**Poetry Series** 

# Avinash Nair - poems -

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# Avinash Nair(19/10/1988)

Avinash is one of the most talented poets I have ever known. His heart-touching poems not only reach one's soul, but his skilful play with words shows his dexterity and his comfort with the English language. Avinash is a philosopherpoet and his deep thinking about the various problems that assail the society which are reflected in his poems. Occasionally he deviates from his concern with the society and writes a romantic poem like 'The Kiss'. He is not only concerned with his role in the society but his sharp eyes also detect the plight of women and in one of his poems, he has touched the issue of prostitution. The pain of the woman is skilfully etched with words. It is as if he has created a painting with his words. 'The Storyteller' is I think the lamentation of his father's untimely demise and 'The Smile' is Avinash at his sardonic best. In his poem, 'New Year's Eve', he has tried to have a positive outlook and asked the reader's to forge ahead despite the gloom surrounding him. In the 'Sound of Silence', he has sensitively drawn the picture of street urchins, who are a familiar sight in Mumbai's glamour filled world. My heart cries out when I read the 'Sound of Silence'. In the 'Parting Ways' he laments the futility of his passion which is unspent probably due to the fear of society. Read the poems of Avinash Nair and feel the pain, hurt, passion that makes up his personality. -Laya Bajpai

## A Love Letter

To my dearest,

I can wait for you in your absence, I can hear you out in your silence. I can define your sadness, And become your happiness. I can wait for an eternity, And can be that opportunity. I can wait for your consent, With all the patience that I have.

> Yours Lovingly, Lover.

# A Poet

Some say, I am the most deceptive, Selfish creature on the earth. I say, Perhaps I am. I am unsure of my worth. Some say, I don't feel any emotion, I just need a perspective, Simply want to experience the feel. I say, I am still a human With a throbbing heart, Hard to heal. Some say, I live, I write, I thrive, For mere appreciation. I say, I write to survive, All the pain and depression. Some say, I fall in love again and again Just to gain The romantic seed. I say, With every love that breaks, There's something in me that breaks, Which is beyond repair and heal, Which with the layers of smile I conceal.

## A Reason To Smile

Hold that smile for a second more, For it has its reason to be there, Unlike some forgotten lore, It was not just a sheer chance That carved in that spot of joy.

Let it feel the expanse of your lips. Let your lips drench in their warmth, For there were times when they Trembled under the sheer sense of sorrow. Let your eyes feel that relief which Spreads across your face, they Undoubtedly would want to witness A new phase that begins tomorrow. Happiness and sadness are each a world, From which, you have survived on sadness Long enough, giving you a reason to hold This smile that spreads across your Face, a selfish few seconds more.

# A Small Talk

You want me to talk! When I have no words left To express, When am just an experience, Of a staggering existence Which precedes its essence, Trying to make that sense Of the bits and piece that fall Around me. I am the tired approval Of that silent mind, That has known the gradual Fall of an able sound. Would you be kind enough, To keep me safe, Safe in the hands of history? Because what we shared then Is a forgotten lore now. It is just like the smell Of the moth balls Enunciating from old clothes, So faint, so distant Yet so much present. You want me to talk, Now when my words crumble? When I a stranger to the humble Sympathies that I have gathered, Is in search of a wall or corner Where I can rest in peace. Where silence creeps Piece by piece.

# A Smile!

A smile, is despair in deception It is the deception in depravity For it is the depravity of depression The depression is of the deceased Alas! The deceased is devoid Of doing anything remotely human! Yet smile is despair in deception A device for the deceased Now you may ask me How do I know? I know it, I am sure! For I am never devoid of a smile!

# A Sojourn Solitary Traveller

Again, he embarks on this journey, A journey without destination With a slight change; This time, it is alone A sojourn solitary traveller Traversing through the trivialities of life Filled with passion Searching for a quest, A bit of compassion, Earnest with anticipation For emancipation, For a greater reason To live and thrive, Searching For a justification To be happy and alive. He observes people, **Observes** time With passion, He meets intrigue And befriends sham, Falls in love with hate And marries vengeance. However, as they say, 'fate'! Our sojourn solitary traveller Is still alone Left out in the crowd; A shadow without form A sound without meaning An existence without purpose. The sojourn solitary traveller! Travels alone Preaching, trying, justifying His life, His sorrow, his hideous strife.

#### A Strange Relation

It's a strange relation that we share, Strangest of them, but we dare To look at each other in the eyes And tell our hearts all those lies. But we have no promises to keep, No selfish meanings to reap. We are just two bodies with One troubled soul wanting to sleep, Wanting to dream, the sweetest dream. We are like the fading sunlight Offering away our hope Before the dawn of the night. We are like the gentle morning dew, Glistening to our glory, But then noticed seldom, only by a few. We are like that dying wishes Etched in the memories with the dead. We are the two bodies, indeed! With distinct hunger, hopes and needs But we are also that one soul, Which silently always bleeds.

#### All For Love!

I put my love for you Into words, Words cleverly disguised To look as if mine, Every time I catch a new Emotion, I put it down, Write and rewrite Edit and re-edit, I have done all that, That is not right, I have broken into thoughts, Into imagination that rots In my mind, I have strangled some words, Choked their crooked necks, Until I got, What I wanted, Sometimes, yes sometimes, At desperate times I have killed a few words, Drowned them in my sorrow, Given birth to a few, All for my selfish needs, Expressions that reads, To meet a new morrow. I have also wordnapped A few astray words, But 'twas all for love, Love quietly trapped Into my soul.

## Alone

"Alone" she said, "I wait" And I could actually relate Her to a bird with broken wings, Caged to a word with broken hope Crying out loud in what she sings, Staged against the backdrop Of blight disparity.

"Alone" she said, "and I hate" Ah! The pain when she did state Her lips quivered Her eyes wavered, Perhaps I noticed a stray tear, Or perhaps, was she afraid In a slight quantity.

"I blame myself" she said, "for being me" I saw a woman who wanted to be free An image of a child trapped Image of innocence chapped Living each day with the pain The fear, loss, and the disdain

A life lost of integrity! A woman without an identity!

#### **Broken Pieces**

We are broken pieces,

Pieces of art,

Sometimes joined

At the odd cracks,

Hoping for completion.

Sometimes we are glued

To a piece so intricately

Carved, so well we gel

An illusion to dwell,

An illusion to live,

Until that one day

When we realize,

We are nothing but

Broken pieces of art,

Never the whole

But always a part,

The broken pieces of art.

#### Can I Say I Love You?

Can I say, I love you In just three words? I don't think I could. I don't think I would. Love is more than just These three words, tossed around. It is not that astray feeling found. Love is a perception! And perception is reality. A way to lead your life, A sense of being alive. Love is not in the perfection told, It is in the imperfection unseen but old. Love is not in the happiness shared, It is in the silent sadness cared. Love lies not in the expression of an emotion, But rather in the suppression of a notion. Love is not a thing to be expressed, It is the enlightenment to be achieved. Still do you really think, I can say I love you In just three words? I don't think I could, I don't think I would.

## Choices

We walk into this realm Of reality, we walk for a distance Predestined. With some to follow Us into the path that stem From the choices that we make. Only if we can undo what is done, For at least those some instance, From which voices our sorrow. Only if we had a way to know The true meaning of our actions. Pleasure some, sadness much! Life is a deliberate mistake such, Repeated in response day after day, For those whom we think we love. We are the mistake of an emotion, A widely mistaken notion. We spend our lives in futility Trying to understand the choices That made us, each day ignoring The choices that we make.

#### Confessions

Every day I pass by your window, Half expectant of seeing you there, Lost in thoughts As you always were, I wish I would chance upon, Catch a glimpse, Of an unexpected tear, Rolling down to smear Your pretty face. Oh how I wish, I could be there, Take you in my embrace, At that moment, Hold you close to heart and erase The pain that was bent On hurting you. Every day I pass by your window, Only to see it closed, Foolish me to have supposed Of any chance, Of reviving the romance. Then I hear you sing In your melancholic voice And I know 'tis for me you sing, And to me a thought it brings, Subtle though, it stings! 'I know why that caged bird sings! '

#### Desire

For all that argument's sake,

Let me propagate

A subtle quote,

A short verse,

Which should initiate,

Perhaps narrate,

Or better imitate,

The true meaning of desire.

'Our desire is a true desire

When it desires to create

A better change

A drastic interchange

Of ideas and lives

Of minds and motives.

Which if it fails to do

Is then nothing but pitiable rue.'

#### **Elegy For The Dead**

I pass through places, I pass through people, New faces, Strange countenance, All a dying pretence, Some alone, Some prone, Some depend, Some descend Into my soul Not in bits and pieces But in whole, Strange events, Stranger people, A Meaning that prevents, The estranged essence, A dying thought, Clumsily caught, Before it fell And shattered, Voices that spread Like a cancer cell, If only the weak Could dare to speak To break the spell Then they would tell Not in bits and pieces But in whole The story of the dead, The tedious rigmarole.

#### **Emotions**

Sometimes, the rudimentary Sediments of the arbitrary Sentiments that lie in the deep Settlements of your mind Rise to your surprise, to remind That you're a man who is Afraid of the loss. You're the one who have had Known silence, because Speech is a lost cause, And when all that you say, fails Short of sense, As what you speak trails Back into silence. Having witnessed the words rise Like tiny particles of dust, Float in the air, visible just In the little light, that enters Your mind. Where it settles down On the musty floor of memories Waiting for an external force Of ulterior motives to force Out meanings, that was never meant, Tones that was never lent. You feel the need to not to speak, As you see the talking done, With vivid senselessness bleak.

#### **Everything Has A Time**

Everything has a time, A time to be, A time to become, And today it was ours! To be, Two starry-eyed lovers. The subtle smell of the bodies, That still lingers around. The passion that embodies, The souls in sound. The deep distant niches, That could be found. The attempt, of the wishes, With pleasure profound. Your laughter still rings, In my ears, clear and loud. Notice the marks we left? Sweet memories it brings, Of the warmth we kept. Believe me! Everything has a time, A time to be, A time to become, And today it was ours! Tomorrow it would definitely be.

#### Existence

When time passes as time does, Without you noticing it passing by, A helpless senselessness creeps in you That becomes impossible to hide. You act and you react But tis all in vain, You cannot hide the fact The constant pain, Of life and living Of strife and surviving. You smile without any happiness, You cry but there is no sadness, Tis all a numbness, A coldness Of mere existence.

## Eyes To Speak

Tonight, let's not fall asleep! Instead dream with Our eyes wide open. Let our glances meet In wide open spaces Of those silent retreat, For a troubled mind Is unwilling to sleep. Let's not disturb this universe, This sweet soothing silence With our crude words, Instead let's look Into each others eyes and speak, Speak chapters and volumes. For our eyes are the honest Companions of the soul And I have seen in them The emotion of love for me, Which your actions fail to explore.

#### Father And Son

I know we had our differences, But we also have those Similarities that are more, Which perhaps you didn't notice, Or perhaps, you chose to ignore. All said and done, All forgotten and forgiven, I would want to say this. I am still that lonely child I was, Waiting in anticipation, For your return. I waited for you then, I wait for you now. But back then I had this hope, I knew you would come back. Now, it's just this emptiness, This anger and vast loneliness That is left behind. I loved listening to the stories That you used to tell, More than that I loved to cuddle beside you, Feel your warmth And see your breath As it rose and fell. I know I am not what You wanted me to be. I have not been a great son. I know, I have seen that pain On your wrinkled forehead. But let me tell you this Daddy, I am, what you were meant to be! All said and done, All forgotten and forgiven, I would want to say this. I am still that lonely child I was, Waiting in anticipation, For your return.

#### For An Answer

I can wait patiently enough, Although it is extremely tough, I can wait patiently enough, For your answer.

Subtle though, my love Is not a flower Which will wither away With every passing day. It has the power To sustain and retain My intensity for you.

I am a determined lover, Oh yes my conviction is love I can wait for you On this lonely bay Until your lips does say The words of consent.

## For Love Is

For love is, that fleeting feeling Of warmth in the coldest of nights. It is the gradual healing Of the pain in your twilights. It is the subtle smile That begins in your heart And ends on your lips. For love is the purpose Of life, the blindness Of the reasons. It is the happiness Which does deepens With every passing moment, It is the state of feeling alive, The gradual revive Of tenderness. For love is the love to be loved, And the love to love With every passing breath.

## Happiness

Suddenly, I feel that happiness Is an illusion A mere deception, To beautify the hollowness Of life. Just a pretence A palpable perception, To sanctify the presence Of despair. Quite suddenly, I feel that happiness Is like that distant star Blighted and bleak Just reflecting a false hope Of being lighted and lambent.

## Have I Ever Told You This?

Have I ever told you this? ... I think not, it might have slipped My mind I guess. Or perhaps I thought It to be too trivial to be stressed. I think it is because I took You for granted... But now...now that... I guess it doesn't matter anymore... Well... I must say that you look The prettiest when you sleep. There were times when I used to lie there beside you, Wide awake, enchanted by The warmth of your breath, Looking at your pretty eyes, Closed in the assurance of A bright tomorrow. Your tender palm on my chest, Falling after every rise of my sigh. It felt like your hands could Feel the depth of my sorrow, Not just when they actually Touched my tears but also Across the realms of The reality and dream. At times I think I even noticed You smile... I think that's how One looks when one dreams About happiness. But now, I guess all of this doesn't matter...

## How Should I Define My Woe?

How should I define my woe? Should I, a seed of it In your heart sow? Or should I let it reside There in the labyrinth Of my heart? Or should I let it bloom And spread its effervescence Of despair and gloom? Or better still, Should I probe and poke Its roots and yank them in a stroke?

# I Bargained For Happiness

I bargained for happiness, With every bit of subtleness That I could muster, As I needed happiness With all its true lustre, For I was desperate As lonesome despair And longing hate Grew stealthily in me To live, to be I needed happiness With all its glory So, I bargained for happiness But alas! I was given none And as for my sane mind, hoary With seeping sadness I had to watch it die With nothing else to be done.

## I Met Humanity And She Was Blind

It was a normal day As they usually always say; With fights alight, And deaths made right With masses arguing And the hunger growing. Ahh what a sight! A perfectly normal sight! For us I would say.

I could just not wait Any longer in this pouring hate, The loud thundering noises And silent puddles and sober voices, So drenched in uncertainty I knocked the doors, The doors of humanity. I always thought of humanity As a woman A beautiful woman With a beautiful smile, With lustrous skin And a dimpled chin With tender eyes And a kind voice.

But I was surprised Shocked to be precise And I must say As she opened the doors And stood in the doorway I let out a whimper, comprised Of pain and sadness. For I could see humanity And she was old Her nimble fingers clutched onto The stick of Hope, Her cataract eyes looking into The darkness, her wrinkled skin Dry from despair Her feeble voice That could hardly dare To speak out, to plead To end this hatred And see what was in need.

Poor old Lady Our humanity I feel sorry for thee, For dost thou know What crimes have been committed in insanity, As they usually always say for humanity?

# If Only There Were Words Enough

If only words were capable enough! To articulate how I felt, The delicate heaviness that dwelt In the crevice of my heart, And the hollowness I dealt When we had to part, The fear of a lonesome night, The sense of a ceaseless fight, The essence of being lost In a world so vast. If only words were powerful enough! To cast away strife Out of my past, My indifferent life, To give me a different identity To express the deferent futility Of a routine becoming an eternity. If only words were subtle enough To express the intensity of my love, To digress the density of my pain, Add a meaning, to all that was vain. If only there were words enough!

## If You Can

If you can read between my lines,

Then read.

If you can look past my sadness,

Then look.

If you can reach subtly to my emotion,

Then reach.

If you can perceive my perception,

Then perceive.

For I think sadness is the certainty

Which love has to achieve.

Believe it or not,

I think that's what it is.

Perhaps, it matters not,

How much we love.

What really matters is that

How we love?

#### In Love With Silence

I'll talk to this silence Which is you! If possible I'll do it Every day of my life. Pour my heart out, Mould them into words, Words that contain The strain of a thought Which otherwise I could never speak. I love this silence Which is you! Where my words resound To the general sense Of your understanding. Keep my heart's desire On my mind's peak, Say it out loud enough So that I get rid Of the emptiness That follows the silence That you intend to keep.

## In My Death

I will remember you in my death, For people tend to forget What they intend to remember in life. So, I will remember you in my death. I will wrap you in layers of my memory, Slip you into the niches of my mind, And every day thereafter, I would remind Myself to forget you inch by inch. I do not want to recollect you In the height of my madness, In my dilemmas and indecisiveness. I want to think of you as whole, In the height of my happiness, In that one moment when I Know my purpose and role. Hence, I think and I should Remember you in my death.

#### Incompleteness

I am afraid of my incompleteness! The part of me, which is still human, Is afraid of the dark loneliness. Is afraid of the lofty dilemmas Of life, love and death. Relationships, lust and their worth. I am the Hamlet of my story, Destined to die, for the madness I imbibe, I perceive and I thrive. I am the Othello from the tragedy, With a difference, as I think, 'To be or not to be.' I am the Macbeth, slave of my desires, I am that naive child who aspires. I am the loneliness personified! Yet I am afraid Of the incompleteness That I have always had.

# **Kiss**

I hold her close to me, So close, so near, That we cease to be Two different entities. I cup her face, And draw her closer In a tight embrace. I look into her deep tender eyes And try to imbibe her tender sighs. I wait for a moment, Perhaps a slight lament, But I brush it off and plant a kiss, Upon her tender, budding lips.

#### Let Those Tears Flow

Let those tears flow! Let them meet the pain! Let them be again, A reflection of your soul. At times, listen to your heart, At times, listen to your tears, For they are the closest to you, Than anyone else would be. At moments, I have sensed your fears That you have learnt to live with. At moments, I have seen those tears, That you have learnt to hide with That deceitful smile of yours. Let those tears flow My dearest! For at times it is the pain That gives us that hope That happiness fails to be.

# Let's Fall In Love

Let's fall in love Once again, This time, somehow Without the loss and The pain. Let's meet up as strangers In some strange land, Perhaps as two lost, lonely travellers, and We could just stand On a cross road Facing each other Exchanging a courteous smile. Let's meet up by chance, while We're in a coffee shop, You would be with someone You love And I would be expecting, Waiting for someone To love. We could just exchange A timed glance. Let's meet up on the eve Of apocalypse, In that instance I would, kiss your lips. We could even make love On a deserted street With no morals to perceive With no questions asked and, No one and none to be misled.

## Let's Be Lost In Love

Let's be lost in time, For this is the best of the times To be lost in. Leave out a part of us back here, To be looked back upon, When we might have Walked our separate ways. Let's bury some of our Happy memories here and now, Deep inside our hearts, We might need them, When with age we bow. We might make these True instances of love Our walking sticks To hoist our hopes When we see those Sly, insensitive tricks That life will have for us. Better still, I suggest, Let's us be lost in love For this is the best of the love To be lost in.

## Like A Corpse

Like a corpse, Sometimes when that distant Image of happiness, Somewhere buried deep down, Beneath the layers Of that troubled mind, rises To the surface, for you to find. Suddenly over the sleeplessness, Of the dead night, you realize; It was this delight that Kept you going, over and over When the music of silence filled you, And yanked you towards An inch closer, to the thought, That you could have ended it all, If you would have just at all, Tightened that sadness around you, To give it a closure Once and for all.

### Loneliness, Where Art Thou?

My love for you runs deeper, Deeper than the wounds we share. I have loved you more, More than anyone else I ever had. I nurtured, accepted and cared. Walked with you when no one else dared. All I ever asked, in return Was your undivided attention, Your subtle but selfish affection. But when time came, When it was your turn, You just left me alone, In the midst of these social beings! I have suffered at their hands! How much, you know not! Asocial me in a social lot! Can you imagine? Oh my dearest Loneliness! Where art thou? I have searched for you, Searched with all my love. I need you, I need you now. For a true love never dies, It is what now I realise.

### Lover's Liberty

I feel the tiredness of the life Settling onto me. For which I blame none, but me. But what I do not understand Is the way you apprehend, My attention through The various messages That you have sent. Each with a deliberate hint Of hurt, each time you threw A careless word across, I succumbed to their pain, Felt the sense of disdain, As my happiness withdrew. Does love give you the liberty To hurt the one you love? If so, you have hurt me To last an eternity. Here, I have my lesson learnt. Now, let me burn myself In the ember of these emotions, For I deserve to be burnt!

## My Journey

In this strange journey called Life, I want to be that lonely stranger, Traveling yonder to some strange land, Meeting some strangers on the go, Getting someone to know, Falling in love with some, Giving a part of me to some, Be the happy memory for some. I want to be that lonely traveler, Standing in the yellow woods, Where the two roads diverge, And I want to choose the one Less traveled by; Not to make any difference, But to be different from the rest. I want to be the only person on a beach, Watching the setting sun in the west, Plunging into the depths of the ocean While I lie on the sand. I want to be alone, when I stand, In the midst of nowhere Looking up at those distant stars, With a satisfied smile on my lips, I would then contemplate the bliss, Of living the lonely life.

### **My Verses**

In the verses that I write I record my life. My happiness, my sorrow rife, My dreams, my fears, My unsolicited tears, My unkempt thoughts My beliefs that rots Within my lonely mind. I am a deceptive man, So is every free human. But in these few verses, I have offered you no versions, For here I have never devised Any lie nor any truth revised. In the verses that I write, I am what I am.

#### New Year's Eve

On this New Year's Eve, Let's try and leave Our plausible sorrows and insatiable pains, And let's for once gather the reins Of happiness and mirth. Make an arduous ardour effort To realise life and its worth, And give a general meaningful quintessence To the eternal meaningless essence Of this perennial survival.

### **Ocean And Shore**

I am an ocean of problems, With raging gulfs of anxiety, Thunderstorms of fears, Coral reefs of loneliness In me all the time, And in this turmoil I saw you as a shore, Calm and composed, A harbor for my troubles, A resting place in peace, Day after day I tried To be with you, An endless attempt To touch you with My waves of love But my every attempt failed As after every touch I trailed Back into the depths of my solitude.

## On My Death

When I die, Bury me in those pages, Which failed to become My identity, my stages. Let me lie close To those verses, Those prose, Which never truly dealt With the emotions I felt. In my death Let me be a part Of those feelings, Those tears, Which never found a niche In that distant heart. For once, let me be my Madness, my fears.

## Once When We Were Young

I think we should have loved some more, Enough to satisfy a lifetime, Once, when we were young. We should have kept those kisses, As souvenirs and parting promises, For the dark days to come. We should have wept some more In each others arms, Should have wept and sung, Those songs more often, Once, when we were young. I think we should have lived some more, Instead of wallowing in each other's loss, Should have learnt, swallowing the pain, Smiled and loved more often, Loved and lived for each other's cause, Once, when we were young, We should have fallen in love more often.

# Parting Ways

With our fingers entwined in deep embrace We stare out, away to some different space The passion unspent is heightened here, But then there is this guilt with a tinge of fear We barely meet eyes, We rarely speak, But then our emotion finds its voice Within the silence of our choice. With her fear laden eyes she looks at me, A short smile of subtle degree Passes across her lips And I try to contain the second that slips, But then, alas! It is time to part And our love remains unspent In our solitary heart.

#### Passing By

Do you pass like this every day? Through the shallow woods, With your eyes downcast Lost in the intensity of your thoughts, Left to the integrity of their present. Do you realize that when you pass like this, Unperturbed by the worlds around you, You create the epitome of perfection? Which imperfect souls like me yearn for. You seem like a portrait left out there in the open, For people to decipher and attach meanings. Have you ever realized the way I leave My gaze to wander and waft around you? Sometimes when I see a beam of sunshine flowing Passionately towards you, escaping the crowding branches, And finally finding that perfect spot on your face to rest. No, I think you observe none, not the world, not even me. You just pass the shallow woods, with downcast eyes And I just stand there watching you pass by.

## Pygmalion

Tread with utmost care When you step into my heart, For I have had words bare Spelt across to me Letter by letter. I think I should not Promise you the longevity Of my love, the continuity Of this relationship. As is always done! I think I will promise you A space if not none, A harbour for us to rest. In all my humble quest, In what I write and create. In all those creations That I intend to make. A place for you to take, Live always in my heart. A space for us to fall In love again, to be a part Of something which We never became. And in that panacea, I'll be your Pygmalion, And you be my Galatea.

## Realisation

In the solitary confinement of my mind, I have reasoned, recorded and debated A thousand times; over the reasons, And decisions that ensued. Of everything that never happened And everything that never happened. And I have realised but two things. What am I? Nothing but a bag of bones and flesh, Held together by a great lie. And what is love? Nothing but an emotional rush, Felt constantly but denied.

#### Recollection

Sometimes I think; are you even real? I mean I have heard you, Always from a distance. I have seen how beautiful you look, When your eyes are left wide open, Enough to let loose your wonderful smile, That feels like warm blessed sunshine. Yes, it's a blessed smile for people Like me, who have spent much of Their life in the colour of darkness. I have known that tremble in your voice, Rather I have heard it, I can imagine How your eyes would moisten, With each dab of pain that's wrought Upon them through subtle love. I can sense the intensities of Your lost emotions and memories. I can touch your confusions, As if they were formulated in my mind. And yet sometimes, I can't help but think. Are you even real?

Or just a fragment of my mind?

### Reflections

I wasn't me anymore, Why I wonder? When I woke up from my Deepest slumber. What changed me? Or induced me To change, I did ponder. I looked around I looked at me In the mirror, my salient Feature staring back Erie, subtle, and silent. I could see there was a change A distinct difference. Strange! I thought, as I sought For an answer. My eyes cold filled with terror My voice old broken with tremor My eyes drooped, my smile taken My soul trooped, my dignity shaken. I was different, To myself, indifferent! So to myself I asked "Between the ages passed, The times spent, What have I gained Except for old age? "

Astounding silence echoed Until I heard a weird sound It was a laughter, A dreary laughter. And I wary of the sound Did look around But there was only me, My reflection showed, And what did I see I saw my image Laughing...

## Sadness

What is the strange sadness that dwells in me? Which wakes, sleeps, twirls and swells in me. Is it the sadness of satisfaction? Or is it because of dissatisfaction? I wish I could name it Something or someone to blame for it!

### Secret

Let me offer you a little secret. It may change nothing. Perhaps it might change everything. You may smile and dismiss the thought. Perhaps you might lend the empathy long sought. No, I do not need your sympathy! What I want you is to understand. If possible, talk to me and reprimand. I think I should not divulge, Some things are not meant for one to indulge. Perhaps I should remain silent and mustn't Let you into that secret I have always had.

Oh! Leave it! I am tired. Tired of holding this smile, all this while. Let me offer you a little secret. I am almost always sad! I am almost always on the verge of tears! I have been in this state for years. For as long as I remember. Ah! I can see it in your eyes stir The doubt, the question and concern.

### Something To Live

As a strange union, Strange was their love. Under the starry skies When they met, once She said to him As they looked into Each other's eyes. 'I don't want you to just live, But I want you to live With happiness.' He looked at her With tenderness, Her beautiful moonlit face! Moving his gaze into Her solemn eyes, Where he could trace The loss and the pain. He said to her. 'I am happy when I am with you, Other than that The instances are few. And I don't intend to live For those moments astray But I wish to live for you.'

## Sometimes I Cry!

Sometimes I cry, Occasionally, in the quite Darkness of the night, It makes me a human again, A weird sense of life and pain, I like the warmth of my tears, The time I know my fears, Which runs across my face, The laboured, deep pace, Monotonous pattern of my breath, Wasted away on a death, I like the burning in my eyes, A tedious mind that tries, To delightfully express, All that it had to suppress. Sometimes I cry, Just because I can't smile anymore.

#### Sorrow

Why is that we remember

Pain more often than

The happiness?

Is it because, pain is the

Only constant and

Happiness is something we

Create? Or is because pain is What we are? The flesh, bone and marrow Nothing but A projection of our sorrow.

## Sound Of Silence

Unseen, unheeded strands of existence, Unheard is their Sound of Silence, Dark faces smeared with dirt, With traces of fear and hurt. That occasional sound, The audible pain, is the essence Of their Sound Of Silence. Lurking in darkness, Awaiting light, Their shabbiness, What a sight! Craving for a willingness, Or least a pretence, Is how they express their Sound of Silence.

## Strangers Passing By

If I could just describe the pain, The pain, of losing you! The pain, of missing those Passionate kisses, stolen at moments. The pain, of looking down onto my chest And not finding your head resting on it. The pain, of not meeting your eyes In the darkness where I lie alone. The pain, of not feeling your breath Against my skin. The pain, of knowing my incapability to know, My incompetence to love someone With the same dignity. The pain, of realizing that All those moments were just a dream. Much lacking in density, And that we were never meant to be Nothing more, than strangers passing by.

#### The Answer

Do I love you? Is that the question? I'll let the Silence answer that. And the Silence follows. Silence was always there Between us, in our past. I believe, it will be there In all our tomorrows. For we have exchanged it In the colour of the night, In between our lips In the form of a kiss. Many a times, When all we had above us Was the insurgent sky. We have survived on it, For days and days, When we walked Our solitary ways. I think Silence is who we are When we shed our Flesh and bones. And to your question, The answer is, what The Silence holds.

# The Beggar

Thin, unnoticed she moves, Amidst the crowd Which promptly disapproves Her or at least the shroud Which she has draped, Her brittle fingers Around a plate wrapped outstretched to strangers, Expectant of their glance, Or perhaps a sly chance, Of a careless coin, Tossed across to her.

# The Bonding

What is it that binds me to you? Is it the pain? Is it the scars? Or is it the soul of an old friend? Whom I met years afar. Is it the sound of your voice? That I hear, in those moments, That I call ours. Is it your musical laughter? That to my heart does render Those words, subtle, soft and tender Is it the flutter of your eyes? That very cleverly does devoice Your quivering lips. I say, it is that blush which comes To your face, when the time ticks Between the smiles in our eyes And the touches of our fingertips.

## The Concluding Note

At times I am afraid of the ease With, which you say out certain things, Things that are bound to hurt someone, Things that are meant to be not always said, It comes naturally to you! It's not just the things that you say Worries me, it's rather the tone, With, which you say that out loud. There's a strange sense of finality in that! As if you have been already through this, And you just are waiting, for a reason, A reason to begin the end, of all this That we have built and cherished. Avinash Nair

# The Enigma Of My Mind

The subtle loneliness that hath, Built its walls were crumbling, As I ventured into that path Of needs and belonging. Those harsh realities were Mellowed by sparks of care, And those unspoken fears Doused by happy tears. But now the question that troubles me is Will this be a long lived bliss?

## The Journey Of Life

The journey if it begins Is a long one. Spanning into days and years. Would you be able to bear With me for so long? Would you be able to wake up To the steady degradation of me? Every day, night after night. Would you still be able to love me? When my smile would mean nothing But a mark of silence on my lips. When there would appear Thick lines on my forehead. Scars so permanent which Life would have given me. I would commit things which Cannot be forgotten or forgiven. When perhaps I wouldn't be able To remember the first word Of love that you uttered.

Would you be still able to

Understand me in my silence?

Would you still feel for me

The way you feel for me now?

### The Lane Of Loneliness

I have been on this lane before, I have seen the disdain and more, I have known this dark alley These dark labyrinths, The stark deserted streets, I was that lonely lark Looming high upon the street, The street of loneliness. I have been those eager eyes Sitting on the pavement All the same, yet different Drawn up towards the skies Parched for a drop of light, A recognition slight. I had wished for a companion Left out in the darkness Left without a choice or opinion. I was the street lamp, There in the corner I stood Without a form or purpose As I barely could Be of any use. I thought I had escaped, Then there is no escape I was born into it And I will be it, I am the lonely man The loneliest of all Rising after every fall, And I hear those voices, yes I can! The spirits of the street Singing a song of solace, I become the darkness I have no face I am the old, I am the new I am the one of the few

I am the estranged stranger On this lane of loneliness.

# The Man On The Beach

Have you ever felt like the man on the beach? The solitary man in the confinement of his mind! Unsettling like the wind, while living among his kind. Now what is worth looking, is his eyes. The look that fills his eyes, as the silent time flies, Riding upon the waves, ingrained in every grain of sand. The look that comes to him, as he with all his passion tries, To capture the last rays and the feeble feeling of setting Sun. It's a wonderful thought, a strong feeling; I must say. To be that man on that lonely beach, witnessing The setting Sun, with his unsettling eyes. Waiting and expecting in each passing second, For the darkness to engulf him back to the void. To behold the beauty before it seeps away From in between his outstretched hands, As he in the futility of his attempts to leave a mark Upon the receding winds that bring in, The flavour of sea with it, dutifully every time, As every wave that touches gives him a fleeting feeling, Of being carried away into the depths of the ocean, Where he could finally rest and be at peace with himself.

### The Mother & The Son

Today I saw life At the corner of the street, Exactly at the spot Where the two roads meet, The one of happiness, The other of strife. Here, I saw a suckling cuddled In the arms of his mother, 'The lady of the street'. Their thin black frame huddled Together, reeking of despair and bleakness And painting a sight of decay and wither. But today I found hope, At the same spot Where those two roads met, One of happiness, the other of sadness; It was in a song that the mother sung, Against the dull backdrop Of the gray wall.

# The Pain

Remember to forget, Forget the pains from your past, They say, as they always do, And if may you dare To lay your soul bare, You would want to say, You're who you're, as longs as Your pain lasts. You're a kept man, Your pain is your keeper, and You're whole when Your pain runs deeper. Perhaps, they understand, Perhaps, you assume Them to not to reprimand, But all they do is, Smile your way, While you dare to say, You're a kept man, and Your pain is your keeper.

# The Question

Should I love you for those differences That exists between the real you And my concept of an ideal you? Should I love you for the reasons Unknown to my mind but Known to my soul, yet unfair? Or should I love you for the wishes That follows the silence into my life, Tender into the roots of my heart? Simple are you and me, but Complex are those emotions that rise! Come, let me love you for the unknown For I have, in the other forms known This thought, I have known them all. Until I have succumbed to this very Emotion, time and again, every single moment. Could you please give me a reason, Or at least save some measure Of that long-lost love? For I have always been dependent On the kindness from strangers.

# The Rains

The sullen rains have settled in, Every hungry mind is parched. Every wandering soul That ever marched Has found its peace and Has made its tryst with happiness. Except for you! The hopeless wanderer! You were restless before, You are restless now, Somewhere, somehow. The sudden wind that carries, The heavy droplets Hit and pierce your skin. You know the pain, You feel it loud But you don't mind For in your mind You have known the pain All along in its various forms. You were once that child Who now plays in the rain, Filled with mirth and happy calls. But now everything has changed, Is it you or is it the rain? You realize, perhaps it is you Who has changed After all, the rain still falls Pretty much like it used to do.

### The Storyteller

Suddenly he has grown old, His once proud gaze And forehead bold Seem tired and cold, The sharpness of his eyes Has given way to this dull haze, His powerful voice It seems, lies Beneath the fold Of his skin; A faint whisper A silent murmur Is all your hear, in His silent slumber. Now his stories have finished His thoughts are famished Now all that is left is His story All that will be is His story. A story that was never told A story that was never heard Will unfold Here, a story of the storyteller himself, A story about how he lived How he survived and strived And a bleak epilogue Of how he may die.

### The Street

Yesterday in the stillness of the night, I visited those lanes, etched In the colours of our memories, I think it was the darkness in me That attracted their attention, Though I would want to believe, It was the dreams that really mattered. For they receded within and fetched, Those dormant emotions attached, Buried deep within for none to understand. In those shimmering memories I saw, As lanes like decisions led one to another, I understood what was never uttered. Now with the conviction of a lost man I say.

That we are like planets, we both apart, Encircling and deflecting each other At the same time. Bound and separated from each other By the same force. What keeps us apart is what Keeps us alive!

-Avinash

# The Way Of The Life

Those smiles of sadness And tears of happiness, Whispers of care And shouts of despair, Are the monologues of life. Those meaningful relationships And meaninglessness of hardships, Passion of the positivity And negation of the negativity, Are the acts of life. Those expected pains Coming of the unexpected gains, The parting of ways And finding a new one on some days, Is the way of the life.

### The Wind Is Rising!

The wind is rising! We must try to live. I know them now, In fragments that disavow. The clouds that move As strands of massive deception. Ships without destination!

The lantern still shines! Light before darkness. And to me it reminds, The subtle glow On your pretty face.

The nights will be lonely lost, With darkness bound, With despair tossed Like waves profound. On these nights We must return To the warmth of love, The rumbling sighs, Which reflect in your eyes. And when it is our turn, We must to the young folks sing. 'The wind is rising! You must try to live.'

# The Woman

There, under the stuttering street light, She stands, Tucking away those loose strands Of her hair, filling the night With thick acrid smell Of her cheap perfume, her bright Red lips painted well, Slightly parted in a smile, Mixed with the sound of her laughter. She looks at you, 'Tis Just a fleeting glance, She smiles, inviting you, And you walk across in a trance But 'tis now you notice her face, Strained of happiness, though sought after; Those red lips are blood red And it was her cry instead Of laughter That you heard...

### What Is It That You Think?

What is it that you think, with your Eyes fixated somewhere in between Tense reality and subliminal thoughts? Is it about life that you think? Or is it about something else? Has anyone ever told you that your eyes Reach the peak of their beauty, When they indulge with you in your thoughts? ... Do you ever chance upon the thoughts of me? No, not intentionally but just casually. I mean when the mass of thoughts That you have accumulated over A period of time flows across your mind, Does some stray thought, do remind You of me? Perhaps even my face? I think I'm asking for too much! No, you misread my intentions. It's not your fault, it's never been. I mean instead of interpreting me In a general sense,

Think of me as an admirer of you.

And we both serve our purpose,

You of existing so beautifully

And me of admiring you!

#### What Separates Us!

What separates us more Than the reasons and distance That we have found and gave, Is the silence that we chose. As the quite breath fell and rose, Silent glances spread in the darkness, Still smiles shadow the quivering lips, As they speak in the granted quietness. We chose silence over words. As words have stopped making sense, In the chaos that we live.

What separates us more Is the blindness that we chose. Over the harshness of life, As we know, light has nothing to offer But darkness holds the essence That we could live for. What separates us more Is the fear of the life, The need to live a life Within the boundaries of our mind. But then boundaries are for mind And body, we have transcended both, Souls know of no limits. What we cannot achieve in physical Is already ours in the realm of metaphysical.

### When You Are Done Loving Me

When you are done loving me, Hide me in those slight curves That form around your lips When you smile in purest bliss. Make me that loose strand of your hair, That your fingers caress With gentleness and utmost care. Make me that mark on your chest And let me lie there forever and rest All my sorrows and pain. Mix me gently in those tear drops, That comes unknown to you in your eyes, Which your reasoning tries to stop. Make me that madness of yours That glisten on your face At those moments that I call ours.

# Who Said Night Is The Time To Sleep?

Who said night is the time to sleep? It is the time to think, think deep, Finding solace in the tenderness of a weep, The time to reveal the secrets we keep, Time to travel and let imagination reap, Time to test the faith and make a leap, Who said night is the time to sleep?

#### Without A Heart

I suppose I would be better off Without a heart, A heart that Breaks at every instance, Every other chance It manages to find. Which lends its passion, Which bends and breaks, Which mends but remains Naive and forgets to remind Itself the fact that A foolish heart is meant to break. I wish I were born Without a heart, That way I could have Escaped the pains. Prepared a face to face Those faces, that refrain, My selfish needs and gains. No guilt in doing All those cruel deeds. All of which now, leads Me to a thought, What if I was a human But without a heart!

### Words

Words have meanings, When its purpose it meets. They are the Tragedies, When it's the pain it treats. They are the Elegies, When it's the death it bleats. They are the Comedies, When it's the happiness it greets. Words have purpose, When its feelings it meets. When they talk of the silent retreats, When it the emotion completes When it sings in the defeats. Words have beauty When its true passion it meets. Like the two people's silent heartbeats, Like a beautiful melody that repeats.