

Poetry Series

Afrooz Jafarinoor
- poems -

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Afrooz Jafarinoor(Jan 20,1972)

I have studied English literature and dramatic literature. I write poems, plays and moviescripts. I teach English.

111

It's December 1
We have passed 11 December 1
And still you haven't come!
As if you'd like to put
1 after 1,
But alas,
Another 1 added
And there will be none of us left
To see December 1
Of the year 111.

Afrooz Jafarinoor

A Melody For You

A world winked at me in your smile
In your eyes a star
On your forehead a sun
To light a night out of my many nights!

I'm still in that moment's fervor
When in my heart grew a rose flower
And I wondered where the seed was from!
The breeze had I sensed, however,
And the cool will I remember for ever
Even if in my grave I shiver!

I wish I could compose a music
To turn all the burning and trembling and boiling
And all the desire and pain and suffering
Into a melody for eternity,
A melody to revive
The time gone by
And the sweet pain lived by
For anyone any while!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Again

What came over me again?
In this gloomy sunset
At the beginning of loneliness
At the beginning of feeling useless
I'm overwhelmed again
By a sense of death
An ancient thought again
In its claws my throat has caught:
'What did I come for
And now what do I go for? '

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Apples

Apples, nice red apples
Hanging from trees
Moving in the breeze
While a woman is looking
And I'm thinking:

Poor Eve!
How could she ever
The temptation have resisted?
And then Adam,
How could he ever
Have lived without her
After she had departed?

The branches are moving
And the woman is looking
And I'm still thinking:

Every day of our life
We live in compensation for love
So why not fall every day in love?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Armed Love

My eyes have imposed an embargo on sleep
They pay no heed to the warnings of the brain
They have focused all their powers on your eye track.
Unless the heart uses the right to veto,
War is imminent.
Then I will enter the battle
With all my woman's accomplishments:
Agonising silence
Heartbreaking tears
Hell raising words

Leave the negotiation table alone
Look at me alone

Afroz Jafarinoor

Be Humankind

You may be whoever you'd like to be
But if your heart breaks, you are humankind
And when you are humankind
You can be more humane every day
As long as you don't break a heart,
So be humankind as far as you can

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Black Dahlia

They had plucked half of your petals
And you still laughed
The bloody fingers of jealousy
Split your mouth down to your ears
And you still laughed
You couldn't help it any more,
The more you took it serious,
The more you told yourself
'I'm back home again,
I'm getting beaten again'
By a man as old as your father
By a woman at the age of your mother

The smell of blood makes the wolf wild
It sharpens the sense of spite
And your endless smile smelled of blood
And your playful eyes would'nt shut
The eyes that resembled hers
They were beautiful but hungry
And strolled around streets for a smile
And had driven the devil crazy

They had to cut you off your stem
They had to suck the juice off your phloem
In case you might root in the soil
And grow another black dahlia from yourself!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Boats

Once again today, the boats will float
Not on water, on hands they will float!
They are all three- colored
They are all equal- size
Green and white and red
Our eyes with tears red.

Where are the boatmen
What happened to the young men?

The boats will ride light
As they have no weight!
The weight of soil and bone
And that after so long
Is nothing, but instead,
What hearts have broken for years!
What eyes, in vain, at doors have stared!

Once again the boats today
Once again tears and sighs today.

What shall we do but look
On this flood of black?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Conqueror Of The Light

Which road should I take where you're not there
You whose name is on all distances...
Oh tired conqueror of the light
Whose body is still left there
In the domain of darkness
Whose heart was still beating
In the claws of the devil
When on me you cast
Your last tired glance...
I was the eager traveler
On the road to light
Not thinking of darkness
Looking over distances
You saw the glitter in my eyes
You thought of the travelers
On faraway roads
You wanted a torch for me
And headed for the fight
Against the devil...
I was not of the kind
To want the light for me alone
And you were not of the kind
To remain stabbed and heartless
You went and I went
And the road is still remaining
My poetry is still flowing
I know that some day, somewhere,
Your wandering spirit
Will have a sip
And you'll be back
In another body
In another birth...

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Conversation

I speak, you're silent
You're silent, I speak!
How poetically we speak!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Dates

Dates from a holy land far away

Have reached my hand today

Seven sweet dates in a package

A little souvenir from a pilgrim's baggage

She tells me she remembered me there

While she was saying a prayer

The holy land is often visited

For it gives people peace and quiet

But the land itself is never at peace

As there are terrorists who hate such things

And to disrupt it, they do everything.

Afroz Jafarinoor

Death

There came death again and took one of us away
It flashed and took the senses from some of us away
It turned into a wave on the waiting beach of life
It washed another name inscribed in sand away
The salt in water hurts our eyes
It will hurt till our turn arrives
We will melt in the fire of sorrow for our dears
We will be a straw in its powerful seizures
The light straw flies with joy and no pleases
We will be left with thousands of challenges.

Afroz Jafarinoor

Desert Of Heart

In the desert of your heart
As far as I look
I see no track of water
I see mirage everywhere!

How dear I was
That you let me see with my own eyes
Deep in your heart!

But then again I say
Why is it a salt land here?
What doesn't let a cloud
On your heart rain well?

By the way, where's my own track
Where's it gone, how's it gone?

Guess it was blown disappeared
Lest for the wind of your pride
It disappeared!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Distance

Though I'm far away, I know
When you're sad, when you smile!
Who has counted the miles? !

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Fancy For Moses

Oh for the faith that drag me
Like Moses into the heart of sea!
Oh for the faith that blind the eyes
Of my fear on all Pharaohs
Not to see anything but the safe
Coast across, and liberty!

Oh for the faith that abandon possessions
And rush for nonpossessions,
That see no water, no sea,
No army behind but for the hand
Above which there is no hand,
Out of nowhere, sturdy and bulky
Pulling out of the mouth of death
The one drowning in faith!

Yes, when opens the mouth of death
There should be some prey
And how many preys, autopreys,
hunted hunters, are there,
With their child's warfare
And big delusions, deep into the mirage
Driving them!

Oh for my crying laughters
On the safe shore
When bubbles up the sea,
In a burp after eating stones!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Far Away, So Close

Newly sprung spring fields in your eyes
Incessant clouds and downpours in my eyes
Sorrow of the dusk in your eyes
Twilight of the dawn in my eyes
From me to you, what roads!
What a highway from my heart to yours!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Fingerprinting

Should you cut my fingers

On a charge of stealing your heart,

I leave a will not to bury them

There may come a day

When you come to believe in fingerprinting

Maybe you believe

That I was like no one else,

And no one else loved you as I did!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Flowers And Barbed Wire

All my body has bloomed
For the kisses of the barbed wire
The sky's blue arms
Invite me like Jesus
But how do I go there
With all this blood?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Grandma

My hands smell of soil
I buried a part of my life
Memories of both love and strife
I buried a part of my soul.

Expected or not
Grandma's home cannot
Any guests admit
As in the yard there is not
A shade to sit,
Or a tree with fruit to eat
And there are no flowers to pick!

The trip is over and I'm back
Tired and still unable
To rest for tommorrow's toil;
My hands smell of soil.

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Here I Am With Hope Alone

After many years I went to a school again
I sat at a desk to practice demanding
Now I should study for the day of examination
When I should defend my election
But alas, at this school
There are always some questions
Given from out of the lessons
And for every wrong choice
There are even more negative scores
Than there are positive scores for the right
And the ancient punishment stick
Is still in the corner of the wall
And no one will ask to what extent
I had the right to choose?

So my ink stained finger,
You have no other way
You have to write
Until you get arthritis
Because I didn't want
To do the easiest thing
I didn't want to sit
On the safe side, vote not,
And blame others.
Now here I am with hope alone

Afroz Jafarinoor

I Don't Want

I don't want to break your heart
As some have broken my heart
As once I have lost my heart
And found it back
Scrap by scrap
Yet I haven't found, ever since, one scrap!

I don't want you
To step on the broken stair
Up to a heart
That's not good enough for you,
That is unable to bear
The weight of the love in you!

I'm afraid, I'm afraid
Of myself am I afraid
Then let me leave you!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Look At Me

What's come over you
That your looks are afloat in sorrow?
What's come over you
That your familiar speech of affection
Is as weary as mine
With a stranger in a routine?
Look at me darling
Not like death in its last look of sorrow
At its victim
But like a baby
In its first look
When it sees the world pretty
Just as mummy!
A flame quivered in me
For the cold breeze of your eyes!
Isn't a look of death enough for me,
From which there's no escape?
I'm alive, alive, alive,
Darling make me further revive,
From your warmth don't deprive me!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Lost

The road is the same road
But you are not there
The mirror is not there
Poetry is not there!

Where is taking me this road
This strange road?

Afroz Jafarinoor

Love

Your look, like a plectrum,
Plucked the string of my heart,
And played this melody:
' Love'

Afroz Jafarinoor

Maple Tree

I was in the passage of maple trees
When down fell a leaf
And I knew
There would come you...

Now among thousands of leaves
I'm sleeping but
You haven't come yet...

Don't come any more, dear
As from me may grow
A maple tree now...

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Memento

We took a memento with Peace
When Peace was going to war.
Peace said, ' Everyone say 'cheeeese!' '
And we all said, ' Cheeeese! '
Having recorded our smile,
We all cried in the arms of Peace!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Mirror

All my words and yours fit in a mirror frame
When speech be taboo!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Miss You

I miss you
And look for you
In all mirrors!
Why should I hide
My love for you
When you see that
In all mirrors?

Afroz Jafarinoor

Mountain Climbers

We are mountain climbers
With no backpack or shoes
What mountains we climb
Just with our legs
The only canes we have!
By the way, did you know
That Life is the English name
For the Himalayas?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

My Eyelids

Behind my eyelids is a dam
And so gloomy I am
That if I let go of the eyelids
Every one is drowned as I am

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Night

The sound of sparrows
And the sound of flight
Fills the horror of the night!
And the spooky silence of the tree
In the sleepy darkness out the windows
And the dream of ease
In the feverish bed of disease.
Can one get free?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

No End To War

Once a war breaks out
It never stops!
It's a lie, a lie
The ending date of every war is a lie,
1917 is a lie!
1945 is a lie!
1367 in Iran is a lie!
Stop it historians, how many lies will you tell?
Suppose you deceive us
How can you deceive the forests of Poland
How can you deceive the mountains of Kurdistan?
Don't you see whenever you repeat your lie
They eject a few bones
They maim someone with a landmine?
Now, why go too far,
Look around every corner of your safe towns,
Don't you see wakeful nightmares,
The living who are not living
Because they haven't died in war,
Or they've inherited their veteran grandfather's nightmares?
Don't you hear wheezes
Don't you see disjointed limbs?
Don't go too far,
See the man of my life,
Every seizure of his is the first explosion
And the first day of war again!
Or look at me the poet,
Why should I write of war,
Why should I talk of war,
Why should I think of war?
My father fought, and I fight with war, and war is fighting with us!
I've never been to the forests of Poland,
I've seen the mountains of Kurdistan just from afar
But every day I breathe war
I talk to war
I sleep with war
With my food, I eat war
In my cells, I digest war
Because war never stops

War just starts!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Oyster

I am an oyster
Keeping your secret in myself
To make you a pearl
But alas
The birth of a pearl
Is always the death of an oyster

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Passersby

People pass by through life alleys
Like wandering soloists
Who walk and spread around melodies
In the atmosphere of houses
Some draw us to the windows
Some make us search for coins
Some don't even stir us
Some pull the pillows
Over our ears
And some of them
Vibrate a string in our hearts
And remind us
Of many of our own melodies
That are waiting for our fingers.

Afroz Jafarinoor

People

People pass by through life alleys
Like wandering soloists
Who walk and spread around melodies
In the atmosphere of houses
Some draw us to the windows
Some make us search for coins
Some don't even stir us
Some pull the pillows
Over our ears
And some of them
Vibrate a string in our hearts
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Of many of our own melodies
That are waiting for our fingers

Afroz Jafarinoor

Poppy

My heart was a poppy that bloomed for a few days
And died, died, died till another spring.

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Purgatory

I miss all the dead of ours
Those who have gone, yet
The days passed cannot forget
Those who went and left us
In the void of their absence
And still agonize us
With their existence
With their solemn, silent presence
In all our dreams!

Someone should rewrite
Our whole thesaurus and correct
All our definitions!
Someone must know
What came over our words,
And might be able to translate
The obscure speech of the dead!

Someone must know
And laughs, I know,
At the certainty of our definitions
And the reversion of our assumptions!

Someone must be there,
But might be dead
And be safe from the fire
Of our ignorance
Writing a thesaurus for us,
Defining our death and life
And purgatory to us!

Some Galileo
Some Giordano,
There must be someone
To tell us, fearless
Of being burned:
Purgatory is right here, you dead!

Relation

I think of you
The weeping willow out the window
Starts to dance.
What is the relation
Between you two?

Afroz Jafarinoor

Reverse Song Of Eternity

The most fertile soil was in your arms
The most sweltering sun in your trunk
The brightest sunshine in your eyes
Watching me with passion in your lurk
And I grew green, so green
Cooling off in your permanent rain! !

O kindest farmer
I'm singing your elegy
To let myself free
From the nightmare of lonesome days,
Preparing for the flight of death
Over its territory
That is borderless!

I want you alive
I fear you may die
So let me sing of your death
To your eternity in reverse!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Road

One must go
Until there is a road!
I miss the road, Mirror!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Russel Crowe

For My Beloved Actor, Russel Crowe, on His 51st Birthday

Not that I've seen you
Not that I've known you
But the happiest birthday, I wish you
As this is the way I know you:

You are a vivid dream in ' A Beautiful Mind'
You are a ' Man of Steel' in a ' Broken City'
You are 'Robin Hood' for ' Les Miserables'
You are a ' Gladiator' in a ' State of Play'
You are ' Cinerella Man' in ' A Good Year'
You are 'The Insider' in 'L.A. Confidential'
You are ' Proof of Life' in a ' Body of Lies'
You are an ' American Gangster' on ' 3: 10 to Yuma'
Who is all 'Tenderness' while ' Breaking Up'
But ' Master and Commander' ' The Next Three Days' when ' Heaven's Burning'
And then again who is ' The Water Diviner' but you,
To save all living things, as did ' Noah'?

So you see I know you, though I haven't seen you!
And this I have written for Charly and Tennyson
To read on cold days as a ' Winter's Tale'
For their kids to be proud of you
And love you as I do!

With your bow and arrow
One day you aimed at my heart, Russel Crowe
As did Cupid,
And got the poet out of me,
So let me enjoy the honor, Sir
To call you Robin Russel Hood!

Afrooz Jafarinoor
April 7,2015
Iran

Sad Song

A sad song is repeated continually in my mind
It reminds me of a lonely pelican
In an evershrinking wetland
Or an overturned turtle
Who has no one to save it
By a drying swamp
Or a gold fish abandoned in a pond
Who is counting the days
Waiting for another New Year
But it is losing fins
It sounds like some one is singing
The sad song in the shower
..With the sound of water
The barren land of my heart goes cracked

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Sailors

Sailing across the vast sea
While the setting sun their guide be
Never do they wonder
How, after sunset, it might be!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Say No To Home

Daddy is calling me
He wants to take me home
He says dinner is ready
But I don't want to go home

I love the playground
Here every one is happy
I like to bike round and round
No one gets angry at me

Mommy's food is delicious
But I don't like to eat
She is always anxious
It doesn't sound sweet

I love the kids' noise here
I play with them and even fight
But I hate the noise there
Mom and dad just fight and fight

Daddy tells me ' Life is a game dear! '
But I don't like to play where
I am always a loser.
Daddy, please let me stay here!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Seasons In Contrast

All trees are in your eyes
And all tropical July in you,
But I was the cold blast of January
That passed by you
And now to my surprise,
I turn into the breeze of May!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

September

It smells of raining,
terminating,
of the summer departing!

September,
summer's tender-hearted daughter,
sheds tears in farewell!

Once again fall
roars from afar,
makes trees' complexion pale!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Sketch

I stretch my arm
The sky nestles in my five fingers
And my fingers sprout

Afroz Jafarinoor

Snow

Out the window the snow was beautiful
And the mountain in the snow was beautiful
And the tree,
Oh when the snow falls on the tree!

Now beauty is cold
And I'm cold
Struggling for a bit of warmth
In a paltry fur coat!

The road is covered with snow
And numb are the feet
Stuck in beauty deep!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Soldier

We went to bed unaware
That our soldier
Would die to save our dream

Afroz Jafarinoor

Song Of The Horizon

Rising is the sun
Illuminated is the horizon
Scattered is the clouds line,
Lest a war has broken out
The mountains with blood
has smeared out!

Come on! What do you mean?
Smeared with blood? The mountain?
That's all people's talk
Made by an ignorant gawk
Whose mind is enslaved by the media
Whose eyes stare at drama
Whose brain has shrunk
Whose mind is drunk
They see war everywhere
With hatred and dishonor!

Once upon a time there was no one
On the earth, God and no one else!
Then it wasn't so unpleasant
With so much bruit everywhere,
No sign of war anywhere!

Then nothing was smeared with blood,
Just colored with variant hues of red!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Song Of You

The sky is full of stars,
Our garden full of tulips,
The sea full of water!

But there's no need in my heart
For tulips, not even water,
No stars any longer,
Full of you is my heart!

My heart is a galaxy,
A tulip garden already,
Looks like a sea!

You are stars,
You are tulips,
You are a spring,
Full of you is my heart!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Sunset

The sun was about to set
When the darkness swallowed it
And the blood of the sun gushed on the horizon
Then a hand out of many hands of the dark
Came into my chest
And crushed my heart.

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Tears

If your tears weren't colorless
Then even a pillow wouldn't be a nice fellow.
All your secret it would cry at dawn
Everyone it would warn:
Come on see my cover,
Betray the lover!

If your tears weren't colorless
Then everywhere would be dangerous
No place to hesitate for betrayals!
No place to cry!
And even a smile wouldn't be worthwhile
As it could no one reconcile!

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Canoe

Over the blue expanse of the sea
A canoe is singing quietly
The warm song of the fish!
Surrounding it are the dancing fish,
But all of a sudden a hand
Pulls the white band
To get the canoe
The corpses of the fish to know!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

The Earth

The earth in fever
The earth infected
The earth in blood,
The air stinks
The air is poisonous,
Everything is ending!
In the distance,
Adam is looking,
Weeping in vain!

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Growth Of A Word

As a child I heard
Some big, bad guys
Might get killed
By some small angry guys!
Even though I was a child,
I thought it could mislead
Some crazy little guys
To kill great big guys!
This was labelled terror
Borrowed from French meaning horror!

As I grew up, so did the word!
As a teenager I heard it again,
But now it had become terrorism!

Now the crazy little guys
Have grown up to a world size
And rather than great big guys,
They are killing kids half the size
That I was then!

Yet even sadder is discrimination
In the way the world
Treats the victims of terrorism!

The life of a child
Is the life of the world,
How on earth do some
Ask where the child comes from?

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Refugee Child

To take a hundred years' path overnight
Is what it means to be a refugee child
The world had never known so many refugees before
The old sayings had never come true before
Refugee children are so experienced
They have seen whatever kids usually don't
Mountain tracks have they trekked
They have seen men plunge to death
They have experienced sea storms
They know how a man drowns
They have heard gunshots again and again
They have witnessed dying of men
The barbed wire is known to refugee infants
They have touched its sharpness with their little hands
In short, they know lots of things
Still of two facts have they no understanding:
They have no idea what 'security' is,
Neither do they know what 'home' means!

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Smile Of A Woman

Stranded here, maybe I am
From a lost civilization
That is known
By archeologists alone
A civilization
Where the smile of a woman
Is a symbol of peace
Not an alert to the sanctuary
Of a peaceful family,
A mark of perfection
Not a sign of prostitution.

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Song Of Going

It's snowing and I'm thinking
Of the road taking the traveler
Farther and farther
To where, I don't know,
But there's something I know:

Wherever it ends
In light or night
It will be a bit ahead
Closer to the mountain head!

But look how I'm stuck
In talk and talk
As if in snow I walk.

It's snowing and I
Am eager to fly
Go over roads
And observe no codes
Of where to go
With whom to go!

To go and get free,
Move ahead and be
A friend of the road
And live a new mode!

Now...just let me go,
I can't stay! ...No!

Afroz Jafarinoor

The Stairs And Plants

The stairs and plants

Whispered the memory of my grandparents

In my ears

I took a picture with the whisper

To remember the sounds forever!

Will pictures be able

To tell my memory some day

Like the stairs and plants?

They may..., but not as well as they!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

To A Rich Singer

When I was reviewing the tenses
With my English students,
I had one tell the class a biography,
No wonder she thought of a celebrity!
She talked of you passionately
While others were listening patiently.
She told us of your past and present,
What you have done or yet haven't!

You and I both make a living
Out of the words we are repeating,
But she said you are one of the richest,
Which is a bit hard for me to digest!
I have studied a lot and worked hard as a teacher,
But I don't think I will ever be as good as a native speaker
Because life in an English speaking country
Is still just a dream for me;
Because the words spoken by a teacher
Are worth a millionth of those by a singer!

You repeat words and so do I,
You are paid and so am I,
The same words are making you richer and richer
While I always have to worry about the future!

I respect you sir for all your songs of quality,
But the only song I know is that of inequality!

Afroz Jafarinoor

Trust

In the snowstorm, I'm walking, seeing nothing
I won't get lost, I know, as it's your trail I follow.
The white snowflakes fall over my head
I have no doubt, you're shading my head.
In the snow on the road, your footprints remain
Like your memories frozen in my brain.
A wolf is howling, the wind is blowing
Evening is falling, a sleepless night is closing!
I mustn't freeze; to warm up, I sing.
' My lips bloom saying your name, ' I sing
And I'm walking faster while I'm singing.
Through my veins, frost is running
But I feel warm as I'm thinking,
Not much of the road is left
And a phantom has so long waited!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Tunnel

We left our childhood down the tunnel
And still haven't reached that light at the end
We are leaving our youth too
Maybe we'd better open a mouth right here!

What's in that light end anyway
That needs weak eyes to be seen?

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Waiting

How sad it is
To wait for some one
Who doesn't even know some one
Is waiting out there

Afroz Jafarinoor

Wander

Where are the fields
That were the same color as your eyes?
Not so green,
Not so brown!

Where am I going?
Maybe I'm lost in time!

Afrooz Jafarinoor

Wild Flower

I was shy like wild flowers
in need of a hill to bloom behind.
You became my hill
and I have opened
Stay with me to dance in the wind

Afrooz Jafarinoor

With You

When I'm with you
The icicles out the window
Hang so long as
They catch a glimpse
Of me and then fall down

Afrooz Jafarinoor

You Two

I think of you;
The weeping willow out the window
Starts to dance.
What is the relation
Between you two?

Afrooz Jafarinoor