Poetry Series

Deependra Kumar Jha

- poems -

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* Standing Tall

The face of crowd
Depressed, humiliated
A face from the crowd
Spirited, agitated
Mask of silence

It's not good enough
to wish for dreams
It's not always wise to have
eyes closed, fingers entwined
Time slips away

Today may start without you
but tomorrow shouldn't
People always look forward to
waking up the next day
Your pain will ease someday

Just a single person
Just a single voice
Daring to be different
Stands tall
To surprise of all

Deependra Kumar Jha

A birthday wish to someone special

Like a cherry tree bloomed
I can feel the fragrance around
A face full of energy and life
always radiating happiness
with contagious grin
beaming from within

I salute your unconquerable spirit
and persistent determination
I admire in you
the internal strength and wisdom
I treasure your uniqueness
the caring heart and adorable smile

At times, I wonder how would I say
how much you mean to me
and how much you have given me
the support, encouragement
With each additional candle on the cake
I contemplate once again
how privileged I've been
to have you in my life
Thank you my dearest
for making my life brighter and sweet
you are a gift of tranquility in my life

It's your birthday
and I know,
you must be feeling lonely today
well,
I may be far from you
thousands miles away
from your birthday cake
but, close your eyes and look
deep down your feelings
I am there clapping
singing your birthday song
holding you in embrace
dancing with shear joy
so,
don't ever think of my absence
I'm there with you
at every breath of life
Happy Birthday, sweetheart!

Deependra Kumar Jha

A cloud cover

One day there was a whispering on air,
that the sun has refused to glitter,
and the darkness was perpetual
few blamed that the development had it's share
others were talking about depleted ozone-layer

I tried to give heed to the voicelessness
was it the end of world?
I recalled the things I had to do...
I had to find a job and start my life
at a nice home with my beautiful wife
& I want my kids to call me papa...

Suddenly, I woke up seething with fear
oh! so it was just a dream...
I felt relieved and looked around
though, the sun was still not shining,
it was only a cloud cover
Thank god! my dream was not over

Deependra Kumar Jha

A confession

I always had a feeling
that I gave you my entire life
'I' worked hard,
'I' suffered,
& 'I' sacrificed
Though, it was nothing more than my arrogance,
you always agreed to my baseless arguments
and always accepted the myth
Now, at a tired, spiritless stage of life
I sit back & think,
Did I ever care for your feelings?

At times, when you really needed
I went away from you
In search of my 'own' space
and a name for myself
I always tried to justify it
I kept on chasing 'my' ambitions
but, I tried to convince you,
as if they were 'our' dreams

'our' dreams? I doubt it
They could not be our dreams, yet
you prayed for a sun-shine every morning
Now, I have no hesitation in confessing
that you are the star of my sky
who always carried my burdens,
without expecting any appreciation
burdens of my unrealized dreams

I don't know how often I broke your heart
yet you stood by me
willing to accept all the hassles, gracefully
How can I ever thank you,
for coming into my life?
and giving a meaning to my life
Even now,
when I regret my past
You teach me,
to cherish everyday as last day of life
I fear of that 'last' day
because, I hate to say good-bye
When the end comes for me,
I wish you to hold me in your embrace
As you have hold me over the years
I can apologize for all the moments in past,
when I failed to say 'I love you'
and make a promise to rectify them,
if given a 'next' life!

Deependra Kumar Jha

A desire to excel

Imagine there was no country
No borders to protect
No temptation to destroy 'others'
World as a single country
Wonder what to feel proud of!

Imagine there was no religion
No selfish feeling around
No reason to diffuse hate
Humanity as a single religion
Wonder what to die for!

Imagine there was no caste or sect
No superiority or inferiority feelings
No incentive for discrimination
Everyone with a desire to excel
Wonder what can disunite us!

(We extend our deepest condolence to all those who lost their lives in the Mumbai (India) terror attack on 26 November,2008. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the victims' families. Lets stand united and pray together. Lets act towards a peaceful and prosperous world.)

Deependra Kumar Jha

A gloomy sky

I don't know why I fail to sleep at nights
I don't know what's going through my mind
I don't know why the sky appears so gloomy
I don't know what exactly I am unable to find

I don't know why life with you was such a pleasure
I don't know if I can ever touch you again
I don't know why you are not around to show me the way
I don't know if my life can ever be the same again

I don't know why they look at me so strangely
I don't know if I am doing something wrong
I don't know why it looks like a dead-end
I don't know if I will ever cheer for a song

I don't know why the truth became myth overnight
I don't know if I can ever neglect your presence
I don't know why I can't show my tears to anyone
I don't know if my life can 'go-on' in your absence

---
but what I know is,
that the life can never be standstill
& that an angel sleeps beside me every night
& due to that the sun shines every morning
& that your memories will always be with me
because,
Memories never die...

Deependra Kumar Jha

A journey called life

From love to hate
From faith to fate
We never stop wondering
Life is a mystery
Keep your fingers crossed

From dawn to dust
From calm to gust
We never stop pondering
Life is a challenge
Keep your chin up

From emotions to action
From despair to reaction
We never stop performing
Life is a show
Wear your heart on your sleeve

From pleasure to pain
From drought to rain
We never stop wandering
Life is a journey
Go the extra mile

Deependra Kumar Jha

A miracle ray

You made me what I am today
'I love you mom! ' I want to say
You are like a miracle ray
Thank you for always showing the way

I see a teacher in you
Always instructing, always guiding
I see a mentor in you
Always appreciating, always encouraging
I see a healer in you
Always worrying, always caring
I see a comforter in you
Always forgiving, always relieving

You are my cushion when I fall
You are my pillar standing tall
You have made me who I am
Due to you, I have joy and fun

You are my angel, so precious
Full of strength, love and wisdom
Without you I am nothing
I am indebted to you, my dear 'mom'

Deependra Kumar Jha

A quiet New Year

Few days back,
The new year came
without knocking on the door
with utter silence
carrying regrettable legacy of its past

I gave heed to the muteness
and woke up early
I wanted to greet him
with loud music, firecrackers
and new resolutions

I did not see him coming
yet, he was standing alongside
with distressed look and wan grin
I stunned into silence
I had waited so long for him to come

I checked through the window
The sun had yet not risen
and sky appeared so gloomy
I recalled the promises
that I had made
when we met last time
To better myself
and try to help realize my dreams
Dreams of peace and harmony
I had resolved last time to
Encourage more and criticize less
Feed more and need less
Enjoy more and regret less

So, was he furious with me?
reminding me of my duties and commitments?
'It's not only you' he uttered
There are many who only talk
and their actions give me shock
They allege 'there is nothing new about me'
Over the years, I have lost my charm
The reception that I get is no longer warm
Yet, I keep coming to remind all
that life is a circle
Good and bad times follow each other
There is always a January after December

I apologized and pledged
to keep my promises this time
I switched on my TV set
News of recession and terror
People killing each other
A leader appeared on the screen
and spoke about ethics

Suddenly, a breaking news flashed
that the new year had begun
Behind the firecrackers and loud music,
I saw him giving an anxious smile
yet waving hands in appreciation

Deependra Kumar Jha

A stranger in my mirror

Today,
I saw someone in my mirror
with distressed look,
tired face
and strange reflections
What floored me was,
he appeared like me
I have followed him for years
He has seen me off every morning
beckoning hands in expectation
He has greeted me with smile,
and essayed to wash away
the mournfulness
& the feeling of failures

Ain't it the same mirror,
hanging on the wall mutely,
always showing my reflections?
For years,
I have witnessed a beaming face in it
someone with whom,
I have shared all my felicities
and the moments of despair
I have felt in him,
all my gratifications & anxieties
But, his face looked strange today
seems,
the mirror has kiboshed showing
my contemplations
Though, a sculpture still appears inside,
why can't I see into his eyes today?

I contemplated once again
Why I see myself as an alien today?
Is it because of,
The selfishness that forced me
to sacrifice the moral values?
or the laziness that encouraged me
to shy away from social responsibilities?
or the foolishness that inspired me
to compromise my principles?
or the carelessness that impelled me
to disobey the spiritual notions?

Something has changed for sure
I don't know,
what caused change in me?
I ask the stranger in the mirror
Is it only me?
If I have changed,
so has the rest of world!
why should I feel embarrassed?

The stranger reacted impotently,
'If you have no courage to see a mirror,
how can you stand tall among others? '

Deependra Kumar Jha

Can't I change?

One hazy morning, with a cup of tea in hand
I thought, why I can't change the world?

I am not a philosopher,
so can't argue about good or bad
I am not an actor,
so can't pretend to smile when sad

I am not a politician,
so can't redefine the truth
I am not an astrologer,
so can't try to make lives smooth

I am not a reporter,
so can't fabricate a truth and cook
I am not a painter,
so can't give world a paradise look

But, why do I need any recognition?
I can simply change myself and inspire few others,
won't it be great if people treat 'the others' as brothers?

Deependra Kumar Jha

Don't give up

It's never easy to forget
past failures and heartaches
It's never simple to bury
the unrealized ambitions
but,
You can't go back
and create a new beginning
So move forward
and make a new ending

Dwelling on the past
Regretting inglorious last
Always bring frustration
Distort your emotion

Have a heart full of love
and hatred free mind
A sense of optimism,
desire and action combined

Fight your doubts away
Always make your own way
Do no harm and be fair
Never give up in despair

Deependra Kumar Jha

Don't you remember?

Even during the days of struggle between life & death,
we used to see love in each other's eye
Even during the days of mistrust & dissonance,
we used to see dreams of happiness in each other's eye
All round year - January through December,
Don't you remember?

Those slogans of equality & development
Enthusiasm to 'change' history & people's sentiment
You distributed 'dreams' in the eyes of many,
those speeches of prosperity & all-round improvement
With no bias to any caste & gender,
Don't you remember?

Though, struggle is still around,
I can't see dreams in your eyes now
With 'no' trust & togetherness around,
I can't see happiness in your eyes now

-
Over the death-bed of martyrs,
you created storm of change
but, it seems, you have changed yourself,
it's impossible to escape from people's lens
It's time to act, not to talk; don't think to surrender,
Don't you remember?

(A tribute to the prevailing political situation in NEPAL)

Deependra Kumar Jha

I don’t believe anymore

Worried citizen, fading morale
They broke the rules
But told me
They want us to feel happy
I still believed

Unrealized dreams, lost hopes
They killed the innocents
But told me
They want us to live long
I still believed

Helpless eyes, stressed folks
They extorted people
But told me
They want us to be rich
I still believed

Scared faces, empty streets
They wreaked havoc
But told me
They want us to feel safe
I still believed

Endless struggle, spiritless life
Thriving poverty, growing injustice
Caught in darkness
One day, my belief grew legs
And walked away

Deependra Kumar Jha

I want you to feel me

It’s a sleepless lonely night
I can’t stop thinking of you
If only you knew
How much I love you
Cold winds blowing around
I’m still awake
Out on the streets
Wandering willy-nilly
Chilled to the bone
Abandoned and alone

It’s a shivering dark night
But can’t freeze my feelings for you
If only you knew
How much I miss you
Up above the frosty sky
I see the sinking moon
Behind the clouds
Braving the winds
The moon resembled me
Desperate and deserted she

It’s a quiet empty night
But I can’t get hold of the silence
If only you knew
How much I need you
Memories keep floating back
I feel you in my heart
Entwined ten fingers
Scream in prayer
Sudden glitter of fireflies
Start making loud cries

I wonder,
If silence has ever been this loud
If night has ever been this empty
If life has ever been this illusive
Oh, my sweetheart!
I am in pain tonight
The sinking moon feels it
The freezing cold feels it
The vanishing cloud feels it
The dying star feels it
But when will you feel me?

Deependra Kumar Jha

I will miss you, my friend!

At a new place among unknown faces,
with unsure destiny
I came into your world,
with thousands of dreams in eyes
I recall my endless queries,
that gave you countless hassles
Now, as you set to go away,
I ask myself,
didn't I know you since eternity?

We laughed together in every success,
& cried together during failure
To help realize my dreams,
you didn't get enough sleep, for sure!
Thanks for all the wonderful memories,
should I have asked for more?

For that you are aiming higher,
I don't know if my best wishes help you
But, with new ambition & enthusiasm,
I too have great expectations from you

This place is no longer new to me,
but people! they are still the same,
& so are my dreams!
I wish, you will find someone like yourself,
I will miss you, my dear friend,
as you are so special to me, by all means!

Deependra Kumar Jha

I'm an alien

I'm an alien to myself,
Because, I often improvise my doings
I don't feel satisfied,
for whatever I have achieved
I don't stop at any point,
no matter how much resistance perceived

I'm an alien to my family,
Because, I am often misunderstood
I don't want to lead my life,
like a traditional business
I don't care about the definition of success,
that doesn't bring happiness

I'm an alien to the society,
Because, I often disapprove its norms
I don't discriminate people,
in the name of ideology, physique or possession
I don't love or hate people,
on the ground of color, language or religion

-

They all stand still and stare at me,
as if I am from a different galaxy
But if I'm an alien,
don't we need more aliens in the society?

Deependra Kumar Jha

Life's little precious moments

Things may change in just a flash,
so live the life on day-to-day
Endure everyday with passion,
as if it's the last turn of your way
Give a meaning to the life,
without holding back in fear
In the moments of happiness,
remember to leave space for a tear

Make plans and set the goal
Always listen to your soul
It's the journey not destination
That provides more gratification
Each day is a little life,
to live, to breathe, to wonder and desire
So don't wait for a special day,
to feel, to celebrate, to ponder and aspire

Life is like a hilly river,
from sinking banks to vanishing currents
Keep your feet firmly on ground,
don't let yourself controlled by the events
Dream big but appreciate smaller things,
make no regrets and harsh comments
In search of a miracle,
don't miss life's little precious moments

Deependra Kumar Jha

Love, life and death

In the mystical dark despair
Tight lips in a frozen prayer
Upset for what happened unfair
I saw her in a state rare

'What’s the problem? ' I urged to share
She screamed ‘it’s none of your affair’
In the moment beyond compare
I tried to unfold the hidden layer

'He broke my heart' she did stare
I want to die, but does he care?
He looks so peaceful lying there
But doesn’t realize my pain bare

I said 'living here is a difficult dare'
But, committing suicide is a selfish fare
Love and happiness are seldom in pair
No one gets everything in life, beware

Deependra Kumar Jha

My dreams and I

Up above the sky
In the faces of aloof stars
I see images of my dreams
Ever growing in stature
My aspirations
Larger-than-life

Sometimes, I wonder
whether I have devised my dreams
or dreams have invented me?
Years passed by,
among my endless dreams
a few came true
and many fell through
But, each of my dying dreams
gave birth to a new one
Though,
My hairs threaten to turn white now
and wrinkles tardily become possessive
My eyesight warns me of an eternal sunset
and smiles often betrays my true feelings;
yet, I dare to dream!
and wish to chase it
beyond the horizon

It's true!
I love chasing my dreams
I wanna catch up with
the flying butterflies
I wanna talk to my shadow
during the fading lights
I wanna hold forever
the illusive rainbows
And,
I wanna chase my dreams
until my own fantasies
take control of myself
and my desperations
make me feel that
'reality hurts'

Deependra Kumar Jha

My patience

Last night, I attended a funeral
It was death of my patience

It got 'infected' long time back,
I can't remember exactly when
May be, when the reform process,
got a set-back,
& nation was put to shame

From poll-tricks to politics,
the leaders kept on changing loyalty
'Opportunism' is on agenda,
national pride is not on priority

It's said that history repeats itself,
it seems, we are repeating the history
With un-natural collisions & dirty politics on,
leaders' interest is no longer a mystery

My patience could not take it anymore,
it was on bed rest & facing a tough fight
With overdose of conspiracy, betrayal & compromise,
It finally died last night

(A tribute to the prevailing political situation in NEPAL)

Deependra Kumar Jha

Sky is all yours

Yesterday’s gone
like disappearing clouds
like vanishing stars
like passing twilight
like fading moonlight

Leaving memories
of stress and fun
of rest and run
of hope and despair
of scare and care

It’s the time
to reflect on past glories
to bury bitter memories
to match a flowing stream
to catch the next dream

So, my friend!
grab with both hands
happiness is all yours
give wings to your dreams
sky is all yours

(Dedicated to one of my friends who is going to pursue his post graduation at a very reputed university. Wishing him a successful journey ahead.)

Deependra Kumar Jha

Someone's there

There's nothing more fulfilling
than coming home
Even when the whole world
shuts its door on you
Someone's there
who can't wait to see you
and to hold you in embrace
Find yourself there
Fall into the sweetest of dreams
and hope no one wakes you up

Deependra Kumar Jha

Talking to your silence

Sometimes, I see you in my dreams,
spreading lovely smiles,
as if you are watching me!
You look divine in your silence,
sitting on a magical mat
And telling me not to come home late,
always do this & never do that!

You taught me many things,
all in a caring way
Wonder why you decided to leave me,
as such I could not have even my final say
For everything you did to me,
I admire in appreciation everyday

I find you far away now,
as my voice does not reach to you
But, I wanna talk with your silence,
with tears rolling down my eyes,
I wanna make few promise to you
Once! only for the last chance,
please come to me,
so that I can say good-bye to you

(* Tribute to my loving grandmother who passed away fifteen years ago)

Deependra Kumar Jha

The middle-class people

In the pages of magazines & story-lines of TV channels,
I have always heard about the middle class people

What we are and where we belong (?)
disco & pop are replacing folk song
we talk about globalization at the cost of identity
while chasing endless dreams, meet harsh reality

In efforts to achieve esteem ambitions
people are forgetting culture & traditions
rich people do not have value for it,
& poor do not have time
it's the middle-class that carry weight of expectations

Deependra Kumar Jha

The wind

There is a wind behind everyone
It watches us,
whatever we do
It holds us,
whenever we woo
It chases us,
wherever we go
It's always around us,
however we may not know

There is a wind behind everyone
It's wonderful,
it's innocent
Though we never see it,
It's never ignorant
It blows the dark clouds away
and lightens our day
It understands our wishes
and demos our promises
It carries our ambitions
and knows our emotions

There is a wind behind everyone
It dries our tears,
whenever we cry
It conveys our impressions,
when we feel shy
It reminds us,
what's good and bad
It's always with us,
whether we're happy or sad

Deependra Kumar Jha

Unconditional love

Whenever I'm in need,
you always stood by me
In the times of trouble,
during the moments of despair
You say, you're my shadow,
that you will follow me forever

I love you so much,
but I hate shadows
Shadow grows and shrinks,
with fading light
I don't want you to,
ever disappear from my sight

You urge me to be practical,
and come out of my illusions
Be someone real and strong,
don't make castle of sands
As without a single warning,
life may slip from our hands

Nothing is timeless,
except the memories
Cherish every moment of togetherness,
and love without condition
because,
Love that comes with a reason,
may vanish with changing season

I agree with you as always
but do you listen to what my heart says?

Deependra Kumar Jha

What's your dream?

What’s your dream?
I asked a politician
He replied with arrogance,
I wish to overthrow this regime
and capture the power
Sitting in opposition bench
makes taste of life sour

What’s your dream?
I asked an actor
He replied with intelligence,
I wish to outsmart the legends
and create my own empire
Enjoy the limelight
till I grow mad or expire

What’s your dream?
I asked a sportsman
He replied with diligence,
I wish to break all the records
that have been made
No one should ever come
closer in the parade

What’s your dream?
I asked a common man
He replied with despondence,
I wish to collect my scattered dreams
love, career, family, friend
Days turned slowly into years
but wait doesn't seem to end

Deependra Kumar Jha

Why regret?

I've been dwelling around life for years
giving fake smiles and hiding tears
while searching for the miracle rays
got sleepless nights and restless days

I've been spending way too long
trying to figure out what went wrong
If I could re-live my past again
I would plan things to avoid the pain

I've been asking time after time
why my heart is not always mine
why at times, my head hangs low
why do I cry, I fail to know

I've been wondering if I know what to say
as years go by and time fades away
If all is in the future we can't see yet
for whatever we did, why regret

Deependra Kumar Jha

You make my day

Thinking about you
Makes my day

When stars twinkle in the sky
I think of your sparkling eyes
that never cease to amaze
When the full moon turns white
I think of your glowing face
that resembles of an angel
When warm wind blows
I think of your tender touch
that drives me crazy
When cherry blossoms bloom
I think of your lovely smile
that melts my heart

Talking about you
Makes my day

Green spring to blue summer
Brown autumn to white winter
Wherever I go, whatever I do
I can’t stop talking about you
My heart beats because of you
I pledge my love to forever be true
I beg you please don't go away
I love you more than words can say

If I could have just one wish
I like to fall deep asleep in your arms
Because,
Just being with you makes my day

Deependra Kumar Jha