chasing money
And losing their conscience and the ethics in the process
I searched for myself and found nothing but a tortured soul
A storm became a raging sea revolting against everything in sight
It nearly flooded the place and suffocated the light of the morning sun
But the spirit kept cheering the ideas as they multiplied and bloomed

My mind slid through the fog as tears overwhelmed the eyes
Meanwhile, the tears were listening to sewers running under my feet
Crazy fans chanting loudly, celebrating the death of the conscience

Huge masses lament a leader who died a hundred years ago
Crowds waiting for a savior to rise from an unknown grave
And lead them to the promised land where life never ends

The world around me is floundering; it lost its mind and direction
One day volcanoes shake the earth and burn trees and bushes
One day a hurricane destroys beaches and kills innocent children
One day a tsunami sweeps seaports and leaves nothing behind

One day America initiates a global trade war for no reason
One day a vicious virus imposes a curfew on the rich and poor
As America keeps moving steadily along the path of failed states
A promising life is transformed bit by bit into memories without a trace

Children grow old from poverty and ignorance, die prematurely
Elders live immortal lives through inspiring ideas and creative minds
A glorious era sinks into a sea of madness that cannot be trusted

While new ideas continue to multiply and flourish

The spirit of humanity rises from the ashes against the age

To crown freedom a queen over the universe

And give a new life to every living soul on earth

It Isn't Fair

It isn't fair

My loving woman said

To be her lonely

And you're lonely there

Where loneliness is a broken boat

That takes nowhere

To walk alone in the darkness

Looking for places you love

When no one is there

To listen to your heartbeat

Share your dreams and memories

And sail with you everywhere

Yes, my dearest friend

Life is never fair

When you're separated

From the people you love dearly

And for whom you truly care

When you long so much for a kiss

A hug and a warm smile
To fill the emptiness of the day
And warm the coldness of the night

Only when love and joy
And happy memories are there
That living becomes so beautiful
And life special and fair

So, darling
Let our brains take us somewhere
Dream of a magical way to get us away
And plan a wonderful, exciting fair
Where we are free to hug and kiss
Enjoy the freshness of the air
Feel the joy of being together
Treasure the memories of the day
And forever share

14

Missing You

When you're away
I miss the moon
That lights my night
And the sun that brightens my day

A little saddened bird
It can sing, jump and fly
But drowned in darkness
It can't find its way

When you're away
I feel naked on a rainy day
Nowhere to go
And nowhere to stay

A little sailing boat
It rows and rows
But going against strong winds
It can't reach its bay

When you're away
I miss your smile
That warms my heart
And excites my day

I miss your lips

That hug my lips
Convey your love
With no words to say

Today my love
The eyes dream
And the hearts pray
Forever, together we stay

I sail in your eyes
You travel in my heart
Sing, cry, dance, and play
And never, ever go away

Acts of Life

I wonder what life is all about
Is it a tragedy that has no end?
Innocent souls lost in the wilderness
Meaningful words, meaningless acts

Is life God's wonderful act?
A spectacular show of his artful art
Devils and angels playing a game
Without an end in sight

Is the life you, she, and I

Rich and poor

Strong and weak

Masters and slaves

Fat rats and hungry cats

Acting their instinctive acts

A cat waiting for a tasty meal

A trembling rat living in fear

Mother earth is watching silently

And no one with a heart is there

To save a poor rat from a hungry cat

Life, after all, is an act
Of God and man and nature
Playing the game of cat and rat
An interesting, senseless play
That knows no wrong or right

Yet, no one is willing to admit the fact
That life is a craft for us to learn
How to live a worthy life without pain
As we live, play, cry and die in the act

The conscience of time

An old man once said
Soon, you will die, my son,
And become a prisoner in a dark grave
Lost in the wilderness
A victim swallowed by warms slowly
And no one will be there to plead for you
So, what good can books do?
Losing sleep worrying about the world
Writing countless books and poems
That no one has the interest to read

Be rational, my son
Stop writing and wasting your time
Obey the orders of your guardians
Be a role model for others to follow
So you can avoid a life inhabited by fear
Worries and nightmares that never end
Dark prison cells and humiliation

Science and knowledge, my friend,
Has never restored life to a dead person

Staying late at night has never prolonged life
Books and poetry have never farmed a field
The arts have never caused flowers to bloom
And philosophy has never brought rain
Or provided food for people in need

I shall never, ever die

He said

I am the science and philosophy
Poetry, creative ideas, and the arts
Books that carry the truth wherever they go
The conscience of civilizations
The hearts' beat of all peoples
The magician that makes life enjoyable

I shall live for as long as love lives
Bees and ants pace the wilderness
Stars shine and glitter in the sky
And workers sweat in factories
As freemen suffer in prisons
Little children cry for attention
Dreams are born in beautiful eyes
And the sun rises and the moon shines

It's my spirit that transforms the world
It touches the land and makes it fertile
Blesses the fields and makes them green
Kisses flowers and makes them bloom
Hugs dreams and makes them real
Calms fear in little children's hearts
Inspires imagination in their eyes
And seduce people to love and make love

Science is wisdom that corrects mistakes
The arts is magic that renews dreams
Philosophy exposes myths and false beliefs
Poetry encourages the young to revolt
And destroy the castles of repression

I am the eternal spirit of all times
The orange revolution that never loses
It carries an olive branch in one hand
And the force of knowledge in the other
It undermines repressive regimes
Challenges oppressive rulers
And removes obstacles hindering progress

I am the eternal spirit of all times

That builds palaces for the arts

Little cottages for poetry

Grand monasteries for love

Minarets for freedom

Institutes for science

And Universities for learning

I am the arts and poetry

Science and philosophy

The master of the world

The free spirit of humanity

That no one can ever defeat

Enslave or imprison forever

Intimidate by using myths and illusions

Or scare by false prophets and ghosts

I may be forced to hide for awhile

Or be exiled for a few years

But my voice will remain strong

Traveling with the wind

Promoting freedom, peace, and justice

Fighting ignorance and poverty

And protecting the poor and weak

If the spirit of science and philosophy
Were to be tortured and imprisoned
And the spirit of poetry and freedom
Were to be exiled and forgotten
All pillars of progress will collapse
Cultures will get old and deteriorate
Scientists will die feeling sad in silence
Thinking brains will stop working
A life worth living will disappear
And become a thing of the past

Powerful rulers will become my prison mates
Prison keepers will become forever slaves
The rich will go hungry for days and weeks
And the love of life will be suspended
Living in a swamp waiting for my return

I am the science and philosophy
Poetry and the arts
A sun that shines and a moon that shines
The wise man of all ages
The master of all civilizations
The maker of all miracles
The ultimate light of human life

To Tetovo with Love

Tomorrow we shall kiss, hug

Say goodbye

And faraway fly

Leaving behind love stories

Exciting moments that never die

Dedicated men and women working hard

To make the coming festival fun and bright

With fireworks lighting Tetovo's beautiful sky

Uniting Macedonians and Albanians

In their generosity and love for life

Poetry is a shared living experience

It nourishes the soul and excites the eye

Shaip, Narta, Dimal, Biondina, and Jorida

The stars of sites, nights, and lights

Shaip the father of the spectacular show

Ditët e Naimit poetry festival

Where poets come from everywhere

Looking for some fun and free space

To honor poetry and express love for life

Build bridges of words across mountains and lakes

Stitch stories that tie hearts together

So, peace, love, and justice live forever

Narta the elegant young woman

Master of the theater of words

With a wink of an eye

words sing and bodies shake

Echoes travel around the world

Carrying poetry's sacred message

Love and peace are here to stay and share

Dimal the young handsome man

He knows what you need to know

What to do and where to go

Making everyone feel at home

Free to think and dream of another day

Biondina the gift of surprise for all

In her eyes, you see the skies of peace

Stretching borders beyond the universe

Expanding love to embrace everyone

Where time becomes eternal memories

For all loving souls to enjoy and share

And Jorida the charming executive
A sharp woman with an iron will
Soft gloves conveying kindness and love
Walks you around her garden city
Guides you to church and mosque to pray
Without many words to say
Tomorrow we shall kiss, hug
And say goodbye
While Tetovo smiles and wonders
How pleading hearts
And crying eyes
Could hug, kiss
Say goodbye
And faraway fly

18

Between Earth and Heaven

Hanging between earth and heaven

Is a cause of fear and loss of direction

Some people love heaven so much

They are willing to die for it

Others love earth much more

They try to grab everything and own it

Yes, you can forget without regret

The riches of life for the sake of heaven

Yet, no one knows if heaven's promise is real

While the riches of life are real and clear

Living for life riches is an act of madness

Dying for heaven's promise is an act of despair

And between madness and despair

Everyone seems to have lost something of value

The capacity to live a meaningful life on earth

Or see heaven's promise as nothing but faith

Whoever lives a mad life for life's riches

Or dies for the promise of the afterlife

Fails to realize that he has another choice
Living a meaningful life with joy on earth
While thinking of the promise of his faith

Dying is becoming unaware of being
You no longer have a thing to look forward to
No life riches and no heaven's promises
The only thing you get is a stone over your head
And as your loved ones cry, you become a memory

Living between madness and despair is insane
It means losing the intelligence of man
The rationality of a thinking mind
And the soul of a decent human being

In life you have a choice; in death, you have no choice
You can live life while waiting for heaven's promise
Or dream of heaven's promise while wasting life
The spirit of life has no life outside this universe
So no one has a reason to be confused
And feel lost between heaven and earth

A Little Wish

She asked with a curious smile
When would I hear my song
That conveys true feelings of love
For which, I so much long

My life is empty
My eyes are sad
Yet, I look for nothing grand
Just something to make me smile
And for knowing you, so glad

A little poem or a nice song
To remind me of this special day
Lift my saddened spirit
And help right what's wrong

So you can read your song on my face
Every time I dive into your eyes
And whenever you look at me
While I am laughing and feeling free

You can hear our song every time

You listen to my heartbeats race
To embrace the love in you
And secure for it a special place

You can see love's image at midnight
When the night is peaceful and right
For lovers to kiss, embrace and dream
And create memories nothing can erase

You can feel the spirit of love in every place
Where we spend time together
Talking, laughing, dancing, singing, crying
And planting seeds of love to live forever

Capitalism

Capitalism has no face or place

It is here, there, everywhere

It walks and speaks without grace

A shark looking for a little fish to swallow

Capitalism is nothing but a devil's curse

A machine to make money for the rich

It destroys everything that stands in its way

Respects no religion or faith

Country, nationality, or race

Ethics, morality, or space

Capitalism is a horrible creature

It loves the green color of money

It goes wherever money is seen

Works hard to make every pocket clean

And controls everyone's fate

Your fate, my fate, the fate of the poor

Even children who have no food on their plate

Capitalism tries to collect every penny it sees

Regardless of being ethical, wrong, or right

It exploits the poor and cheats the bright
And celebrates its crimes day and night

Companies design their computers to cheat
And train employees to manipulate and lie

To make sure it wins every race
So no nan, woman, young or old
Lives in dignity and has a place

Companies insure their worker's lives
And wish them speedy death

To collect the bounty when they die
As families ponder their fate and cry
The death of an employee is a treat

Capitalism celebrates as a feat

Capitalism is an existential threat

Humanity must work hard to erase

Before ethics die in our world

Hope dies in our eyes

No clean water is left to drink

And we reach the end of the road

Where no one has a living space

To live free and walk with grace

Being Alone

You seem to be living alone
Wondering what to do with your life

You might think this is not true
Yes, each one has many friends
While being a member of a crew

However, you need to know
Life is a commercial Ship sailing

It travels around the world
Carrying many people onboard
In the right hand, it holds a red flower
In the left hand, it holds an old sword

However, Life is mind, body, and soul
Slave, lord, good, bad, coward, and bold

Believers and atheists
Saints and sinful whores

The life ship is so arrogant
it cares for no one
but since it has a life of its won

It cannot stay viable for long

Unless it carries us all

Celebrating Life

I called Regina to ask if the rumor is true
And if there is anything I could do
If Manfred will be retiring soon
And colleagues are planning a farewell party
To be attended by his friends of who's who
And if I could get an invitation too

Yes, Regina said, it is sadly true
This is Manfred's way of orchestrating a coup
Colleagues are conspiring too
They plan to have a surprise party
And Martina is the ringleader of the countercoup

But you do not need to worry, my dear
A party is not a party without you
Yes, Manfred is leaving, but not going away
His heart is here with us to forever stay

So tell us, Manfred, what we should do
When we arrive at the airport exhausted
Looking for an old face of a dear friend

Standing tall with hair flirting with the wind
To say hello, smile, and calm our fear
After a torturous trip across the hemisphere

Manfred is a gentleman, he asks you politely to wait

But a gentleman is never late for a date
A true German who appreciates the value of time
Would not waste a minute and commit a crime

He takes you from a lecture to a meeting to an interview
And makes you feel, you are one of the chosen few

Manfred made my German nomadic tours a fairytale

Visiting cities and romantic hamlets everywhere
Meeting great minds of the young and old
And making friends for life here and there
A story of true love to cherish and share

We know you are leaving to enjoy life
Travel, teach, read and write memoirs
Stories that teach others valuable things
And make all of us proud to be your friends

We know it is time for you to say goodbye

It is a celebration, no one needs to cry
Leaving a work of love isn't insane
It is getting free to fall in love again

We will miss you Manfred so much
Miss your warm smile and touching touch
You are a part of our love for what we do
So please try to stay in touch
Love, my friend, can never be too much

Beyond Memories

You came into my life
And made life so exciting
Brought me the love of a lifetime
And made my days beautiful and shining

Skies are blue and smiling
Trees are green and whispering
Flowers are red and enchanting
Butterflies are colorful and spying
And birds are singing and dancing

Look into my eyes and see
How tears are running but smiling
Listen to my heart pounding
Fearful of losing the love of a lifetime
The inspiration that was forever hiding

You came into my life
And made me so happy
Gave me memorable memories
And made life so exciting

I know it is time for you to go
Because life is short for a true love
And one love is too short for a full life
And we must keep marching

You know I must also go
Write and keep on writing
So memories can last
And keep on shining

Some are happy
Some are sad
And many are spoiled
They cannot stop whining

When our grandchildren are grown
They will read our memories
Feel a touch of the old days
And say how enchanting
Start wondering and asking
About us and the old days
Smile, marvel, and think deeply
And keep on learning

The past is never past

When memories are written
They'll be lived by others
And keep on sparkling

Memories of love live so long
They are forever lasting
Entice others to read and write
And never stop enticing

O' memories, come back to me
I love your times
I love your eyes
You stole my heart
But made me so wise

A Wishful Dream

I have a wishful dream
To spend one day in the royal castle
Alone, with her majesty the queen
Follow her like her little shadow
And her big, overblown ego
Without being heard or seen

Watch her sleeping, walking, and dancing
Listen to her singing, yawning, and laughing
Crying like a baby, screaming in her dream
Standing naked in front of her mirror
Hiding behind brick walls and a mental screen

Watch her as she wears her eyelashes and perfume
Putting on a royal dress, a crown, and a serious look
A queen must be seen elegant, but rather mean
Follow her to the balcony as she greets her admirers
Laugh as she waves her hands and people scream
Imagination is a beautiful dream never to be seen

Fly to the shantytown hiding in the castle's shadow
Share an intimate evening with my favorite queen
A woman unashamed to be seen naked, but not mean
Eat, drink, read poetry, hug, kiss, and make love
And steal a magical night from Scheherazade's dream

Walk along the banks of an ancient river

Where ducks swim up and down the stream
Climb the top of a wooded mountain
Sit, think, contemplate and write a poem
Listen to nature's music and forever dream

Walk barefooted in forests and deserts
Listen to love birds sing and dance
Watch wild animals play the game of life
Make passionate love and freely scream

Follow farmers as they pick yellow flowers and sing
Stop to admire a woman hiding behind her donkey
Protecting herself from the eye of the sun
Using the donkey's shadow for a screen

Watch taxies rush, trains run, planes roar
Boys peddle worry beads, traders make dirty deals
Listen to mothers read stories to their children
As babies cry for attention and scream

Follow lovers as they swim in the old river
Enjoy the sunshine on sandy beaches
And do whatever they wish in between
Look at the blue skies and wonder why
So many people miss living life like a dream

Embrace life and sail with the wind
Travel up and down every willing stream
Learn, teach, succeed, fail, and rise again
And be the envy of king and queen

Never mind wearing an old dirty shirt

A pair of worn socks and shoes
So long as the mind is clear
The heart is beating and pure
And the conscience is clean

Walk along the memory lane and think
How to be every young man's hero
And every beautiful woman's dream
The man she lives to meet and love
And be forever his heavenly queen

On the road to nowhere

Running, running everywhere
From here to there to nowhere
 Running night and day
 Without knowing
Where to go, where to stay

A dispossessed refugee
Deprived of home and land
 Must flee war and hide
Keep looking for a safe place
 A make-believe homeland

 Holding hand in hand
Young and old are walking
One eye on the road ahead
The other on what left behind

Moving from cave to cave
 Valley to valley
 Camp to camp
Across mountains of snow

And oceans of mud and sand

Bodies are tired

Eyes are tired

And souls are deeply sad

He lived in the East and West

In the North and South

In large crowded cities

Charming little villages

Sleepy hamlets tucked in mountains

And lakes with imported sand

Losing childhood innocence

And missing friends left behind

Flying in planes

Riding on trains

Sailing on boats and ships

Traveling from land to land

Feeling at times happy

But often deeply sad

Unable to regain peace of mind

He kept searching for a people

Open-minded and kind

To listen to his agonizing story

Give him another chance
Rebuild his shattered life
Free his children from fear
And tortured memories that bind

The soul is getting angry
Unable to accept or understand
Why it should forever be a stranger
No matter where it goes or land

The body is getting exhausted
It can no longer enjoy the ride
The brain is feeling the pressure
To keep records of a twisted journey
Colored with agony and pride
Before memories get too old
And get buried deep in the sand
And history forgets the life he had

Soon the body will die
Without a whisper or cry
It does not matter how or where
Strangers have no right to question fate
In foreign lands, they may love or hate

Worms will multiply eating the flesh
Transforming it into natural fertilizer
To enrich the soil of abandoned fields
So wildflowers could grow and bloom
And the sunflower shines like a little moon

The soul will resume wandering
Flying across turbulent oceans
And serene dunes of sand
Promoting peace and justice
Freedom and liberty
The sharing of love
And the love of the land

Blessing the good
Forgiving the bad
Unifying people across cultures
Religions, colors, and regions
Building brick by brick
Land after land
A dream that renews life
A happy, peaceful living
In a shared homeland

Cat and Rat

Putting a cowboy hat on the head of a cat

Creates a confused and terrified cat

Unable to recognize left from right

Carrying a gun for the sake of shooting rats

Is an insane act

In a world that has more rats than cats

The fat cat with a cowboy hat

Sees a little rat and says what is that?

This makes the rat jump and laugh

The cat gets scared and starts crying

Screaming for help to get rid of the hat

And the terrifying little rat

Some animals cheer the little happy rat

Others cry for the helpless cat with a hat

Since no one knows the facts

Everyone starts wondering

Who is wrong and who is right

And slowly everyone gets confused

And become part of a senseless act

Fate

As my parents waited all night
I waited patiently to see the light
They were hoping to have a baby boy
They got their wish without a fight

As the sun opened its beautiful eyes
The big bang whispered in the house
Life is being born in a little naughty boy
Birds began to jump, sing and dance

As I came to life smiling and crying
A thunderous storm arrived suddenly
The spirit of autumn came to baptize me
And tell me that all people are born free

Autumn is the time of all times
It shows us the many faces of life
As it lives all seasons in a single day
And all times in a single life

With the sunshine, you enjoy the breeze of spring
In the afternoon, you feel the heat of summer

In the evening, you live the anxiety of autumn
And as you sleep throughout the night
Winter sneaks in to paint all things white

Autumn colors tree leaves with all colors
Yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, and green
A captivating picture of nature where autumn lives
A beautiful portrait most people have never seen
It inspires you to think of the unthinkable
And makes every life a fascinating dream

Being born in autumn, you fear stormy winds
Spend winter hiding under your mother's wings
In spring, your mind and eyes open like sunflower
In summer, you work, love, agonize and dream
And wait patiently for autumn to arrive again
So, you celebrate your birthday in style

As we go through the ups and downs of life
People who seek money often lose their way
And by losing their way, they lose the essence of life
Love and compassion are the way to a meaningful life

In the autumn of life, some people feel confident and wise
They see themselves in control of their lives and fate

Others feel lost in the emptiness living lonely lives

Suddenly, snow comes knocking at your door

Saying sir, winter can no longer wait

You realize that the boat of no return is ashore

You close your eyes and calmly accept your fate

Being in Love

To be in love is to be
Like a little working bee
It makes honey for all to taste
Without asking anything in return
Not even a minute to wait

Love is a magical dream
It comforts tears in crying eyes
Calm fears in bleeding hearts
And frees spirits from all binds

Love attracts the joyful and the sad

The young and the old

The good and the bad

People like you and me

Love is everyone's gift from God

Love is larger than life

Deeper than the deepest sea

Love is a mid-day dream

It transforms life in ways no one can see

As it makes lovers happy and free

Congratulations

Tonight

As I stood outside looking around

I saw countless moons

Beautiful stars walking into the room

They came from here and there

To help the bride and her groom

Celebrate the dream of a lifetime

That could not have come too soon

And in the middle of all the stars

Sits Haneen

The smiling, charming moon

I look at Haneen's face

Remembering the old times

Missing the days when she was young

And her room was often a mess

As if everything was in a race

And nothing could fit in place

When Maha comes home

And looks at Aseel's room

She sees everything sits in place
As if it was designed to fit the space
Maha and Haneen work together
And soon the room looks much better
They work hard to make things right
And avoid getting into a fight

Work and fight always end
With a big hug and a kiss
Haneen runs and jumps
To celebrate with her things
They dance and bounce
And soon everything is back in a mess

The saying goes this say
You give your daughter away
When you walk her down the aisle
And say congratulations with a big smile
You help her get to where she wants to be
Where happiness lives
And the love she lived to see
And on the way down the aisle
You win a new son at least for a while

So, I say

Welcome David to our home
Your presence makes it warm

When David and Haneen visited last time

They decided to cook
Something so exotic
It necessitated using the book

We ate and ate
And when we finished
Nothing was left on a plate
But the kitchen was a mess
It had to be cleaned

From experience, Haneen knew
No hug or a kiss this time will do

Dearest Haneen and David
Tomorrow you will start a new life
That could be lived as a destination

Or a journey of imagination
A life lived as a destination
Is like a huge train station
Where the wait is too long
And what you hear is no song
It might have some niceties

A book, a joke, or a little smile
And occasionally see the sun
But no excitement or real fun

A life lived as a journey
Is a life full of fun
That goes faraway places
Beyond the usual moon and sun
Every day is a new day
Every flower has a different aroma
Every smile is a new promise
And every step is like a ship
It takes you to faraway places
Where nights dream of different days
And days dream of nights that go their ways

When your children smile and hug you
And say I love and will miss you
You realize with a painful smile
The little birdies are ready to fly
Your heart bleeds with love
And says goodbye
Happy marriage Haneen
Happy union David

Happy every night and day

March 2003

Fact and Fiction

Love and lovers are a never-ending story
Two souls enchanted with one another
An inspiring connection between man and woman
A fascinating tale of entangled fiction and fact
It comes and goes like a moon on a cloudy night

Love is more fiction than fact
A body language of magic and art
A sensational feeling that transforms life
Elevating love to an exciting act
After being a dream beyond the fact

Lovers are more facts and less fiction
Characters that love to hug, kiss, cry and act
You can see and hear them whisper and chat
And read in their eyes the roles they play in the act
Angles becoming in the heat of passion more fiction than facts

Making love is a wonderful human affair
It allows lovers to share
The precious things in life for which we care

A burning desire that arises and dies so fast
Dictating that we must enjoy it for as long as it lasts
Love is a flower that blooms slowly and ages gracefully
Beautiful memories that refuse to be forgotten
A magical world that defies reality
A work of fiction that can never forever last
Lovers and love are a story and storytellers
Plays of joy and agonies hoping to live forever
Fiction is displayed by emotions for people to see
Facts are told by lovers to others to hear
And imagine how love makes life as you want it to be
Fiction and facts are destined to become memories
Fading slowly in the fog of a fast-disappearing past
No one, however, likes to admit such a fact
Everyone wants to live after the facts and acts
Not knowing that nothing can endure of the past
Except for great ideas that are neither fiction nor facts

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Have a Drink

Blink, blink

No time to think

The glass is full

It's yours to drink

The love boat is waiting

For you to sale

Enjoy the moment

No need to think

Have a break, have a drink

A glass of wine

A glass of water

A cup of tea

It does matter what you drink

Love is everyone's favorite thing

Love is a beautiful dream

Born in just a blink

An encounter with destiny

That lives forever

And never stops to think

Love of the moment
Is a magical thing
It squelches life's thirst
Makes you touch, hug and kiss
Dream beyond all dreams
And never asks for anything

Fears of love are a curse
It's life chasing life on the run
Negotiating deals
That can never be done

A moment of love
Is a shining wintry sun
It comes and goes
Faster than you think
It warms your heart and leaves
Before you stop and blink

Love is a dreamboat
No storm can sink
Until lovers decide
To stop and think

The Toolbox

The toolbox is full

It has many convenient tools

For the rich and powerful to choose

To manage our lives

So they win

And we lose

They love to borrow and spend

As a global debt crisis largely looms

Bailout banks and corporations

Without giving us the right to choose

So they win

and we lose

They build tanks and planes

And deadly missiles that cruise

Waste our resources fighting senseless wars

While our economies suffer the blues

They always win

As we lose

They export jobs to whomever they choose
As millions of workers languish in poverty
And import our shorts, socks, and shoes
And while the homeless sleep in public parks
They fly their corporate jets and cruise
They do not care for anything
As long as they win
And we lose

Traditional economists seem to have no clues
That the world has changed so much
It invalidated their classical tools
But why should they worry
They make more money
As we lose

We have lost our jobs and homes
And have nothing more to lose
They grin as they win and we lose
Thinking we are a bunch of fools

But standing together
We empower each other
Create a global power

Change the world forever

Win, and never lose

The Curse of Poverty

My dear neighbor,
They kicked us out of our home
Because I could not pay the rent
They threw us in the street
We cannot sleep or rest

Please tell me what I should do
I have no money in my pocket
My meager salary is two weeks away
We have no food to eat
Not even a grain of wheat

The kids are half-naked and hungry
Playing in the old dirty streets
Waiting for dinner and a bed to sleep
And a warm kiss from mother and dad
Mother is at hospital fighting pneumonia
My blood pressure is rising so fast
I feel beaten like a dead rat

Do you know a place to spend the night
An abandoned animal barn

Or an old cave nearby
Could you lend us some money for awhile
I should get paid in a few days

My dear old friend,
Fate has betrayed me before
But it has never been this bad
I am sick of this miserable life
And the bitterness it brings along
I must do something drastic now
Before losing my mind and sanity
And teaching job and dignity

How can I feed my children
Take care of my dying wife
Write more poetry and fiction
Without losing integrity and pride

Education is no longer what it used to be
It has become a cheap commodity
Sold to the highest bidder
Even if he is an ignorant and sinner

Should I get involved in politics
Launch a new political party

Run for parliament
Ask the minister of culture for help
He owes me an old favor
For something I no longer remember

Or should I wait my turn for a ministerial position
My father was minister of religious affairs
My uncle was minister of tourism and culture
And I am better educated than dad and uncle

Maybe it's better to write a few poems praising God
Find someone to sing them for me
Grow a beard and color it red
Make a CD and peddle it in front of the grand mosque
Where people show some generosity

O' my dearest friend
Can I ask you to accompany me to the forest
Revisit old times and keep sweet memories alive
I will understand if you decline my offer
When things become so desperate
Longing becomes the only escape
The gate to sanity and peace
I lost my sense of direction and being

Instincts are driving me to the edge of despair

Pushing me to think of the unthinkable

But the unthinkable is a space in nowhere

Hope and Despair

Hope and despair are ghosts
Two enemies fighting inside me
To take me to where they want to go
But they cannot drag a free sole

Hope wants to bring me the moon
Make my nights romantic and serene
Despair wants to replace the moon with the sun
And make my nights a nightmare like Hell

Hope could seduce me to believe in him
But it can never force me to go his way
Despair cannot convince me to believe in him
But sometimes I am forced to go his way

Promises of hope and despair are traps
Only fools fall into them with their eyes open
Causing such people to lose control of their lives
And become victims of their own weaknesses

Memories remind us of the joys of our lives
And the pain of searching for meaning in life

They remind us of the opportunities we missed
And the many achievements we accomplished

Memories are our savior from the pain of despair
The false promises of hopeless hopes
The agonizing nights with nightmares
And waisting days with rosy dreams

Let it Rain

Let it rain, let it rain

Come darling closer to me

Let us sing, embrace and dream

Make love again and again

And pretend to be insane

Songs make love memories

Hiding in the back of the brain

Music carries hope to everyone

Though hope is more pain than gain

Hope is a refugee deprived of a home

Destroyed by winds and heavy rain

A poor child who lost his mother

Crying for attention in vain

Let us watch the sun shines

As it makes its way through the skies

And the rainbow colors the rain

Creating a spring to inspire the brain

Let us read poetry and dream

Spread the message of love everywhere

Hide memories in our eyes and hearts

To lasts forever and never wane

Poetry, songs, and music are spirits

Angels of joy and gods healing pain

Happy memories and sad memories

Birds making love and singing in the rain

Poetry is filling the air with joy

Rain is making music again

Let us make passionate love

And dream of being insane

The music of rain heals sadness

Makes eyes smile and hearts beat

Cause memories to come back racing

A train visiting the wonderland again

I miss your charming smile, darling

Come sing and dance with me

Poetry is praying for love

And music is chanting

Let it rain, let it rain

Again and again

No More

Going there, No more
little hamlet To that
Where Angels do the work
And devils claim the score
Trees embrace mountains with joy
And monkeys sleep and freely snore

Where ducks rule a cozy park
That hides a tiny lake they adore
Frequented by young lovers
Passionate hearts looking for joy
And others experienced love before

Going there, No more
Where love is an empty amour
A habitual encounter, that's all
People are nice and friendly
But have no ethical core

Going there, No more
To please an old friend

That sleeps standing and snore
Eager to visit every place
Where pretty women are sold
For a night, a man, or more

They lived in a modest apartment
Behind thick brown curtains
And a locked rusty door
They eat, drink, chat and sing
Setting on a carpeted floor
Pray five times a day
And sleep every night
With a different whore

Yes darling
Going there, No more
I packed my things and books
My love and dear memories
Walked out of the nostalgic door
They go wherever I go
Hidden in my heart
To live there happily
Like never before

So, darling

Come close to me
And close that door
Past days are gone
They no longer entice or lure

Let's live the last day
Dreaming of places to visit
Sit on the balcony of memories
Enjoy seeing the forest waving
Listen to the birds singing
And revisit the old wintry sun
Once more

Lovers and Strangers

Time goes by so fast
Creating past after past
Joyful moments
Saddened moments
Never to last

Yet, we are still the same
Lovers and strangers
Sharing love, living apart
Unable to share the day
Or live the past

Two innocent children
Beautiful twinkling eyes
Passionate hearts
Wonderful minds
Souls searching for eternity
Where love knows no bounds

A little inspiring story
Like most historical records

It challenges your mind
But forgets to make you wise
A sea of tears and cries

Let us share a glass of wine
Under stars that wink and shine
Secrets that excite the eye
Feelings that cannot lie
Dreams that never die

The time, darling is now
And now is the only fact of life
The future may never come
So why should we wait

Until now is gone
And time has finally come
To kiss, and say goodbye

Days are migrant birdies
They build nests everywhere
But have no home anywhere
They sing, dance, and then fly
Leaving behind broken hearts
Saddened souls and eyes

Unable to sigh or cry

Take a Chance

Today, you have a chance
To fall in love with love
Taste the magic of romance
And dance its graceful dance

Love is a wonderful fate
A rendezvous with destiny
That has never been too late
It comes without warning
To open heaven's gate

A ship full of passion
It comes and goes without a date
A spirit sailing against stormy winds
To give every soul a loving mate

Love has a beautiful face
It smiles for all people
Regardless of color and race
Excites the sad and lonely
Touches the heart of rich and poor
And walks with pride and grace

Love is a journey in the wilderness

It takes you to faraway places

To visit the land of your ancestors

Plant new, enchanting memories

And enjoy sea, sand, and oases

Today, you have a chance

To go wherever you want to be

Remain in the shadows of life

Or live the life of love to be

Living the life of love

Makes life whole and free

A bird roaming the old blue skies

An exciting dream to live and see

Loving is a daring dance

It looks you right in the eye

And challenges you to take a chance

Forget old memories and fears

And live a moment of romance

So why wait for a date

You have never tasted its taste

When you have a bleeding heart

That has no time to waste
And recognizes no age or fate

Love is a dream in the making
Everyone can feel, but no one can see
It penetrates deep into the heart
Plants roots like an olive tree
A journey in the wonderland
That makes souls joyful and free

Last Goodbye

It is hard to say goodbye
Deeply saddened, yet unable to cry
It is even harder to ask why
Must a peaceful, loving man ride the last train
To the land from which there is no return
And gives you in the process a lot of pain

Rudolf, you are the saint of saints
A man who made people see
The truth as a liberating power
That makes everyone free

You are an idea that inspired the world
A light that made darkness smile
It filled the eyes of children with hope
And the heart of God with joy

Your thoughts are candles to light our nights
Wisdom to guides us through the jungle of life
A vision that makes justice the right of rights
And freedom the destiny for mankind

Rest in peace, my beloved friend
You did what you were born to do
Care for the poor and the oppressed
Defend the rights of the dispossessed
Accept humanity for a stolen home
Adopt the cause of minorities for religion

Rudolf, you will live with us
For as long as we live and love
Think, dream, ask questions and try
To understand the meaning of history
And the wisdom of God

Even if we say to you goodbye
Great men are sights and lights
Monuments for all generations
Shining stars that never die

Let the Sun shines

Let the sun shines again

Sing your favorite song

And forget the agonies of pain

Enjoy the magical touch of snow

As it colors meadows and plain

Recite poetry and forget yesterday

No need to eulogize years lost in vain

Let us stay at home for a day

Listening to the music of the rain

Awaken the flowers in the wilderness

And inspire the spirit and the brain

Hug, kiss, sing, dance, and play

Children feeling free to be insane

Don't worry about missing a date

Trains come and go, and come again

Dream of places you love

So the spirit of love is alive again

Let us travel wherever love takes us

Even sunflowers defy the rain

Let the sun shines again
Sail gracefully through the clouds
Send its rays to cleanse the earth
Bewitch birds to sing ancient melodies
Enchant the sane and the insane
So the joy of life is alive again

Songs are trains of love
They take you along the memory lane
Where memories live in peace
And love knows no fear or shame
To dream of your favorite butterfly
And let the tears of joy dance again