Poetry Series

Valerie Dohren

- 94 poems -

Publication Date:

August 2012

Publisher:

PoemHunter.Com - The World's Poetry Archive

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Valerie Dohren (13 January 1947)

Married, one daughter, retired NHS employee. Interests include classical music, birds, walking (not too far! !) , and of course, writing poetry.

…….. On Poetry

Such princely and linguistic feats
As penned by Shelley, Byron, Keats
Though rich and eloquently grand
Are oft` too deep to understand

Their thoughts expressed through poetry
In prose or perfect symmetry
Bewilder yet this humble mind
Their meaning, hidden, still to find

So if ungilded words convey
Each message that they would portray
Then simple verses should reveal
The inspiration that I feel

And thus may every scholar read
Between each line, their hearts to feed,
Unfolding there in simple style
This heart`s endeavour to beguile

Valerie Dohren

A Dream

Today I slipped into a dream
And saw a better world
A world of peace and gentleness
Before my eyes unfurled

And in my fantasy beheld
A vision of mankind
All set beneath a bow of fire
In glory full enshrined

His voice was singing so in tune
With all that was around
That such a heav`nly melody
Did o`er the earth resound

And all the hands that owned contempt
Were clasped together tight
To form a ring of unity -
`Twas such a splendid sight

Then all the eyes that never saw
How wondrous life could be
So glinted through the bow of fire -
It surely dazzled me

For all humanity became
As just one beating heart
Together joined in harmony
Thus no more set apart

At night he gazed upon the stars
By day towards the sun
To mingle with the fruitful earth
With all he was at one

Then all the trees bowed down in awe
All creatures danced and played
All flowers spread their petals wide
As `neath the sun they swayed

(But this was just a wistful dream
One that may never be
A vision in a saddened heart -
`Twas just a fantasy)

Today I slipped into a dream
And saw a better world
For here eight billion gemstones flashed
Which in her hair were purled

Valerie Dohren

A Response to Dylan Thomas

I shall 'go gentle into that good night'
I have no wish to 'rage, rage' rave and fight
But rather I would welcome
'The dying of the light'

For being wise I know that 'dark is right'
And old age yet shall seek for its delight
To behold 'the sun in flight'
And the fading of the light

Valerie Dohren

A Walk Through Paradise

I close my eyes to find a place
In diff`rent time and diff`rent space
And in imagination find
A cloistered arbour for my mind
Where thought may there be unconfined

Then in my dreams a path I take
As in a trance, yet wide awake,
To see the world with open eyes
Its glist`ning sands and azure skies -
I take a walk through Paradise

Suspended there reflecting deep
Where time is lost, immersed in sleep,
A sleep of ages long since passed
As on the sea of change were cast
All things which then were reckoned fast

Above all earthly cares to soar
Beyond the hurts I there endure
To see a sweet and perfect land
Where sunbeams dance upon my hand -
Where peace and love I understand

And there before my eyes I see
Such beauty that could never be
Revealed in places fixed below
As set before me all aglow
Such wonders ever outward flow

So on I walk beyond the veil
Where joys untold would e`er prevail
And through the mist of blindness see
Whatever be revealed to me -
In Paradise forever be

Valerie Dohren

After The Rain

After the rain the air is sweet
With glist`ning pools beneath my feet
Raindrops dripping down from the eaves
Teardrops slipping off shining leaves

And silken webs with crystals strung
Which span across the ivy hung
Around the trellised arbours green
A shimm`ring, luminescent scene

After the rain has kissed the earth
So Mother Nature brings new birth
Flowers to bloom with life anew
After the rain the sky is blue

After the rain comes a fresh dawn
After the rain new hope is born
After the rain has touched my soul
After the rain I shall be whole

Valerie Dohren

Alone

A single rose with thorny stem
On mother nature`s tattered hem
Which no-one cares to steal away
So left to wither and decay

And just one tear-dropp on the hand
Brushed upon the dusty sand
To be consumed into the earth
As one which has no lasting worth

There stands alone a single tree
No leaf upon it you will see
Beneath it grows no bush or flower
Empty, barren, silent bower

A lonely candle burning bright
Extinguished rudely in the night
Leaving shadows set behind
The shuttered windows in the mind

To tread a path that leads nowhere
(None to love, none to care)
A battered old grandfather clock
Marking time - tick tock, tick tock

A single petal on the bloom
A single chair, an empty room
A place of silent solitude
A place with loneliness imbued

I see a monolith of stone
A vision of the one - alone
A single soul alone to cry
A single soul alone to die

Valerie Dohren

Anima

Swift as lightning
Within confined
She weaves her spell
Into your mind

Sweetly whisp`ring
The siren`s muse
Hear her, see her
You can`t refuse

Her soft caress
You`ve always known
Seek her, take her
To be your own

She won`t leave you
She`s always there
Try to shun her
If you would dare

Tearing into
Your very soul
You must love her
Until you`re whole

Valerie Dohren

Annihilation

No more rhythm, no more rhyme
Out of step and out of time
The planets in their orbits falter
Our destiny we fail to alter
Moving on towards the end
Still we do not comprehend
That through the earth`s contamination
We`ll set our own extermination

No more hope and no more light
Through the darkness of the night
The sun in all her glory waning
The stars as burnt-out beacons fading
On and further on we go
Dark and darker yet to grow
The pathway to obliteration
And then complete annihilation

Valerie Dohren

Aquarius

The Fish are dying
Polluted our crystal clear waters
Our once green valleys, choked and grey
With the debris of living
Lost is all Virginity
And the orbs clamber through space, gasping for breath

The trees are lifeless
Wilted the flowers
Only their deathly form remains
Impinged upon my soul - I grieve
For nature`s stolen life

Yet now a new Age dawns amidst the turmoil
Promise of a Golden Age for man
(Insensitive automaton)
And everywhere the cry:
'Big Brother is watching you'
'BIG-BRO-THER-IS-WATCH-ING-YOU'

Valerie Dohren

Beauty

I saw the face of beauty fixed
Upon the rising sun
Beyond all mortal compliment
Her loveliness there shone

Within the constellations set
Against the heav`nly realm
She glittered `cross the universe
My heart to overwhelm

The Seven Sisters ne`er could light
All heaven like her smile
Nor Aphrodite`s sweetest face
The spirit to beguile

Then here beneath the starry dome
She rests upon the land
Encaptured by the glist`ning streams
And meadows, broadly spanned

And lying thus in fields of green
With flowers in her hair
The benediction of her charms
Is full beyond compare

She dances like a pearly wraith
Upon the crested waves
So comely bound in all that which
Imagination craves

Her voice is likened to the song
The Mousai sing at dawn
Whilst sunlight does her aspect grace
In golden fields of corn

May beauty steal my eyes away
From all the darkness veiled
And grant to me her precious gift
`Gainst which all else is paled

O beauty shall you hearken thus
My joy forever be
For beauty dwells within the soul
As beauty is to me

Valerie Dohren

Better To.... Rather Than....

Better to make someone smile
Rather than make them cry

Better to feed someone happiness
Rather than feed their misery

Better to always give
Rather than always take

Better to dance in the rain
Rather than weep under the sun

Better to pay a compliment
Rather than criticise

Better to be humble
Rather than be arrogant

Better to kiss someone
Rather than slap them in the face

Better to take care of wildlife
Rather than let it perish

Better to see beauty
Rather than see ugliness

Better to forgive
Rather than hold grudges

Better to catch the arrows
Rather than release them

Better to feed the land
Rather than let it become barren

Better to help those in need
Rather than turn away

Better to be thoughtful
Rather than be thoughtless

Better to celebrate life
Rather than complain

Better to see your glass as half full
Rather than as half empty

Better to look up to the stars
Rather than look down into the mud

BETTER TO LOVE

RATHER THAN TO HATE

Valerie Dohren

Birds Eye View

Looking down through misty spheres
To visit wondrous lands
Hewn through time, through endless years,
Green fields and golden sands

With glist`ning spreads of sapphire blue
Unfolding `neath my gaze
Then lofty heights of sombre hue
Ascend through misty haze

Beneath the soft and feathered clouds
Rise peaks of emerald green
All topped above with twisting shrouds
Of mist, their tips unseen

And golden plains reach wide and long
To sparkle in the sun
So to be licked by silv`ry tongues
With threads of silk unspun

Then hov`ring over range and heath
Where roaming creatures dwell
As veils of purple stretch beneath
Enrobing dale and fell

(And yearning, hopeless, specks of dust
Behind confining walls
Beset with envy, greed and lust
Chase dreams in concrete halls)

To fly where beams of gleaming light
On icy rises play
Where fields of pure and dazzling white
Meet deeps of steely grey

And here green curtains hang above
The apex of the world
Dancing as two wrapped in love
With glorious beauty swirled

Then soaring high, beyond, to go
Above all, looking down
At this `blue marble` set below
In her black velvet gown

Valerie Dohren

Bright Flame

My love, my love, no scented flower
Could smell so sweet there in my bower -
No stars could e`er adorn the night
Nor sun, nor moon, e`er shine so bright
As that which brings me love`s delight

For that which brings me love`s delight
Shines forth from you to feed my sight -
A love that never shall depart
A tender longing to impart
Bright flame that burns within my heart

Bright flame that burns within my heart
O let us not be set apart -
Stay close my love, a vigil keep
Upon my soul, which slumbers deep
So deep as in eternal sleep

So deep as in eternal sleep
That I no more shall ever weep -
O love that shines within your eyes
A love that neither wilts not dies
A love that nothing e`er denies

A love that nothing e`er denies
The greatest gift, the greatest prize
That I shall cherish through all time
Shall so extol as bells that chime
My love for you is so sublime

My love for you is so sublime
That nought there is I could not climb -
You are the angel by my side
Forever there shall you abide
My light, my heart, my flowing tide

My light, my heart, my flowing tide .....

Valerie Dohren

Calm Be The Soul

Calm be the soul
Full bathed in sunlight
Soft be the heart
That dwells on love
Still be the mind
That thinks of kindness
Bright be the eyes
That search above

Feared be the soul
Full bathed in darkness
Sad be the heart
That dwells on woe
Grieved be the mind
That thinks of hatred
Dull be the eyes
That search below

Calm be the soul.....

Valerie Dohren

Can You See

Can you hear a gentle breath
Through fields of golden corn

Can you hear the willow shed
Her tears of dew at dawn

Can you hear a baby cry
A baby yet unborn

Shall you touch a drifting cloud
Floating `cross the skies

To swiftly touch the dancing flames
Reflected in your eyes

And so to touch a ray of light
As o`er the land it flies

And shall you speak of distant dreams
And of life`s turning wheels

Shall you speak of that great love
The veil of death conceals

Shall you speak of thine own self
That truth alone reveals

Where hangs the perfume of a rose
Before it comes to bloom

And where the fragrance of the night
Your spirit to consume

Should e`er the scent of beauty fade
Then will we sleep too soon

Can you see the smallest star
Refulgent in the night

Can you see a butterfly
Flash by you, fast in flight

Can you see the spark of truth
Behold glorious light

Valerie Dohren

Captain Cur ..... (Limerick)

There was a ship`s Captain called Cur
A pirate so extraordinaire
He was hell-bent
On the Malevolent
To coddle his Pirate Girl`s pair (oops! ... I mean hair)

Valerie Dohren

Come My Love

Sweetest heart of all design
Shall you ever yet be mine
Come, my love, and dance with me
In my arms you're meant to be

Greet me with your gentle smile
Tease me so as to beguile
Come, my love, and sing with me
Always then in harmony

Take my hand and hold me near
Set me free from all I fear
Come, my love, and dream with me
In a world of reverie

Seize each moment while we may
Every hour of every day
Come, my love, and walk with me
By my side forever be

Valerie Dohren

Crimson River

A crimson river, labyrinthine flows
Down streams traversing sinister terrains
And onwards drifts along the path of life
Through myriad courses, rivulets, and veins
Along a way that takes it to the heart
Then on to where the ring of love remains

A crimson river weaving through your mind
That twists and turns one billion-fold therein
To search out all the feelings that you feel
Plus all the memories that lie within
To raise a train of thought that is sublime
Of dreams, imagination set to spin

Valerie Dohren

Each One.....

Each one gives, each one takes
Sometimes loves, then foresakes

Each one wins, each one fails
Weighs the cost, tips the scales

Each to come, each to go
Rising high, sinking low

Each one came, each one left
Hearts to bind, hearts bereft

Each one laughs, each one cries
Each one lives, each one dies

Valerie Dohren

Earthquake

Ground lurching, cracking
banging, buildings tumbling
bridges swaying
land cloven
crumbling crust

Earth shaking -

- turning into tembling body
Nowhere to run - falling

Valerie Dohren

Eastwards

At the start of each day, turn your eyes eastwards
and you will see the sky slowly open up her heart
to reveal a mighty dazzling orb, shimmering in the
morning mist.

Then look into your own heart to see if you can catch
a glimpse of its reflection there. If you can, then
you have, for a brief moment, touched eternity.

If you don`t see it, then close your eyes and keep
trying so that one day you surely will, and its beauty
will be so great that you will never ever turn away.

Valerie Dohren

Eclipse

Whilst gazing up towards the sky
I saw a wondrous sight
For in the beauteous heavens above
The day turned into night

The moon was dancing with the sun
Fixed in a long embrace -
A lovely courtship had begun
Up there in silent space

Suspended high in dark display
As one, entwined in love
Against the black and sombre sky
Their backdropp set above

They kissed so long and tenderly
Wrapped in a sweet romance -
Before my eyes they ballet`d in
A graceful cosmic dance

The darkened skies then set a scene
A truly splendid thing
As from their heav`nly union shone
A shimm`ring diamond ring

The daylight then returned in full
As, slow, they moved apart
Their marriage thus surrendered to
Reveal the sun`s bright heart

Valerie Dohren

Enigma

I wonder how it came to be
This thing, and how it baffles me
The reason why I can`t pretend
I simply cannot comprehend

I scratch my head and pout my lips
Then place my hands upon my hips
Round and round the room I pace
With crumpled brow and puzzled face

From dawn `til dusk it fills my head
Until it`s time to go to bed
Then lie awake `til break of day
This problem will not go away

Deep in thought my hair I twiddle
If only I could solve this riddle
Some resolution I must find
To pacify this troubled mind

Perplexed, bewildered and nonplussed
To find the answer, then I must
Dissect this thing which bothers me
The truth of it that I might see

That`s it I shout, but then again
The reason why I can`t explain
For as I analyse the clues
There is no answer to this ruse

Valerie Dohren

Epiphany

'Eureka' Archimedes cried.

'I see' says me.

Valerie Dohren

Feelings

Feelings drift like echoes
Through the hollows of the mind
Touching all the senses
As there within defined

Tenderly they flutter
As petals in the breeze
And sweetly do they chirrup
Like birdsong in the trees

Or they clap as thunder
To rent your soul apart
Searing as a knife wound
Into your fragile heart

Through all time they linger
And deep within remain
Bringing tears or laughter
As happiness or pain

Valerie Dohren

Great Eagle

Great eagle spread your golden wings
Above the world, my load to bear
Transport me to the realm of kings
That I may find some solace there

Across the wooded land to fly
Then mingle with the salted air
Where`er the silver seagulls cry
To thus relinquish all despair

With breeze as sweet as ether`s breath
Empyreal, above compare
Oh carry me to mystic death
Celestial beauty shining fair

Go forth where all good souls are free
Above, beyond, without a care
Unchained from all that captures me
My heart to tether and ensnare

Great eagle spread your golden wings
Ascend upon the starlit stair
To so unbind above all things
This leaden heart, unmasked, laid bare

Valerie Dohren

Heaven and Hell

Heaven...

We speak of doves and cherubims
Of angels chanting mystic hymns
With shimm`ring, swirling mists of night
Enshrouding souls in heav`nly flight

Then wait in hope that all shall find
Eternal peace for humankind -
Beyond the stars, this holy place,
We think to gaze upon His face

Yet here in life my soul is real
Within this heart, to love to feel
The splendour of man`s richest prize
The gift of life, where here it lies

It`s not beyond, but `neath the skies
Reflected in two lovers` eyes
It lingers in their tender kiss
Within their arms entwined in bliss

It`s present in each flow`ring rose
In every living thing that grows
Embracing every baby`s birth
It`s not above, it`s here on earth

And if you look you`ll see it clear
Within the things you hold most dear
Pervading every kindly deed
That satisfies each human need

It`s not a far and distant place
Reserved for those bestowed with grace
Immersed in every single breath
It`s found in life, not after death

And Hell...

The serpent lies in wait, we fear
The pangs of death e`er drawing near
For those whose lives have not been pure
This place, accursed, they must endure

Set deep within the earth`s sweet light
We speak of hell`s eternal night
Engulfing all possessed of sin
So dark, this evil place within

Yet through this broken heart, I know
It`s not some place that lurks below
It`s here in life, in every cry,

In every tear, in every lie

It`s found in every human pain
O`er every evil deed to reign
Concealed in all the things we fear
It`s not beneath the earth, but here

You`ll find it in each starving child
Within each living thing defiled
By man`s foul deeds, it lingers on
`Til every spark of truth is gone

And satan`s gift sure has a price,
The cost is pain and sacrifice
Of love, of joy, of peace divine
In eyes so blind, no more to shine

The devil`s fires don`t burn beneath
The earth, you`ll find no gnashing teeth -
War-torn children will tell you well
Where lash the raging flames of hell!

Valerie Dohren

How Lovely

How lovely is the summer breeze
That whispers through the leafy trees
Then graceful drifts across the land
Through blades of grass yet gently fanned

How beautiful are eyes that shine
With joy and peace, and love divine
To thus enchant each sorrowed heart
With benediction to impart

How wonderful the evening mist
(Within its veil two lovers kissed)
Then o`er the land to linger there
As wraith-like curtains in the air

Amazing are the birds that sing
So elegant upon the wing
Above and in the sky so sweet
Then softly each new day to greet

How blissful is the fireside glow
Whilst all about is set with snow
To feel its warmth upon your face
As if enwrapped in love`s embrace

Magnificent the mountain stream
Cascading down to pastures green
Glistening in the noon-day sun
As threads of gossamer unspun

How sweet the scent of autumn rain
To drench the land which so again
Replenishes the arid earth
And brings all things again to birth

How glorious, how wonderful,
How beautiful, adorable
Life`s pleasures such as these to know
Which through our lives forever flow

Valerie Dohren

I

Her breast was warm and tender was her face
Secure was I within her long embrace
Protected from the pain of human care
It seemed that I was ever part of her

But then I stirred awakened by the dawn
The time had come at last and I was born
The sun shone brighter than I`d seen before
I looked around and she was there no more

Then from hell`s kingdom sprang a raging fire
To fill my heart with longing and desire
Within my mind I knew that I was I
A thousand times to live, a thousand times to die

(Oh who was he who tore me from her breast
And left me here to weep with grief possessed
To wander through earth`s shadows I alone
Yet seeking him through whom I must atone)

Her tears as rain spilled down upon the earth
To soothe away the pain of mortal birth
And `neath the waters glowed the sun`s pure light
Through softly fading shadows of the night

(Where earth meets heaven dwells the sacred dove
And there I seek to find his perfect love
The sun will shine e`er brighter than before
In death`s abode when I am I no more)

Valerie Dohren

I Am A Mystery

My mother is the mountain
Sweet ether is her breath
Born of words unspoken
Was I, in tenderness

I know not where I am
Nor what I'm meant to be
I cannot comprehend
I am a mystery

Valerie Dohren

I Am.....

I am the wind that blows in your hair
I am the joy in the smile that you wear

I am the grass that cushions your feet
I am the rose with her perfume so sweet

I am the rainbow spanning the skies
I am the teardrops that fall from your eyes

I am your candle with flickering flame
I am the language that speaks out your name

I am the birdsong high in the trees
I am the snowflakes that float in the breeze

I am the ripples you see in the streams
I am the essence of each of your dreams

I am the sound of rustling leaves
I am the thread that each silkworm weaves

I am the fire that burns in your soul
I am the shadow o`er mountains to roll

I am the blood that runs through your veins
I am the bright moon that waxes and wanes

I am the sun that shines in the sky
I am the breath exhaled in your sigh

I am the land and I am the sea
I am all that you want me to be

I am your soul..... I am not me

Valerie Dohren

I`m Sure I Heard The Earth Cry

Whilst standing on a hilltop high
I heard the strangest sound
It echoed through the valleys
And drifted o`er the ground

It murmured, wistful, in the stream
And whispered through the trees
Still and lingering in the caves
Soft ushered by the breeze

I felt a stirring in my breast
A pain within my heart
Which filled me with great sorrow
And tore my soul apart

I`m sure I heard the earth cry, deep
Within my fettered mind
A haunting voice inside me
Spoke through these eyes so blind -

'I`ve cradled every one of you
In tenderness, so pure and true
Protecting each from pain and strife
A beauteous haven for your life'

'To nurture you is all I know
Helping each to live and grow
As kindred souls upon this sphere
As one, in peace, and free from fear'

'And yet you choose to torture me
Destroy my land, defile my sea
With hate, and ever growing greed
You trample down each tiny seed'

Then as the rain, like tears, spilled down
I heard her sad lament
Resounding through the universe
Such fearful discontent -

'Oh when will man, with open eyes,
Behold the splendour in the skies
To gently spread a healing hand
Across my hurt and ravaged land'

'And when will he become the balm
To hold my troubled waters calm
And soothe my trembling countenance
Upon my fields to laugh and dance'

This dream, with your, I hold within
Sweet earth, for this I know

That if we choose to tread this path
Then love will cease to grow

And step by step each passing day
Will take us surely on
Towards the end of glory, and
Towards the dying sun

Valerie Dohren

If

If man would pause to meditate
To look within and seek to find
The treasures locked inside himself
In deeper levels of his mind

Then silently to comprehend
In tranquil, contemplative mood
The spark of love and peace divine
In calm and blissful solitude

And if perchance his consciousness
Should grow enough to let him see
A vision of a greater love
A flicker of humanity

Then maybe he could learn to live
In peace with each and every one
And strive towards a better life
When every cry of hate is gone!
..... When every cry of hate is gone!
..... When every cry of hate is gone!
..... When every cry of hate is gone!

Valerie Dohren

If I Had Ever Lived Before

If I had ever lived before
What would I then have been
As a pauper low and poor
Or as a noble Queen

Would I have lived in gilded halls
Or walked the streets in rags
Owned portraits hung on silken walls
Or humble canvas bags

And did I dine at tables grand
With diamonds in my hair
Or walk bare-foot upon the sand
Just memories to share

But whate`er I might have been
Of this much I am sure
That rather than be rich and mean
`Tis better to be poor

Valerie Dohren

Imagination

O step into a wondrous world
Where visions beautiful are hurled
As through imagination`s play
All thoughts then drift so far away
As sweet illusions to portray

Behind reality`s dark face
Is veiled a bright empyreal place
Where fantasies are captured there
And dreams are evermore laid bare
Magnificent beyond compare

Whilst portraits flicker in the mind
With sounds sublime there too entwined
In still`ed contemplation bound
The dancing chimera resound
Through every thought and all around

So, fanciful, the mind ascends
Through maze-like paths it ever wends
To wander into realms extant
That captivate and so enchant
Imagination`s wish to grant

O step into this glorious world
Where there all dreams be yet unfurled
Then dance with joy and sweet delight
To witness soft in mystic flight
Illusions beauteous to your sight

Valerie Dohren

Infatuation

Bedazzled by the burning sun
Enchanted by the moon
Enamoured by your loving kiss
Enraptured all too soon

So captivated by your charms
You took my breath away
It seemed that I could never live
Without you through each day

But swiftly as it came to be
Yet quickly it did pass
For now those stormy passions felt
Lie crushed as shattered glass

The flame that leapt within my heart
Is now a dying ember
And as I look into your eyes
That flame I can`t remember

Valerie Dohren

Into The Deep

Falling slowly into the deep
Slipping away from me
Falling yet through the bounds of time
Back to reality

Where worlds collide and disappear
Where all is calm and still
And so to be in perfect peace
Our purpose to fulfil

Falling slowly into the deep
Passing through layers of me
Watching, waiting for all that is
To see, to know, to be

Then with the coming of the dawn
To watch the rising sun
Growing brighter and brighter still
`Til all are joined as one

Falling slowly into the deep
Towards eternity
Slipping away from all that is
Into the shining sea

Valerie Dohren

Is That Okay.....

Oh fare thee well
I`m off to hell -
A place may be
Reserved for me

But then, I smile,
I`ll wait awhile -
In case there`s space
In heaven`s place

But then, maybe
There`s nowhere free -
So here I`ll stay
Is that okay?

Valerie Dohren

Jewels

White diamonds sparkle in the sand
And speckle darkened skies
Green em`ralds flash in glist`ning seas
Then glint in envious eyes

Blue sapphires dance in wand`ring streams
To shine in summer`s hue
With amethyst in heather set
In lavender there too

Bright rubies sway in poppy fields
To glow in fires of red
Are captured in the flow of blood
From heroes lying dead

Then pearls so lustre in the clouds
As through the sun defined
Whilst topaz sets my heart aglow
In fields of corn entwined

The golden lambent sunshine glows
When risen high at noon
With misty robes of silver then
Soft draped around the moon

Such beauty lingers `pon the earth
On mother nature`s gown
These burnished jewels yet deeply set
In her adorning crown

Valerie Dohren

Joy

To feel the sun upon my face
The dew beneath my feet
The soft and gentle summer breeze
Her perfume oh so sweet
And winter`s chill to complement
The scorching summer`s heat

With raindrops dancing on my hands
The trickling rambling stream
That glints below the shining sun
Like diamonds as they gleam
And then a spread of bluebells `neath
A brightly spanned sunbeam

So sing sweet bird upon the bough
And joyous be your song
To fill my heart with pure delight
Amidst the daily throng
Such joys as these can e`er be found
For all the day is long

Valerie Dohren

Karma

Alone I tread through this strange land
Seeking for a helping hand
Fettered by the cares I`ve earned
From lessons I have left unlearned

I`ve spun my fate but spinning still
My destiny, yet to fulfill
Find through lessons I have learned
That peace profound which I have earned

Valerie Dohren

King Big Head ..... (Limerick)

There once was a guy called King Big Head
Who tried very hard for PH cred`
But his poetry`s grim
`Cause he`s really quite dim
So go get a new life ... instead! !

Valerie Dohren

Knock, Knock

(A lament for all)

Knock, knock, is anyone there
Someone to love me, someone to care
Someone to hold me, my problems to share
Knock, knock, is anyone there

Knock, knock, can anyone see
See how this life is troubling me
See how I yearn to let go and be free
Knock, knock, can anyone see

Knock, knock, can anyone hear
Anyone list`ning, anyone near
With sweet words to whisper, soothing my fear
Knock, knock, can anyone hear

Knock, knock, on where are you now
Where have you gone, I need you somehow
Where are your kisses to soften my brow
Knock, knock, oh where are you now

Knock, knock, don`t cast me aside
Reach out and find the pain that`s inside
See, my friend, see how much I have cried
Knock, knock, don`t cast me aside

Knock, knock, if only you knew
My heart is breaking, breaking in two
Please be there for me as I am for you
Knock, knock, if only you knew

Knock, knock, can anyone.....
Knock, knock, can.....
Knock, knock.....
Knock.....
Knock...

Valerie Dohren

Lacrimosa

1

I saw the teardrops in their eyes
Which filled my sorrowed heart with pain
I pray sweet children of this earth
Such tears I ne`er shall see again

For I would set the world at rest
If such was e`er within my reach
That peace would ever be the way
To bring true love and joy to each

2

I saw the teardrops on your face
The world has thought to make you weep
So now, my dearest, close to you
A vigil I shall ever keep

To mend and thus to ease your pain
And so caress your weary mind
Shall be my deepest wish for you -
For you as well as all mankind

3

I felt the teardrops on my lips
Their salted taste my heart despaired
As witnessed I those fettered souls
Upon this earth, so full ensnared

O that I could the balm become
To soothe all those who grieve`eth so
And bring sweet solace to each one
That happiness is all they know

4

Then as towards the heav`ns I gazed
The tears of angels glistened high
Upon the stars, as night-time`s glow
Against the darkened moonlit sky

All heaven`s complement did weep
So wretch`ed was their sad lament
For all the heartache of the world
Which ever brought such discontent

Too many tears the world has wept
Too many hearts are lost and torn
Too many souls with sorrow veiled -
May all in gladness be reborn

Valerie Dohren

Lament

Cradled deep in my mother`s womb
My soul and hers entwined
With each heart beating soft and low
Two lives in one combined

I heard the murmur of her voice
And felt her gently sway
As tenderly she carried me
Within her through each day

She bore me as a mother will
In joyfulness and pain
And held me close against her breast
My life there to sustain

And though my newborn eyes were dim
My senses yet unfurled
I gazed upon her loveliness
My life, my heart, my world

(I`ve ne`er beheld a smile so sweet
Nor yet a face so fair
A vision hewn from misted pearl
With eyes beyond compare)

I felt her love envelop me
Protective as I grew
Oh she was everything to me
Was all I ever knew

And through my childhood`s magic years
Of innocence and light
No clouds were there to hide the sun
No everlasting night

But then she chose to end her life
(The misted pearl waxed grey)
And the liquefaction of her soul
Left mine to fade away

(If only I could see her now
And touch her once again
Then I would surely be reborn
Slip back from whence I came)

Valerie Dohren

Let Me Not Your Heart E`er Break

Oh let me not your heart e`er break
Nor yet your joy to steal
For I would not your love forsake
Nor mine own heart conceal

If in my palm I held your soul
Tight-closed my hand would be
Then I would e`er your life extol
And keep you safe with me

My love will dance upon your heart
To bring you sweet delight
From you I ne`er will ever part
Nor free you from my sight

Forever you will be my love
Until all time shall cease
Together `neath the stars above
And after death`s release

Valerie Dohren

Lilith

The Garden blossoms well, my dear,
As there you wait for me
But do not think to take my soul
I will not bow to thee

And I will sit beyond, my dear,
(The Dark Moon high above)
One hundred buds each day shall die
Before I give my love

This flower to your call won`t bend
Nor will I lie beneath
For from the earth, as you, I came
I`ll bear no bridal wreath

The Garden blossoms well, my dear,
The mirror calleth me
The Other World shall be my home
Throughout eternity

(For readers who may not be familiar with the story of Lilith, may I suggest that you research it on the internet - this will clarify the meaning of this poem) - Val D

Valerie Dohren

Little Children Lost

Butterflies, sweet butterflies
Laughter lighting up their eyes
For now they`ve gone to Paradise

Do they dance and do they play
Upon the stars so far away
Whilst watching o`er the ones who pray

And can they see, or are they blind
Lost to love and humankind
The unconstrained and unconfined

Are they dark or are they fair
With dusky eyes or golden hair
Like feathers floating in the air

And do they weep or do they sing
Fly with angels `pon the wing
Joyously or suffering

For`er to dwell in shining streams
Lost to life and lost in dreams
All lost forever now it seems

Lost in space and lost in time
But not in prose and not in rhyme
For still they dwell in thought sublime

And are they cold or are they warm
Whispering softly through the storm
But quiet now, the born unborn

Round, round and around they go
Backwards, forwards, to and fro
Swinging high and swinging low

Only those who love them know

Valerie Dohren

Little Hearts

Little hearts soft cast in gold
With eyes of azure blue
Smiles so lovely to behold
With tears as morning dew

Dainty hands like buds unfurled
Reach out to touch your lips
Shell-styled ears yet softly whorled
And tiny finger tips

Soft and tender in your arms
And warm as summertime
Set with sweet and endless charms
Endearing and sublime

They gurgle, chuckle, pout and cry
Throughout each passing day
Joyful in their cots they lie
To ease the time away

They, the future of this earth
Bring hope for everyone
Celebrate each baby`s birth
Each daughter and each son

Little hearts yet meek and mild
So innocent and pure
O to live life as a child
Who`er could ask for more

Valerie Dohren

Little Yellow Flowers

Little yellow flowers
Dancing in the breeze
Little yellow flowers
Huddled round the trees
Little yellow flowers
Seemed to know my pain
Little yellow flowers
In my mem`ry will remain

Valerie Dohren

Lost Memories

Lost memories I seek to find
In dusty caverns of my mind
To travel those abraded trails
To lift those misty tattered veils
As set through time, where thought prevails

And if perchance this worn terrain
Shall yet such memories contain
That I may see anew the day
And witness yet again the way
The light upon the earth shall play

Then hear once more with richer sound
The songs of nature all around
And know with senses, fresh imbued
The pleasures of this life, renewed
Whilst mellowed thoughts for`er preclude

Then shall I not, with dim recall,
My heart to wonder and enthrall
And ne`er again such dreams as these
To capture in a passing breeze
Imagination to appease

To feel again that first embrace
That first sweet kiss upon my face
And tender words again to hear
To comfort me, and stay my fear
From he who yet I still hold dear

But time will ever take its toll
The passing years subdue my soul
As dulled my eyes, no more to see,
No more rejoice in reverie
Ah, albeit just fleetingly

Yet wait, do I now hear the call
(Away the misty veil to fall)
Away, away, all sorrow chase
With wondrous beauty to replace
For now, I deem to see the face.....

..... Eternity will e`er embrace

Valerie Dohren

Meditation

What golden ecstasies we`d find
Within the chasms of the mind
Between each passing thought, we`d see
That boundless realm - infinity
Where space is not and time is not
And earthly cares long since forgot
We`d step a moment out of time
Embraced in restfulness sublime
And through nirvana`s gates flung wide
We`d see the flame that burns inside
With integrated mind and soul
No longer we, one with the whole

Valerie Dohren

My Muse She Died Today

Her ashen face upon the pillow lay
As then the light upon her hair did play
With sadness borne, my Muse, she died today

Her words did flicker with the dying light
O sorrow, sorrow, now shall be my plight
To ever seek her in the blackest night

No more to hear her whisper words of love
Nor inspiration sent from heav`n above
My empty mind and heart no more to move

O Muse, my Muse, in darkness now I `bide
My soul consumed forever by the tide
And how I long with thee to e`er reside

Where now to find the magic I once knew
When to my heart and soul she was so true
O gone forever her encircling hue

O Muse, my Muse, I beg for your return
That in my thoughts you yet again shall burn
O Muse, my Muse, for you I`ll ever yearn

Valerie Dohren

Next Time

Next time (if I get the chance)
I will take a different stance
Yes, try to be what I am not
And so below unfold my plot) ...

Next time I`ll not turn a cheek
Next time, I shall not be weak
No, next time I won`t weep and wail
For next time round I will not fail

Next time I shall not be late
Next time I won`t hesitate
No, next time I`ll not flounder long
Yes, next time I`ll be sure and strong

Next time I won`t be so small
Next time I`ll walk proud and tall
And next time I won`t hide my face
For next time I will have my place

Next time I shall get it right
Next time I will shout and fight
For next time It won`t be the same
Yes, next time I will win the game

Next time I won`t be afraid
And stay unnoticed in the shade
For next time I will be the one
To shine triumphant `neath the sun

Next time you will hear my voice
Next time, next time I will rejoice
For next time I`ll be brave and free
OH NEXT TIME, YES, JUST WAIT AND SEE! !

(Next time if I can I will
Be all these things, or better still
I`ll stay myself and be content
To live as now, indifferent)

Valerie Dohren

Night Birds

Upon the glow of evening mist
Beneath the darkened sky
Whilst gazing at the moonlight pale
I heard the night birds cry

(Beware, beware, all creatures small
O see, O see, the night birds fall)

The sweetest breaths of night`s descent
Upon my senses lie
As deep within my trembling heart
I saw the night birds fly

(Wide-eyed in the darkness searching
From the branches swiftly lurching)

In the gloom, full fledged, they watch
With stealth, and oh so sly,
I sensed them shrouded in the trees -
The night birds drawing nigh

(Look out, look out, my little friends
Lest now, O now, your journey ends)

Valerie Dohren

No More

Whene`er the birds no longer sing
The earth no more revolve
Then shall my silent heart take wing
And life shall thus dissolve

When all the stars no more to shine
The sun no more to burn
Then shall the earth no more confine
My soul, no more to yearn

When all the time of mortal birth
Shall cease, this soul set free
Shall soar beyond the still`ed earth
To touch eternity

Valerie Dohren

O Raging Wind

O wind, O raging wind
Come seize me in your flight
Then bear me on your wings
Through the dark realms of night
Blow, blow with all your might
Blow, blow with all your might

Carry me and raise me
So high above all things
In your swirling vortex
Where loud your voice there sings
Blow, blow O king of kings
Blow, blow O king of kings

N`er deem to steal my heart
Nor yet all hope abrade
For truth shall be my guide
Of you I`m unafraid
Blow, blow until you fade
Blow, blow until you fade

Valerie Dohren

Ode To A Lost Love

'Oh sweet breath of eternal life
Dance ever `pon her silent breast
Released from pain and worldly strife
The one I love is laid to rest'

Her flaxen hair, like golden corn,
Fell soft about her lifeless face
And round her shoulders to adorn
As limp she lay in death`s embrace

Still young, the bloom of youth today,
Her life had barely yet begun
But all too soon to fade away
No more to dance beneath the sun

No more to laugh in sweet delight
Nor skip through pastures wild and free
Nor hear the nightingales sing bright
In pure and perfect harmony

'I`ll ne`er forget her tender smile
Nor yet her face so sweet and fair
Her gentle kisses to beguile
I`ll cherish every thought of her'

The teardrops glistened on his cheeks
Like stars plucked from the darkened skies
He held her hand, no more to speak,
Then gently kissed her still, cold eyes

Valerie Dohren

Oh Heart Of Mine.....

Oh heart of mine don`t tarry long
Amongst the woeful earthly throng
Oh let me bide in worlds above
To feel that great celestial love

Oh heart of mine don`t linger here
To dwell in sadness, pain and fear
Relinquish yet the dark unknown
Think not to ever be alone

Oh heart of mine beat silently
That none may know, nor hear, nor see
How moves the sorrow hidden deep
To take my soul, to take my sleep

Oh heart of mine be still today
Let not your dreams be blown away
Do not be broken and forlorn
Tomorrow brings another dawn

Upon the wings of hope to fly
Above the clouds, beyond the sky,
To touch a land of peace divine
My spirit with the stars align

Valerie Dohren

Pink Ribbons

Pink ribbons span the evening sky
And trim your feathered bed
Now I will sing a lullaby
Lay down your sleepy head

You are the universal child
You, the child of the world
Born as to be yet sweet and mild
With hair that`s softly curled

The world has passed another day
The earth has turned again
The birds have seen you laugh and play
Betwixt the sun and rain

You are the universal child
You, the child of the world
By Mother Nature you are styled
In whom the rest are furled

The world has passed yet slowly by
The earth has turned in vain
For, sorrowing, it saw you cry
And felt your silent pain

You are the universal child
You, the child of the world
I pray you ne`er will be defiled
Nor fear at you be hurled

Valerie Dohren

Reflections

Behold the pregnant silvered moon
Full mirrored in the shimm`ring sea
And shining low at early dawn
The sun, as golden filigree

Reflecting in the dancing waves
To crown each glorious day anew
The sky a dazzling oriflamme
Soft glist`ning in the morning dew

And see above the drifting clouds
As o`er the land their shadows creep
Like ghostly spectres ling`ring `pon
The hills and valleys, nestling deep

Then hear the might oceans break
Against the rocks, so cold and grey,
Resounding `cross the des`late shores
To crash, untamed, then fade away

And as above then so below
The large reflected in the small
So too the all-pervading power
Lies deep in every living soul

Reflected in each beating heart
Each single atom, small yet vast,
And there within each grain of sand
The boundless universe is cast

And so the threads of thought unwind
Each fantasy, inspired to spin
Reflections of the inner self
Where all is still, so still within

Valerie Dohren

Saddleworth Moor

The wind blows so cold on Saddleworth Moor
Where the voice of a child is heard in the gloom
'I`ve slept here so long, I want to go home'
'Please take me back to my own little room'

As rain tumbles down on Saddleworth Moor
His voice can be heard in the depths of the night
Just one little boy who sleeps all alone
Seeks to be free from his sorrowful plight

Through all the darkness of grief and despair
For so many years his poor mother has cried
But never to find her dear little boy
On Saddleworth Moor where little Keith died

Such evil was wrought to five little souls
On Saddleworth Moor near five decades ago
These innocent children drawn to their deaths
The answer to 'why' we never will know

If I were an angel I`d find that dear child
On Saddleworth Moor where deep hidden he lies
No never to rest until he was found
To search every hillock beneath the blue skies

Brady and Hindley I hope will ne`er sleep
Nor find any peace for their deeds so grotesque
Winnie, Keith`s mother, has now passed away
And I pray that her soul has now come to rest

Yet still her heart beats on Saddleworth Moor
(Though death has now claimed her, the day is now done)
Forever and ever to search for her child
As in spirit she seeks to find her dear son

Valerie Dohren

Silence

O listen to the silence
So gentle everywhere
Hear it, quiet, whispering
Yet softly through the air

Silence bathes the soul in peace
As calm serenity
Speaking to the heart through love
To soothe and comfort thee

None shall e`er be set alone
Who yet shall heed its call
For deep within its murmurs
Enrapture and enthral

It speaks to all so sweetly
Its secrets to disclose
It speaks in verses rhyming
It speaks in simple prose

Silence reigns in solitude
And though not ever heard
Within the mind it lingers -
You`ll know each fleeting word

Valerie Dohren

Sleep On Sweet Babe

Sleep on sweet babe, lest you should see
The depth of man`s iniquity
His measure of what life is worth
Upon this wrecked and war-torn earth

Yes slumber on and feel no pain
Nor see the evil one to reign
Do not your eyes be open wide
Stay sleeping in your crib and hide

Sleep on sweet babe stay soft and pure
No human suffering to endure
Keep shut your eyes and slumber deep
Your precious innocence to keep

And still`ed be your tiny world
Your senses to remain unfurled
Thus not to see, nor feel, nor hear
This world of sadness, pain and fear

Valerie Dohren

Sleep Well Tonight

Be still, O world, sleep well tonight
May all your dreams take gentle flight
Ascending heav`nly stairs sublime
Through all the corridors of time

To drift on lofty shimm`ring clouds
Enwrapped in bright celestial shrouds
Beyond the earth in regions fair
Without a thought, without a care

Upon a journey set in space
Another time, another place
Above the land, above the sea
There yet to find tranquillity

In magic worlds your mind to dwell
`Pon fantasies and dreams that tell
Of hope, unmet, behind closed doors
And visions seen on distant shores

With pictures painted in the sky
Upon the wings of doves to fly
Illusions grand and heaven sent
Enchanting and magnificent

(Whilst phantoms dance in shadowed places
Fixed on luminescent faces
Floating through the mind, encaptured,
There with images enraptured)

Be still, O world, sleep well, sleep sound
May all your dreams with peace abound
Then waken softly with the dawn
To greet again a bright new morn`

Valerie Dohren

Stay With Me

Stay just one more day with me
Don`t fly away, sail the sea
Stay and soothe my trembling heart
Stay that we may never part

Do not wander far away
Stay with me just one more day
Lay your head upon my arm
Stay with me and keep me warm

Stay until the sun doth set
Stay so close that I won`t fret
You and I will watch the moon
Do not leave me yet, so soon

Stay, my love, please stay awhile
Stay with me that I may smile
Please don`t go and leave me here
Sad without you, stay my dear

Valerie Dohren

Stillborn

(A mother`s lament)

Oh rest your head my little one
Upon a silken cloud
And let the angels cradle you
Wrapped in a golden shroud

In love, I bore your tiny form
So pure, so calm, so still
And gazed upon your precious face
My dreams n`er to fulfil

I ached to see the breath of life
To hear the sweetest cry
Rise up within your silent breast
So so still you did lie

Then held you tightly in my arms
Pressed close against my heart
And wept an avalanche of tears
To know that we must part

And as the years pass by, my child,
Your mem`ry will remain
No-one will ever understand
This everlasting pain

You`ll always be a part of me
A gift from heaven above
And `though I`ll never hold your hand
You`ll always have my love

So rest your head my little one
Upon a silken cloud
Within my dreams I`ll cradle you
My love for you avowed

Valerie Dohren

Storm

Dark clouds gathering
rain beating down, swirling,
thunder roaring
lightning flashing
crackling down to earth

Electrified air -

- turning into malevolent eyes
Shock - gasping for breath

Valerie Dohren

Sunrise

Where earth meets sky, around the world
A golden thread is softly curled
And then from sleep and slowly torn
The angel of the day is born

To herald yet another dawn

Encircling all with dazzling rings
As phoenix-like he spreads his wings
And so unveils his gleaming light
Shining, incandescent, bright

To steal the shadows of the night

And clouds aflame with burning glow
With red and amber lit below -
There scarce could be more beauteous play
Than when the night turns into day

And when the dark is chased away

For at the rising of the sun
Another day has yet begun
Another day, your way to find
Another day within your mind

Another day... are you still blind?

Step, step, step this way
Into the brightness of the day
Into the world of beauteous play
After the dark is chased away

Valerie Dohren

Sunset

`Tis now the lantern of the day
Shall slowly start to slip away
To fall into a distant place
Beyond the earth and set in space

The closing of the day embrace

The sky ablaze with fiery glow
Reflected on the ground below
As shadows drift across the land
Like cloaks of darkness softly spanned

The clouds above yet strangely fanned

Then threads of silver light remain
Should e`er the fading day complain
Before the night shall chase away
The dying embers of the day

So turning all to steely grey

With shimm`ring fall of evening mist
`Pon glist`ning leaves by moonlight kissed
And eerie silhouetted spires
Against the backdropp of the skies

For ever now the sunlight dies

As evening steals away the glow
That lingers on the earth below -
Then she who shines with tender face
Upon the land bestows her grace

Then takes the heavens all apace

The trees are still, the birds asleep
All silent now, as growing deep
The day turns slowly into night
As with the fading of the light

And as all dreams shall now take flight

So gently close your eyes and rest
Sleep softly now at her behest
As night-time takes you to her breast
For he now slumbers in the west

Valerie Dohren

Sweet Angeline in Heav`n Did Weep

Sequestered deep in mystic realms
`Midst all the stars in full display
Encircled there by misty souls
I heard her sad soliloquy

Sweet Angeline in heav`n did weep
Her tears upon the world were spilled
Lamenting as one lost in dreams
Of dreams yet dreamt but unfulfilled

Her tears were gentle as the rain
And soft as snowflakes drifting by
With broken heart, as shattered glass,
So like a nursling she did cry

She spoke of love she barely knew
That precious love, elysian kind,
That all her heart would so enchant
Yet all her life she sought to find

She looked in woodlands void of light
Beneath the darkened moonlit sky
In cloistered caves and valleys deep
In dusky glens she wandered by

With hope she searched in twilight`s gloom
In shaded arbours strung with vine
Her tears yet fell in sorrow deep
(I heard her weep tnroughout all time)

Yet never once to glance above
Towards the sun, with brighter glow,
Nor seek to find her heart`s delight
In places high not set below

Sweet Angeline in heav`n did weep
In sadness ne`er to feel nor find
The love that she so yearned to know
In dusty hollows of her mind

Valerie Dohren

Thank You

As through your comments I peruse
I do my best with my 'thank you`s'
But if you think I`ve been remiss
And left you out, then here`s a kiss.. x
So 'thank you' all, and thanks again
Your lovely words are not in vain

Your continued support - means a great deal
That`s why I deem now - to express how I feel

Valerie Dohren

The Big One

Get in gear
The big one`s near

So with good grace
Watch this space.....

(This was written as a precursor
to the submission of my 100th
Anniversay poem - Titanic, submitted
on the anniversary date of 14 April
2012) .

Valerie Dohren

The Ghost

(A little light relief)

As resting in my bed, I lay,
I saw an awesome sight
A ghostly spectre hov`ring there
To haunt me through the night

I hid my face beneath the sheets
Too scared to move at all
What was that apparition
Which stood there by the wall

Why had it come to visit me
To fill me with such fear
Would it stay there all night long
Or would it disappear

I hardly dared to look again
But opened just one eye
Then slowly peeked across the room
And thought that I would die

I`m sure I saw it move my way
I couldn`t even scream
Because through fear I`d lost my voice
Oh tell me it`s a dream!

That`s it, I thought, I`m fast asleep
It isn`t really there
And when I wake up in the morn`
I`ll laugh at such a scare

So, still hidden `neath the sheets,
I made it go away
Then slumbered softly through the night
Until the break of day

And when the morning light shone in
I sat up with a frown
The ghost I thought was haunting me
Was just my dressing gown! !

Valerie Dohren

The Manvantara

At the beginning.....

Uncreated form lay resting
In the silent cosmic womb
Unconscious bliss pervaded darkness
Life lay dormant, yet to bloom

The breath began, the note went forth
Through the void which filled with light
Pulsating life became the logos
Ever now the spark shines bright

And seven great years passed by -

At the end.....

The spark enfolded all in oneness
Truth became reality
All man`s dim senses were illumined
By the act of unity

The breath returned, all murmurs faded
Silent now the path we trod
As I am the thinker and the thought
This I know for I am god

Valerie Dohren

The Migration

I look upon the skies to see
A myriad flutt`ring wings
And hear above a symphony
A choir of feathered kings

Their music echoes through my mind
To fill my heart with joy
Such freedom do I seek to find
And earthly cares destroy

Lit by the moon`s soft glowing light
Their journey lingers on
Towards the dark expanse of night
Towards the distance sun

I know not where their journey wends
What verdant land their prize
Perhaps `tis where the rainbow ends
Perchance `tis Paradise

Valerie Dohren

The Moon

Beautiful lady, born of the night
Floating across the full darkened sky
Clothed soft in gossamer, shimm`ring bright
`Neath all your charms, to love and to cry

With threads of silver curled all around
Spreading your hair as moonbeams that fall
Strands of your glory touching the ground
Celestial light, I rise to your call

Heavenly goddess, climbing so high
Waxing and waning, queen of the night
Longing to touch you, I sigh, I sigh
Wonderful vision, ethereal sight

Valerie Dohren

The Old Lady

With furrowed brow and silvered hair
Crumpled low in her rocking chair
Draped in a shawl of tattered lace
A thousand years upon her face

And sallowed cheeks, the rosy cast
Of girlhood having log since passed
She raised her eyes up to the sun
For now she knew her life was done

So many stories she had told
Across the years as she grew old
But now the time was drawing near
To be with those she loved most dear

She meekly smiled and gave a sigh
In mem`ry of the years gone by
Then glanced down at her wedding band
Hung loose upon her withered hand

Her eyes then gazed towards the place
Where stood a portrait of his face
The first and only love she`d known
Which blossomed like a rose, full grown

And as she looked, her eyes grew dim
(She thought she caught a glimpse of him)
But only shadows filled the room
The wilted rose no more to bloom

She stroked her hair and then her breast
Where once her sleeping children pressed
And in her lonely room did weep
Then passed into eternal sleep

Valerie Dohren

The Rose

Calm the night and stilled the sea
Bathed in its tranquility
A fleeting glimpse of death`s repose
Gently stirred the sleeping rose

(But still too blind to understand
I let it wither in my hand)

The lifeless form fell to the earth
There again to find new birth
For withered though the rose may be
Its seed lives on eternally

Valerie Dohren

The Shadow

At the dawn of man`s becoming
Spun a web of dark deceit
So to seize his soul forever
Clothed in envy and conceit

In the darkness moves the shadow
Like a veil of ebony
Clouding all the sleeping senses
Tracing out each destiny

Deep into his core it burrows
`Til he bleeds a stream of tears
Stealing his tranquillity, and
Sowing there his hidden fears

As a cloud of starlings flying
`Cross the sky to shroud the sun
So the mind eclipsed by sorrow -
Man`s destruction has begun

In the darkness moves the shadow
There with heart as black as coal
Night obscures the fading dawn, with
Dereliction of the soul

Valerie Dohren

The Snow Birds

They fly beneath the cotton clouds
With plumage virgin white
As angels spread their beauteous wings
To bear them on their flight

Through air so sweet and rarefied
Above the earth, so cold,
Yet with the sun behind their wings
In light soft aureoled

Then as they shed their feathers, down
Upon the land they fall
As snowflakes floating silently -
Ah, can you hear them call?

They call, they call with sirens songs
Which echo through all time
To mingle with the winter`s hush
With music sweet sublime

And now with luminescent glow
All sheeted dazzling bright
The ground is soft beneath our feet
A wondrous pristine sight

Like crystals sparkling in the sun
Or stars in night`s embrace
The snowfall there below our gaze
Reflects upon each face

And then, clad scantily, they soar
Above this glorious scene
The snow birds on their journey wend
To places set with green

To bask in summer`s gentle heat
To grow their plumage new
Flutt`ring o`er the treetops high
To sing in skies of blue

Valerie Dohren

The Sound Of Love

Hushhhh.... can you hear the sound of love
As soft as April rain
And carried on a gentle breeze
Ah, such a sweet refrain

Then listen for its tender voice
Yet whisp`ring soft and warm
As in a mother`s lullaby
Sung to her child new-born

And hear it in the raindrops, as
They tumble to the earth
So kissing field and pasture, there
To propagate new birth

Then hear it in the falling snow
Soft floating to the ground
As in the rustle of the trees
Ah yes, the sweetest sound

And hear it in a violin
So smooth and finely strung
As list`ning to a songbird sweet
Whilst tending to her young

Then hear it in a symphony
In music so sublime
To lift you to the highest peaks
Of ecstasy divine

And hear it in the silence, there
Between the tender sighs
Of two whose hearts are woven close
(And see it in their eyes)

Hushhh....listen in the darkest hour
Before the dawn breaks through
For this is when you`ll hear it clear
Soft whisp`ring 'I love you'

Valerie Dohren

The Wind

The wind blew oh so wildly
The night my father died
It rag`ed like a tempest
And on that night I cried

Yet upon my wedding day
The wind blew sweet and free
Gently o`er my bridal gown
To bless and honour me

The wind blew calm and softly
The day my child was born
Whisp`ring oh so tenderly
To welcome each new dawn

And it shall yet be quiet
No more to rage and roar
When`er my life is over
And I will be no more

The wind will blow in fury
When`er the world shall cease
Then linger still and silent
When all that reigns is peace

Valerie Dohren

The World

Part of the world is bad

Part of the world is mad

The rest of the world is sad

When the banks of the Crimson River burst.....

The world is dead!

Valerie Dohren

This New Eden

If e`er the human race should die
And I should stand alone
I`d raise my eyes up to the sun
And take him as my own

For he would be my guiding star
To lead me through each day
Upon my quest to change the world
His light to show the way

The moon would be my lantern bright
The caves my dwelling be
The amber sand my carpet soft
The trees my canopy

For as sole guardian of this earth
I`d wander far afield
In search of all to be transformed
Each blemish thus revealed

And through this wondrous alchemy
This world would then be changed
Each imperfection classified
And deftly rearranged

Then with my heart I`d sow the seeds
Of Paradise anew
With each one fashioned out of love
So perfect, pure and true

Each leaf, each bloom, so beautiful
Unveiled for all to see
(But hidden deep where none could find
I`d set the apple tree)

And every creature large and small
Would roam this glorious land
Released from pain and suffering
To stand at man`s right hand

This earth would hence become the place
Where joy would reign supreme
No guns, no bombs, no tears, no hate,
This is my greatest dream

And then a rainbow I would steal
Her colours soft and pure
To carefully delineate
Humanity once more

And paint the seas with emerald green
The skies with sapphire blue

Earth`s beauty thus to redefine
Then give her back to you

Then I, unworthy yet to dwell
In this new Eden born
Would slumber long in deep repose
Awaiting man`s new dawn

And whilst asleep, my one desire
That when our time is here
Each one would live in innocence
And happiness, not fear

For every heart would beat in time
The sweetest symphony
Each breath, each touch, each spoken word
In perfect harmony.

(May love, sweet love, forever grow
Her seeds may all forever sow)

Valerie Dohren

Titanic

100th Anniversary Poem

(Considered to be the greatest maritime
disaster of all time - 14/15 April 1912)

Fair maiden of the ocean deep (1)
This mighty vessel lost to sleep
A jewel `neath a moonless sky
`Twas fate that she so soon would die

Against the ice her doom was sealed (2)
Just ten percent of it revealed
As close against its buried side
With grace and dignity to glide

The greater part was hid below (3)
For so it be with frozen snow -
A jagg`ed fortress `neath the sea
A dark, unseen catastrophe

Her belly slashed, then set to die, (4)
(Upon the ocean bed to lie) -
Into her hull the ocean gushed
People and objects swirled and crushed

But no-one listened to her cries (5)
Nor even to her calls did rise
And none aknowledged all her flares
Nor sought to answer all her prayers

Two hours and forty minutes passed (6)
With all her charges holding fast
Just twenty lifeboats, not yet filled,
(And fifteen hundred hearts were stilled)

Water seeping into her heart (7)
Tearing her very soul apart
Invincible of White Star Line
She lurched, she groaned, with severed spine

O`er time a saviour ship arrived (8)
To aid the ones who had survived
So to take them into her care
A ship of safety anchored there

But in the darkness of the night (9)
In ice-cold waters void of light
Bounced scattered souls upon the waves
Descending to their watery graves

Then all the while, when hope was gone, (10)

In calm repose the band played on -
`Nearer My God To Thee, ` they think,
As, with grace, she started to sink

One hundred years her memory (11)
Still lingers `neath the raging sea
Within the hearts of all bereft
Of those whose lives have long since left

They said that sink she never could (12)
But oh, dear God, she surely would!
Invincible of White Star Line
She lurched, she groaned, with severed spine

And though one century has passed
Lost souls in memories are cast
Their eyes as stars in heaven dwell
Reflected in the ocean`s swell

With tales of life and secrets kept
Of those who loved and those who wept
Your stories you will never tell
Farewell, my friends, farewell, farewell...

The sun upon the shimm`ring sea
Will ever your companion be

-

Verse 1:
10 April 1912 - depart Southampton bound for New York - North Atlantic crossing.

Verse 2:
14 April 1912 at 11: 40 am she hit an iceberg - she was travelling too fast and had taken a more northerly route than was appropriate for that time of year.

Verse 3:
The iceberg lay just 1000 yards ahead but was not seen due to it being a moonless night.

Verse 4:
She was hit starboard bow - many assumed it was just a glancing blow which she had survived.

Verse 5:

The crew of The Californian went to bed as it
was thought that she was having a party.

Verse 6:
She held only 20 lifeboats instead of the 64
which she was designed to carry - just one-
third of her capacity, and these were not
filled.

Verse 7:
Five compartments were flooded (only four and
she would have survived) , and just before
2-20 am on 15 April she broke up as she sank.

Verse 8:
RMS Carpathian responded to her cries for
help and proceeded to rescue lifeboat
survivors.

Verse 9:
1500 lives were lost, of which 53 were
children: 52 third class, but just one
first class! Two dogs were saved.

Verse 10:
As they did on deck - all members of the
band were lost, and subsequently were
regarded as heroes.

Verse 11:
1912-2012: 100th Anniversary Poem.

Verse 12:
Captain Edward John Smith went down with
his ship - his body was never recovered.

Valerie Dohren

Tread Gently Through My Soul Good Friend

Tread gently through my soul good friend
For I am sore from life`s travails
Tread gently through my soul perchance
You touch upon some tender ills

There are no remedies for pain
Incurred through worldly strife
Tread gently through my soul good friend
For I am sore from living life

No alms can soothe this troubled brow
Nor mend this aching heart
Tread gently through my soul good friend
Don`t tear this fragile life apart

Valerie Dohren

Under The Laburnum Tree

(A simple tale)

Under the Laburnum tree
She saw his gentle face
Under the Laburnum tree
She knew their first embrace

Under the Laburnum tree
She gave to him her love
Under the Laburnum tree
Beneath the stars above

Under the Laburnum tree
He left her there to cry
Under the Laburnum tree
That`s where she chose to die

(Under the Laburnum tree
Were scattered all its seeds
Under the Laburnum tree
Amongst the growing weeds)

Under the Laburnum tree
The moon was shining bright
Under the Laburnum tree
Her silv`ry soul took flight

Under the Laburnum tree
At last she was set free
Under the Laburnum tree
She found eternity

Valerie Dohren

Volcano

Seething cauldron, an inferno
belching noxious vapours
spewing red hot molten lava
spilling down mountainside
to drown the land in sulphurated destruction

Rocks hurtling through the air,
falling everywhere -

- turning into words pouring from lips
burning - destroying

Valerie Dohren

Waterfall

Raging, crashing torrents
splashing over rocks,
bubbling, foaming,
gushing down into the ravine
spurting upwards

Water spraying into the air -

- turning to tears trickling down cheeks
face melting - drowning.

Valerie Dohren

When Shall The World

When shall the world in splendour rise
To touch those sweet empyreal skies
Above all things in shadows cast
As captured there through years long passed

And when shall the world with eyes that see
Unite as one, in harmony,
To take his neighbour for his friend
All strife and warfare so to end

When shall the world with hearts that care
Provide for all, its wealth to share,
None to suffer deprivation
Plentiful be every nation

And when shall the world with love imbued
Be no more sad, no more subdued,
Let happiness surround each day
All sorrow thus to fade away

O when shall the world in full rejoice
E`er speak out loud with equal voice
Dance in peace and touch the flowers
To celebrate this world of ours

Valerie Dohren

Where Abides Love`s Sweet Domain

Where abides love`s sweet domain
In the realms of deep unrest
Does it tarry in your heart
Will it wax at my behest

Does it hide between each word
There betwixt each breath you take
Shall I find it in your hand
Or in every tear you make

Will I see it in your face
Set within your smile so bright
Do I seek it high above
`Midst the stars that shine at night

And shall I find it in the air
Floating `cross the azure skies
`Pon the wings of ashen doves
Or within your limpid eyes

Do I hear it softly sigh
Through your melancholy days
Let me feel it there within
See it in your wistful gaze

Is it found in silent places
In the shadows, black as coal,
Ling`ring in the darkness `biding -
Love, sweet nectar for my soul

Valerie Dohren

Where Will My Haven Be

The world shall go on turning
Through the darkness of despair
As I, with seamless yearning, strive
To find a haven there

Set deep within the valleys
Or above the raging sea
In regions high and rarefied
Where will my haven be

Shall I search in flowered fields
Or the hillside strewn with gorse
Upon the rugged moors and heaths
In woodlands wild and coarse

Or is it set in pastures
Where the sheep and cattle graze
In peace and calm serenity
To while away their days

Will I find it on the shore
There amongst the whorl`ed shells
Between each wave that ebbs and flows
Or where Poseidon dwells

Searching in the wilderness
Forever to seek and find
A place to rest and contemplate -
A cradle for my mind

For then shall I relinquish
All that binds and fetters me
Where I can dream in solitude
My spirit to set free

Valerie Dohren

Youth Long Lost

Fill the desert in my heart
With words of tenderness -
Words of comfort to impart
My soul to soft caress

Time weighs heavy on my mind
The fleeting years sustain -
Mem`ries of a youth long lost
And true love yet remain

Climbing `long the rugged paths
Of life`s deceiving way
Seeking for a sweeter land
Where yet to dance and play

Set me free from life`s travails
O fortune, be my lead
Take me thus to fresher plains
For I am sore indeed

Gazing in the mirror where
The phantoms of my youth
Flicker as reflections there
As visions of the truth

Time has passed and blown away
My dreams and hopefulness -
I now, as in my aging years,
(The balance to redress) .....

..... Fall, into nothingness

Valerie Dohren