

## Poetry Series

# Mark Hope

- poems -

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## **God Give | Me strength of a Vindaloo**

God give me the strength of a Vindaloo  
To order for the first time a Vindaloo  
My pals are expecting me to show I'm game  
God Vindaloo strength, lift up my name

I'll be seen as top man, if I swallow and chew  
This initiation dish, that so many spew  
I'll be able to say which pub we go next  
I'll be the first in the morning the others will text

God give me the strength of a Vindaloo  
The waiter is here, I'm in full view  
My pals are waiting to hear what I say  
Theres no way out, pray, pray pray

He's asked me to order, the tension is here  
I'll buy more time if I order more beer  
But I've already got two pints on the table  
God Vindaloo strength, help me show them I'm able

"Sir, can I take your order please"  
God Vindaloo strength, stop these knocking knees  
I stood up and shouted "CHICKEN VINDALOO"  
"IM A MAN AT LAST, YIPPERDEEDOO"  
"AND VINDALOO FOR MY PALS, THAT'S YOU, AND YOU TOO! "  
God Vindaloo strength I thank you  
Same again tomorrow  
When I need the loo

Mark Hope

## Life so far

When mam was pregnant with me  
She hoped for a little girl  
And all she got was another boy  
With a head full of curl  
For two years I was the youngest  
Till my little brother came  
And yes he's still the youngest  
And he's still a pain  
I was fourth in line for hand me downs  
My jumper was a thread  
My woolly hair was my pillow  
And the place I hid my ted  
At thirteen my mother died  
As I was watching Worzel  
My brothers and I shared all the chores  
My fingers stunk of persil  
At nineteen I left home to look for work down south  
The southern ears couldn't fathom, what was coming out my mouth  
I got a job in a factory, driving a forklift truck  
And lived with fifteen mackem lads  
They didn't give a...  
Penny to charity  
The day came I met my wife, I was homeless at the time  
I bought her Beefy Hula Hoops and half a glass of wine  
We fell in love got married  
And tried all ways for kids  
After six attempts of IVF  
We've now got lovely twins  
As I look back I wonder  
What it was all for  
Hopefully to be empathic, as a counsellor

Mark Hope

## Person Centred Theory Poem

Life starts like a jigsaw  
The pieces fit as one  
Before long its shaken, broken  
As lifes trials come along

Age and people affect me  
Saying how my picture should be  
I tried fitting the pieces as they wished  
But it didn't look like me

I felt restricted in this jigsaw  
Its my picture I wanted to regain  
I searched to find the right person  
Get my life on track again

I took my life  
My jigsaw  
To a person who seemed to care  
Helped me seperate the pieces  
Helped me plan what needed to go where

He understood me  
Accepted me  
My future is starting to form  
I know where to fit my pieces  
its as if I'm being reborn

Mark Hope

## Smiles with Piles

In my prayers last night  
I asked tomorrow to be full of smiles  
I was hoping that when I got up  
I'd experience disappearing piles  
The morning came, the paper came  
The toilet visit was just the same  
Oh well I thought, never mind  
Tonights prayers may be kind

Eating my breakfast was a chore  
Getting ready was a bore  
My childrens conversations always ended in  
"WHAT FOR! "  
Just as I thought my day, was to be mundane again  
The pain between by buttocks evolved  
And then it rained

Then as I left, something happened  
And changed the day for me  
The postman, usually grim looking  
Smiled and patted me  
Well that was nice, then wondered  
He's got a tax bill for me,  
It's the only time the postman smiles so happily

I went on and stopped, at the butchers shop  
As I looked through the window, I saw a smiling lamb chop  
This is absolutely ridiculous, I heard myself say  
Before returning the smile, and then went on my way

Random people smiled at me, I wanted to avoid  
This was getting too much for me I'm getting paranoid  
I think I'm having a breakdown, I need a friend where's Freud?  
Someone build me a wooden horse, I want to be Troyed

Silence...peace  
Then beeps brought me awake  
I was lying in hospital, offered tea and cake  
"The operation was successful, you haven't any piles"  
So my prayers did get answered,  
The day then was full of smiles

Mark Hope

## TEN POUND NOTE

I was five when mam left us  
But before she passed away  
She gave me a ten pound note  
For a coat on a rainy day  
But there was no coat which could last  
The rainy days I had to bear  
So I lent my money to my brother  
Who looked after me with care  
My brother spent the money  
Everywhere we went  
On things I didn't care about  
Like camping in a tent  
On bandages and soap  
And fishing in the river  
And chips when we were hungry  
To warm a bellies shiver  
He seemed to spend lots of money  
I wanted my money back  
I decided ten years later  
For I never bought that mac  
Brother where's my money now  
I loaned you long ago  
For years you've spent it carelessly  
But I still love you though  
He was sad as he looked at me  
Then he began to say  
I promised mam not to leave you  
Until your rainy day  
Its time to buy that coat now  
I'm leaving you today  
You've grown to be a fine young man  
But I must sail away  
Your note has never left me  
Its folded in my pocket  
It sits so very tightly  
In our mams silver locket  
Its your turn to keep it now  
Your note has kept us near  
Goodbye my little brother  
Let me wipe away your tear.

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