

Poetry Series

Elmer Romulo Valdez

- poems -

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Elmer Romulo Valdez()

To see the dawn is the start of another new day...
the blossoming of a new life... the birth of another poem.

A poem that serves as the outlet of man's affections
and outbursts - it is everlasting, ever-flowing, and
touching the deepest embers of the heart.

There is magic everytime I touch a pen and start
translating my thoughts and flashes into words, then
weaving these words into lyrics of an emerging poem.

Truly, man's feelings are not that elusive, after all,
as they can be captured in a poem! Embraced
passionately in between the lines, a poem enriches
and ennobles the soul and let it be filled with
peace and joy!

A Face Of Depravity

Tortured skin and bones lay,
On the hot and dry walkway;
Passed by racing, blind feet,
It's truly another pitiful sight.

How long can the dying soul,
Survive to see another day?
Is the heart always closed,
To give affection and care?

Carry the gasping child,
Shield him from the heat;
Embrace and hold him tight,
Again the heart will fight.

The child on the pavement,
No longer feel the torment;
With full support and light,
He has a new lease on life.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

A Sojourner's Prayer

Almighty Father in Heaven:

My journey into this world is arduous,
I've already walked thousands of miles,
The path is crowded and heat is stifling,
There is wretchedness on the waysides.

I have met countless adversities,
And I have tasted bitter defeats,
I'm really having a hard time, Lord,
But with You, nothing is impossible.

Gratefully, Your infinite Power,
Is the only source of my Hope...

Hope to rise up, everytime I stumble,
Hope to start again, everytime I fail,
Hope to move on, everytime I'm afraid,
Hope to be upright, everytime I'm weak.

Lord, I fervently pray:
To be firm in following Your Way,
To always turn my heart toward You,
To seek freedom, holiness, and joy,
By hearing Your Word,
Obeying Your Command,
And walking in Your Light.

In the most powerful Name of Your Son,
Amen.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

A Time For Love

A time for love,
A moment of truth,
Between you and me.

Two youthful hearts,
Throbbing within frail,
Ambitious breasts.

Every minute melting,
Into hours and days,
Deepens the affection.

Fingers intertwined,
Thick fogs at twilight,
Under the pine tree.

The flash of a smile,
And the dropp of tears,
Tighten love's bond.

The chain of devotion,
Strengthened by passion,
Would last for all times.

Every obsession and
Every hope I weave,
Just for you alone.

My muse, my dearest love,
The everlasting happiness,
And my life's inspiration.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Aftermath

The impact is savage,
The mass is squeezed.

There's oozing blood,
Mixed with the tears.

Both ends cannot meet,
Slow death approaches.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

An Eternal Love

Open your bright eyes,
Flower of my dreams!

The solitary marble bench,
The sparse graying grasses,
The other receding shadows,
And the impending heavy rain.

The signs of our love,
Are all laid around you...

Are you another sand castle,
Easily toppled by the wind?
Are you now a closed chapter,
In our sacred book of love?

I need your warm embrace,
As weakness overtakes me...

Reach out your guiding hand,
Light my way with your smile,
Bring back the understanding,
So that I will live again.

Hear me, fair flower,
This is for your heart...

I will always love you,
I will always cherish you,
You're my life and my light,
Tho' now you're out of sight!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Anguish

The extremist leader lay slain,
How could the followers remain;
Inside the toppled, sacred shrine,
The messengers in total pain.

The Man will frown, he will cry,
The violence always brings ruin;
The man of peace will die again,
To the dictates of the same men.

The minority stifle any alternative,
They need to fight and stand alone;
But cannot find any hiding place,
As decaying bodies adorn the floor.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Beyond Kalinga

I can now set my gaze beyond,
The hills and the Sierra Madre,
The enchanted, towering 'filig, '
The emerald rolling grasslands,
The ranches and the cow-hands.

I smile with undisguised pride,
At the display of achievement,
The true landmarks of progress,
The fruits of pain and labor,
The monuments of affection.

I'll miss you, dear Kalinga,
Your accommodating people,
The fast nissans and toyotas,
The Chico, creeks, and fields,
And all the fellow strangers.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Daisy's Try

Your fate is in your hands,
And that of our young love.

Let not your attempts
Just blow in the wind,
To fly to an eternity
Of nothingness.

Let your efforts bloom,
And gradually develop,
Into a magnificent
Tower of self.

Be a woman of concern,
And total dedication,
A repository of ideals,
And upright principles.

Be the constant flower,
Where my dreams reside,
Never wilt, never bow,
Stay and live forever.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Death

Darkness suddenly came,
Without any warning;
Like the fleeting wind,
To disturb the calmness.

Life snapped by death,
In a flashing triumph;
At the blink of the eye,
There is no stopping.

There is extreme pain,
As death makes a strike;
Happy hearts retreat,
In the gloom of loss.

Gone: it is forever,
Beauty won't be there,
To give an inspiration,
For the accepting soul.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Distant Bloom

A flower in the Canadian snow,
Unfettered in its lively glow;
Extends its life-giving touch,
Nothing ever seems to match.

The direct gazes that inspire,
Quench the sad heart's desires;
But fleeting time is a hindrance,
There's no bloom at a distance.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Dusky Horizon

Is there something left for me,
To set my goal and aspire for?
When fond hopes in my heart,
Start to dry out and wither?

When my faith in many things,
Starts to darken and glimmer,
When the enthusiasm is dead,
And no longer a driving force?

For this cold, uncertain universe,
This old, uncompromising world,
Does not want even a little share,
In man's tribulation and sorrow.

When everything begins to lose
Their purpose and meaning,
Is there still time for dreaming?
Perhaps, I will just wander...

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Eyes Of The Sand

Tread softly on the sand,
As it guards the land,
It has a million eye,
Peering at the azure sky.

It is the true witness,
Of the wasted bodies,
The rivers of blood,
On battle-scarred land.

It shouts its testimony,
Against man's inhumanity,
It is the judge and the jury,
And punishes the guilty.

So beware of the sand,
With its million eyes,
It is forever recording,
The sins of mankind.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Fantasy In A Blue Moon

Let there be no good-byes,
As our budding love is everlasting,
Though apart by mountains & seas.

Our paths may not cross again,
Yet we'll always be for each other,
As caring hearts beat - yours & mine.

Time may slip away silently,
But there's a feeling beyond words,
That binds and wraps us, as one, tightly.

Love, more than diamonds, is forever,
A true affection that pulsates on and on,
With memories that always keep us together.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Fingers In Fulfillment

Fingers racing against time,
To finish the poem of life,
Fingers become icily tipsy,
And dripping with cold sweat;
Yet with firm resolution,
The finish line is still far.

There is no time to relax,
Keep on freely moving with
A far-fetched sight and aim,
The winning post is there;
Reach for it, with those
Shaking and tired fingers.

It is just a stone's throw,
The barrier cannot obstruct,
The catch can be produced;
All is possible if only tried,
Fight against the retiring will,
Just carry on and all is yours.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Fire In A Drifting Soul

The busy sidewalk is littered,
Of waste and unwanted morsels,
There's deprivation and poverty,
The raging soul has to drift.

There are no genuine smiles,
Only taut, lean faces haunting,
The few, overflowing pockets,
As silence of wind is deafening.

There is no soothing coolness,
The fire keeps on burning inside,
To smolder the wandering spirit,
Till even the calmness is shamed.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Folly

To follow not your conscience,
Just to satisfy the other's lot;
Is a real folly in all its guise,
Which will hold you so tightly.

If the course you really take,
And the path you hastily tread;
Are not the products of your will,
Then pains will be yours to bear.

You might be weak and can't stand,
On your own small feet of sand;
But why do you cling to a belief,
If only you can decide your fate?

It is a true folly to let the soul,
Be collared and chained with fear;
But it is a greater folly, to allow
The flesh be used in total abandon.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

For A Lingerin Peace

You...

You came, I found peace,
Gradually an affection,
Then the source of my joys,
As you instantly ensnared
My wandering thoughts.

Me...

Who am I really to you?
Perhaps a passing fancy?
Who vanishes in your view,
As I fill the gaping void,
In your dream and fantasy.

You and me...

Wrapped in shimmering heat,
How long could the warmth,
In our heart truly lasts,
Would it just be a matter
Of some measured moments?

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Guinsularan Lullaby

Shut the windows of the past,
And dwell into the reality of today;
Yet destiny is held by the hands of time.

It is in the caring that we live,
Also in believing, trusting, and loving;
Then accepting wholly who and what we are.

Lullabies of the Guinsularan waves,
And shrieks of the nocturnal creatures;
All heighten the recurring memories.

Your laughter and your smiles,
Your strength and your firm resolve;
Mark your rebirth as a new being.

So shed not a precious tear,
Count all your blessings and gains;
Always be happy... You are LOVED!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

I Am Another Rock

Unperturbed in my lofty perch,
I look down the smoky cauldron,
Of conceit, lies, and deceptions.

I am yet another kind of rock,
Unmoved by the rushing current,
In my spirit, there's full strength.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Impressions At Sunset

I am always yearning to capture
the sunset at Luna Beach,
And discover the horsemen at the
imposing Spanish fortress;
As the glistening catch is laid on
the waiting shoreline,
By the strong-willed fishermen
rowing in tandem.

I am always yearning to capture
the sunset at Luna Beach,
And witness the silhouettes formed
by the clouds atop the Tirad Pass;
As the calm waves of the China Sea
persistently lure my spirit,
To be engulfed in their mighty and
rolling embrace.

I am always yearning to capture
the sunset at Luna Beach,
And watch the receding shadows
of the Caraballo mountains;
As the chirps and melodies of the
approaching twilight,
Rise in harmony with the emerging
northern stars.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

In Memoriam

06 June 1979 - 10: 02 a.m.

Frail mound of flesh and bones,
Is a Joy in the pouting face;
So seemingly strong and lively,
A gem in his mother's bosom,
A gift to be kept and treasured.

06 July 1979 - in a month,

The Joy has become a charm,
With lovable, radiant face,
With eyes trying to recognize,
With a firm yet kindly smile,
He has grown bigger, stronger,
An intelligent iota of mankind.

21 July 1979 - 10: 00 a.m.

With a hard, full night battle,
For marginal survival, he lost!
His wind machine collapsed,
To return to the All-Knowing,
Gone where he can't be reached,
The Joy became a guiding Angel.

And everything turned to a dream,
So distant to see reality again!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

In The Winds Of Adversity

Winds of adversity blow savagely,
As injustice, death, and sickness,
Come galloping in full swiftness,
Into my life of trouble and agony.

Do personal sufferings on earth,
Famines, wars, and earthquakes,
Arise as the wrathful retribution,
From You, Me, or the Adversary?

Beseiged with sneer and scorn,
Often I am rejected and snubbed,
At times, ignored and disregarded,
Even by my beloved folks and friends.

Then You blaze in splendor,
Through my life's adversities,
I know You are doing this for me,
Not something You're doing to me.

With my dull and rusty sword,
I bravely join the deadly fray,
To free the slaves of tyranny,
And those condemned by men.

Together with Your Son who had said:
'Let not My will, but Thine be done, '
All my sufferings are worthwhile,
With eternal mark of God's Glory!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Incantation (1)

The Shadow is a Snake,
Living under the Sand,
And seared by the Sun.

The Sun burns the Sand,
The Snake slithers out,
And follows the Shadow.

The Sand absorbs the Sun,
The Snake bares its fangs,
Then it covers the Shadow.

The Shadow and the Snake,
The Sand and the desert Sun,
One for all, all for one.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Incantation (Ii)

I am the Shadow:

You cannot escape away from me,
I will follow you wherever you go.

I am the Snake:

You cannot divert your path,
I will mix poison in your blood.

I am the Sand:

You cannot run away from me,
I will engulf and bury you alive.

I am the desert Sun:

You have no place to hide,
I'll scorch and make you dry.

I am the Shadow and the Snake,

I am the Sand and the Sun,

One for all, all for one.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Let It Rain

As the rain fell from heaven,
And soaked the thirsty earth,
The leaves scorched by the sun,
The flowers their fragrance gone,
Joyfully rejoiced: they are blessed!

And man thanked and murmured:
'O rain, you are pouring again,
Giving hope and determination,
For me to breath and go on living.'

The earth sprouted with greenery
Showing freshness and calmness,
The leaves swayed in the wind,
The flowers, proud and upright,
Scented-sweet, expressed delight.

Man smiled with a happy heart,
Watching the bountiful harvest,
With gladness! Life, after all,
Is truly kind and beautiful!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Life's Reality

There's weariness,
that clings tightly,
There's a sadness,
for having existed,
There's isolation,
in a forced silence.

Life is a spectrum,
of hatred and love,
Failure and success,
boredom and patience,
Weakness and strength,
indifference and faith.

You are benevolent to one,
But very cruel to another,
Could this be life's reality?

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Love At A Distance

Each day I'm filled with longing,
To hold you tightly in my arms,
But distance keeps me strapped,
To where I spend my aloneness.

Drifting, I am forever drifting,
Among dark, billowing clouds,
Yet closer to where you are,
Because of a very patient love.

But for how long could love,
Holds a drifting lonely heart,
So far away from its source,
Of continuing glow and throb?

But whether you're near or far,
Feel the warmth of my embraces,
Taste the passion of my kisses,
And trust the sincerity of my love.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Love At First Sight

My Lady when I first saw you,
I was enchanted by your glow,
Thoughts slipped away from me,
As you charmed me along the way.

Your cascading dark tresses,
The diamonds in your eyes,
Your sweet smile that soothes,
Are the things I have sought.

Between the earth and sky,
No one else can ever vie,
With your innate loveliness,
You're the Muse of my dreams.

At nights while I am resting,
I remember our first meeting,
Then the serene surrounding,
Adds intensity to my yearning.

The affection in my heart,
Stays, never to fall apart,
In my whole life I will nurture it,
And kept until my last breath.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Love Is An Enigma

Love, can you be found -
in the fleeting wind,
in the flowing stream,
in the dimming memory?

Love, are you present -
when the grasses wilt,
when sighs fill the air,
when revenge is waged?

Love, will you come -
when a heart is hateful,
when a hand reaches out,
when a voice yells a call?

Love, will you be there -
when passions cool down,
when smiles become bitter,
when a sincerity is doubted?

Love, who are you -
a challenge to the soul,
a buoy to mark the place,
or a vision soon to vanish?

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Love Song

The purity in your eyes,
Sweetness in your smiles,
Warmth in your whisper,
Fill my dreams with hope.

Arise then and meet me,
Let me kiss your hands,
And feel your softness,
To float in your songs.

Smile at me to give life,
To the flower and the poem,
Excise the lingering pain,
And resurrect a lost love.

Be with me, lovely voice,
To build a new paradise,
That will be a new home,
Where only music abounds.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Maiden Decisions

The first three minutes,
Seem inconsequential,
Yet here lies the balance,
Between life and death.

The line is threadlike,
An imaginary borderline;
Which will spell victory,
Or defeat, or extinction.

The first three minutes,
Will finally make or break,
When treasured life is lost,
There is no recovery.

So value these three minutes,
These short gasps of breath;
They will always be there,
To challenge life's spear.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Memories Are Forever

Memories never die,
They just flirt around,
And peep behind curtains.

Memories never die,
They merely take their time,
Only to manifest at the end.

Memories never die,
They zoom from distant past,
And luxuriate at the present.

Memories never die,
They forever dwell in the mind,
And always tug the heart strings.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Metamorphosis

The frail child in the corner,
Soon transforms into a man,
The new master of the universe.

Don't suppress his laughter,
Or bury the ideas he counters,
Let him raise a fist in protest.

Let him show his self-worth,
In the little things attained,
Leave him to stand on his feet.

Instruct him a lesson or two,
Be it painful or hard to bear,
Pat his back and let his grow.

An Individual within the Mass!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

My Fountain Of Hope

You're the flesh of those golden songs,
You're the fragrance of the sweet flowers,
You're the flashes of the new-born dawn,
You're the melody of the falling leaves.

You're the reflection of the twinkling stars,
You're the fixed buoy of the moments of time,
You're the beacon of the seekers of the sun,
You're the only way to the promised land.

You're the shower for the arid earth,
You're the dewdropp for the sultry day,
You're the lips where many joys arise,
You're the kisses to vanish my despair.

Yes, you're my light and my strength,
To reach that sweet fruit of ambition,
To grasp that golden ray of destiny,
To attain the waiting crown of success.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Nostalgia

Burning sands, roaring winds on fire,
Bearded masks, moving masses in white;
Alien taps and nods, strange sounds,
All unfamiliar, these unknown stares.

I yearn to see my home...

Varied, colorful desert birds at morn,
Atop the fruitful 'shazarat al nabaq; '
Gaily chirp to awaken a slight slumber,
And remind a far-away vacation place.

My childhood's happy refuge...

Beneath the dry but thriving grasses,
Marble chips, the desert stones shine;
A haven's mirage appears and engulfs,
The isolated spirit seeking a repose.

The cocoon is still remote...

As the numbered stars dot the night sky,
Thousand bulbs illuminate the streets;
The stray cats scamper under the cabin,
And a softness entices another reverie.

To bring me closer to my abode...

Hearing the laughter from offspring,
And tender whisper of an enduring love;
Feeling the soothing spray of the waves,
And the caress of the mountain breeze.

At last, my heart is at my home!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Opportunity

Open all your doors early,
Let the sun of morn illumine,
The dark chambers of your life.

The cobwebs will be blown away,
By the dawn wind and lead you,
To the only path to your Destiny.

Time is Eternal as it moves,
From door to door knocking,
For you to accept the Light.

Then there's no more gloom,
There will be no more chaos,
Harmony permanently settles.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Queries

Can he not loudly cry,
stomp his small feet,
or form an angry fist?

Can he not run to his
heart's content and be
unmindful of falling?

Can he not laugh so
boisterously and loud,
and wake a slumber?

Can he not inquire
repetitive questions,
and demand answers?

These and many more,
are the little queries,
of the innocent soul.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Release

Everything has swiftly passed,
As the cobwebs are swept away;
Nothing will ever be attached,
To the reciprocating memory.

Yesterday was a sea of nightmares,
There were death, decay, and tears;
But the spirit survived and rose,
After carrying the heavy cross.

Today there's no trace of bondage,
All is expunged, locked, and buried;
The senses are gradually returning,
To start afresh, anew beginning.

Tomorrow will be another day,
Bringing another radiant ray;
Let not yesterday happen again,
As the free spirit is set to win.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Romancing The Dunes

Yes, your love brings happiness,
To me, the pining, far-away soul;
The Dreamer weaving his thoughts,
As he wanders on the shifting sand;
Building his little castles of sand,
Which crumble at the hiss of wind.

You give hue and meaning to my life,
Wasted in a dark and solitary space;
The Sandman bears the searing heat,
And weathers the blinding sandstorm;
Taking sure steps, to reach a mile,
Even with heavy feet, mired in mud.

You're the only one, no other heart,
Who is cherished so dearly and kept;
Always guided by the trusted Shadow,
With eternal, never-ending affection;
Flowing freely to reach life's end,
And embracing the end just for you.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Rona's Smile

Smile with the innocence,
Of a Caesar's wife,
Without a trace of guilt,
As it lingers on and on...

Beam like the sunshine,
Melt the heart of stone;
To elevate the soul and
To puzzle the dayspring.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Rose

A trust in a strange heart,
An affection within a wall;
Thorns shield the innocence,
To inspire a struggling mind.

A melancholic, elusive soul,
A poem, a book, and a smile;
With the touch of an ideal,
Soon to depart from sight.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Serenade

I LOVE YOU...

The source of my life, my breath!

Your heart is the grand altar,
Where I offer my love from afar;
There's always a burning flame,
Giving reality to my every dream.

Your tender touch is my guide,
As I tread the desert so wide;
My path, I'll never lose sight,
Because you provide the light.

Your gentle embrace gives peace,
And banishes all the loneliness;
You are my inspiration and joy,
The consoling salve of my soul.

I LOVE YOU...

Till the end of my life and beyond.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Shadows On The Sand

We are the creations of the desert,
As the lurking shadows on the sand,
Displaying many hypocritical faces,
Ready to deceive the unwary spirit,
Poisoning the air to slay the prey.

We are the fools and scheming bastards,
With long memories of hatred and ire,
Who always misinterpret simple words,
And get confused in a familiar alley,
We forever want to have the last say.

We are the natural liars, the bogeys,
With fabrications and brags to impress,
With tales of conquests, no downfall,
To manipulate and subdue the rising tide,
For fear to be upstaged and undermined.

We are the know-it-all, the idiots,
Disdaining the brain-dead and gunk,
Never satisfied, bred to be grumps,
On the look-out for the stragglers,
Dragged by the over-zealous crabs.

We are the show-off, the puppets,
The colonial tags and assorted gems,
In our attempt to be the cynosure,
We step on toes and we block views,
And we crave to be larger than life.

We are the grand users and takers,
Whatever we give, we always expect,
Something in return, a bigger stake,
No consideration, never to compromise,
We have to get more, at whatever cost.

We are the beggars and noble scraggs,
Yet neither penniless nor insensible,
We must uphold our dignity supreme,

And withstand the assaulting forces,
To declare ourselves as the choosers.

As we emerge behind the gray stones,
Disclosing our vulnerable existence,
We are traces with different shades,
We've evolved as hardened shadows,
The weeping creations of the desert.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Shoulders In A Sling

How did it come to happen,
I don't see the reason why,
There are cold shoulders,
Furtive glances and eyes
That cannot meet my own.

There should be a reason,
For every little action,
Cold shoulders, stiff necks,
Must not be there around us,
The breathing isles of men.

Yet if cold shoulders appear,
They must be frozen barriers,
Nobody wants to touch them,
Just stare blankly, sparingly,
From calculated safe distance.

All of these could be warmed,
If they come very close to me.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Silence

There's silence in the noisy alley,
As the lost sheep looks for a way;
To reach the others in the flock,
Someone has to disroot the block.

There's silence in a closed heart,
It does not want to share and feel;
It is another heart, cold as steel,
It needs to be melted and burned.

For the sheep to find its shepherd,
And the heart to give real love;
The silence has to be broken and
Rupture itself into million pieces.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Strife

Vividly, I see you beyond me,
Face burnt by sun and wind;
Offering a reluctant smile,
And jagged, reddened teeth.

You'll never grasp the reasons:
Why men of influence and power,
Smother your fundamental rights,
And rewrite your own history.

Why giant motors and machines,
Spoil your natural wonders,
Obliterate your ancestral abodes,
And desecrate the graveyards.

Why your life-blood be regulated,
And secured by steel and concrete,
Totally shackled and immobilized,
Your mighty river is now chained.

You cannot match the strength,
And cannot fathom the insanity;
Why so much has to be altered,
In the quest for development.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Sunrise

Surely there's sunrise always,
To lift the mask of the night,
To open the secrets of the day,
And to rouse the sleepy soul.

Even behind the dark clouds,
Sun's radiance is always there,
Rise then, embrace the new day,
The golden sunrise is yours.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Sunset

Fiery embers of the receding sun,
Diffuse beneath the waiting sea,
Which hastily glowers in triumph,
While the shiny, scurrying crabs,
Etch myriad symbols on the sand.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Ant In Man

Reduce and shrink,
Fit into your hole;
Hold the rising system,
Tie it down to the roots.

Minimize the energy,
Stop the power at 8 p.m.;
Cool the bulbs and lamps,
Look into the darkness.

Lie down, shut your eyes,
Think about your dreams;
Apply cost-saving systems,
Conserve, store, and wait.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Dreamer's Dream

Dream, O, heart with little faith,
Nurture the weak soul, harden it.

Soon you are ready to soar,
To conquer, divide, and rule.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Flower Of Love

You came into my life,
One sultry afternoon
Of a memorable summer:
I deeply care for you.

Sweet little words,
Conceived the promise
Of youthful affection:
And a dream was born.

The union was formed,
Filled with idealism,
Between young hearts:
Your heart and mine.

It was filled with love,
With understanding,
It was also a frail,
Delicate love affair.

Oh, my lovely flower,
I offer myself to you,
Tho' I no longer own
Your sweet, shy smiles.

Yes, I'll always write
Love letters and poems,
As I see your silhoutte,
In the glittering stars.

Now everything has decayed,
Our yesterday is the bridge,
As my only open passage,
To the edge of memory.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Lizard At The Railtrack

The lizard at Guinobatan railtrack,
Moves rapidly along the cool steel,
To hide from human gaze and touch.

The scaly head and its forked tongue,
Watch from the sanctuary of a hole,
Enduring a lifetime of concealment.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Mirror Of The Soul

The madman at the roadside,
Waves and smiles genially,
As he looks for any answer,
Why he is tied in the dark.

He seems to deeply ponder,
Furiously wants to discover,
And reach the true reason,
In order to banish his pain.

He stares around vengefully,
Never mock or provoke him,
As his tears flow copiously,
Yet he laughs uncontrollably.

Do you feel sorry for him,
Will you go away from him,
Or will you understand him,
And give the light to him?

The madman at the roadside,
With his tears and laughter,
He might be the true mirror,
Of a pure but harmed soul!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The New Leaf

Watch the new-born, tender leaf,
As it unites with the old leaves;
So helpless at the rage of wind,
But it strongly holds on.

Watch the maturing russet leaf,
As it withstands the pain;
And the test of time,
Alongside the old grey leaves.

Watch the leaf turning gold,
Now the captive of the wind;
Soon it follows the others,
And will fall to the ground.

Yet there is no sign of defeat,
It has always been victorious;
That leaf will just be a memory,
Another leaf will be born again.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Other Face Of Death

Tears fell for a lost love,
For a joy snatched by fate.

The loss is too precious,
The grief is abysmal.

But if it's God's will, so be it,
Accept, and anguish is diminished.

Continue to hope and implore,
Wipe the tears and be strong!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Passive Factor

We are just the watchers,
Same helpless onlookers,
Of the unfolding pageant,
Before our clouded eyes.

Others make things happen,
Manipulate, distort, bend,
And twists the many laws,
To perpetuate their hold.

We've to be above the law,
To survive and to observe,
The puppets and the robots,
The bandits and marauders.

We burn all the curtains,
Let the fire raze the stage,
If we are to build an abode,
An Eden for a new generation.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Power Beyond

Who can stop the waves,
As they constantly wrap,
The vast and steamy shore,
In a suffocating embrace?

Who can stop the waves,
As they mercilessly toss,
The driftwood and weeds,
The corals and the bones?

Only the Power beyond,
Has control over the waves,
Human strength can't match,
Their immensity and surge.

The waves dance eternally,
Bringing songs of praise,
With ceaseless show of honor,
To satisfy the Power beyond.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Reality Of My Dreams

My dreams won't come true, if you're gone,
My sobs will make me ill, if you forget me,
The promise will be broken, if you vanish,
You're my dream's reality, to let me live.

Your smiles give me strength, trials I'll face,
Your loving glances lose the cares and threats,
Thinking of you, my vigor quickly renews,
You're the hope the colors my life's views.

Don't cease to think of me, for you are my life,
Your word is my guide to do what is right,
Your eyes are my light to find the true way,
As they illuminate my love's enduring purity.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Refugees In Us

We are all refugees,
Bidding for our time,
And our space, in the
Diminishing universe.

Powerless, puny mortals,
At the mercy of the gods,
With the absence of pride,
We have no more existence.

We are floating driftwood,
Tossed, battered, and worn,
Soon we will disintegrate,
Into meaningless wastes.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

The Sand-Dwellers

Teh sand-dwellers are now gone,
Just another disappearing tribe;
The sand dunes are all undone,
The gladiators are on the drive.

The table of arid earth,
Constantly swept by desert wind;
Turns into a defenseless fortress,
The rugged vales become unkind.

The sand is always a battleground,
Which absorbs spilt blood swiftly;
Now lizards and scorpions abound,
With rams and camels for company.

The sand-dwellers are now afar,
Their empire turned into tombs;
As the ever-consuming ancient war,
Can't be ended by words and bombs.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Thoughts Of You

When the night finally falls,
Rising blackness comes around,
Birds return to their nests,
And thoughts of you haunt me.

Then your loveliness bestows
Hue to my fast-ascending life,
That I often discover myself
Softly whispering your name.

Your affection seems to possess
My soul, the whole of my being,
As I trace your innate beauty
On the shifting sand of memory.

And when I lay myself
Into a tranquil slumber,
My thoughts of you sink
Keener within my depths.

I try to trail your tracks,
As deep sleep swallows me,
In my dreams I see you,
Waving and smiling at me.

I am thinking of you so much,
To capture your elusive heart,
Am I having a clouded fantasy,
Without root and of brittle life?

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Time Wins

Time will dictate the course,
Always advance in full force;
Don't jump into the quagmire,
Avoid the impact of god's ire.

There's always a testing ground,
Where many opportunities abound;
Don't rush your half-made decisions,
Control your conflicting emotions.

You'll conquer all your battles,
No strong enemy really matters;
If you let Time stay at your side,
Everything, to you, will abide!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Today... A Celebration

Today is another high point
in the life of the One Pilgrim!

Praising! The benevolence and
blessings of the Almighty Power.

Basking! In the affection and care
of family, loved ones, and friends.

Trekking! Atop an extended plateau
as the tipping point is still far away.

Leading! That ever-present vision
towards triumph and significance.

Building! Bridges, structures, and
waterways for the new generation.

Thanking! For the amazing Life, the
Nature, the Music, and the Poetry.

Living! All for today and waiting for
more sunrises and celebrations!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Vanishing Point

Thoughts of you swiftly come,
There's no time to look back,
To rebuild the burnt bridges,
The pathways to your heart.

Ascend, then raise the crown,
Always awaiting for your touch,
And clear the obscured way,
To the place of fulfillment.

Alas! now you're gone,
Like a buzzing in the sky,
Gone, when everything
Could be made eternal!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Viewpoints On Reaching The 41st Moon

Today there are negative values, such as disrespect, unconcern, uncaring, indifference, and impatience, that fastly erode the foundation of human relationships.

One must come into terms with the reality of events and circumstances and take them with a grain of salt and without any recurring bitterness or anger.

To live with hypocrites and self-righteous people is truly hard to do, yet it is not impossible.

No matter how hard a person tries, some good things that he does seem not to last at all and remain unappreciated.

There is truth in the wallside adage, 'When I do right no one remembers; When I commit wrong, no one forgets.'

Not all those who shit on someone are his enemies. On the other hand, not all those who help someone out of his predicament are his friends.

At the passing of years, one becomes more considerate (or more callous?) and does not get upset when ignored or when he receives letters without the closing remarks.

Dreaming is like chasing the tail of the rainbow. There is a promise but no reality. It's fragile, like sand-castles which easily crumble on the onslaught of wind.

Giving something and not expecting anything in return is still a cherished goal to be attained by someone, to be able to fully outgrow the child in him.

One has to be more assertive to claim his space under the sun and to live life on his own terms. And there is wisdom in accepting things as they are, as there is joy of changing events if one has full control of them.

Above all, life is a very short rendezvous on this planet,

hence, it should be lived in total harmony, not only with the laws of nature and of man, but most importantly, with the grace and blessings of one's own true God!

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Welcome To My World

I have a compact world,
That I completely own,
With pride and warmth,
Care and satisfaction.

I am safe in my world,
Shielded from hostile men,
With all their hypocrisy,
And stringed compromises.

I am free in my world,
To move in my own desire,
It gives me comfort and
Renews my faith in life.

I am happy in my world,
Surrounded with affection,
A lovely cubicle of poems,
Books and wealth of notes.

It is my ideal universe,
Filled with love and joy,
Free of envy and hatred,
A world I want to share.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Wheels

Little wheels, big wheels,
Roll to assert themselves,
Crush the blocking stones,
And stamp themselves into
The old, accepting earth.

When the wheels are crafted,
They are let loose,
Into the unexplored,
To seek their destiny.

Life is like a whee,
Uniting with the earth,
At one time, then
Caressed by the heaven,
At another time.

But when the wheel stops,
Rust and moss accumulate,
Then life gradually sinks,
Into an immovable inertia.

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Wings In A Cage

O, hurrying feet, pause for a moment,
Things now look alien and different.

Can you still hear the bird's chirps,
As they appease the bruised spirit?

Wings weakened, the bird cannot fly,
To frolic in the clouds, king of the sky.

Can the imprisoned souls still move,
Does the aviator still have a wound?

The feathers take a long time to grow,
The diminished flesh loses its glow.

Will the bird and spirit remain caged,
Until they are at death claw's edge?

Elmer Romulo Valdez

Woman's Worth

Woman, with that mystic smile,
Do you trace life's footsteps?
Do you still dwell in wonderland,
Shyly basking in its magical glow?

Do you still believe in phantoms,
Silently moving along the wall?
Or do you still sulk within your shell,
Beyond the reach of a fingertip?

Breath deeply and come to life,
Glide with the flowing rivulet,
Sway with the listless breeze,
And intermingle with the masses.

Frail, yet a force to reckon with,
Soft, yet a firm, enduring pillar,
You are an ever-present fragrance,
To cheer a sad, downtrodden heart.

Elmer Romulo Valdez