Poetry Series

Mona Lisa Aspiras - poems -

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Mona Lisa Aspiras()

An amateur poet, I enjoy all arts- visual and performing. Besides composing poetry, I enjoy creating art, notably visual art and music. I enjoy drawing, painting, sketching, digital art, composing and arranging music, and last but not least writing poetry. I enjoy reading nonfiction on art, psychology, spirituality, religion, and more. I also enjoy cooking and baking, going on spontaneous road trips, traveling, city life, as well as the countryside.

A Day At The Beach

Balmy breeze. Sunlight delight. Catching crabs in sandy holes.

A Day At The Bookstore

I sit today at the bookstore's cafe. Another day, another month, another year. Same old, same old. Sofa is tired, smelly like a homeless man. In fact, hundreds have made it their comfortable refuge.

I look around, warily. Around me, in my own little, yet shared and separate world, there play all manners of individuals. I, for one, play the poet, as I compose this poem right now, out of boredom and curiosity.

To my front left, there sits an interviewer and the prospective employee. I look around again. To my right, there is an aspiring writer, typing an essay in his laptop. Could be a budding journalist also.

Directly in front of me, there was (because he already left) a mysterious, quirky, crippled, short Chinese man. I see him often here at the cafe. His routine: no coffee, drinks or food, but a couple of magazines to read, browse and enjoy... (perhaps learning English?)

To my extreme left, a multi-racial couple. An African-American guy with dreadlocks, and a slender Caucasian girl. Together they work on some type of homework, or work-related project.

Now to my immediate left,

a stocky old matron with her daughter, (or grand-daughter)sit down.

And me, now me in the spotlight, What do I do in the meantime? I sip my mocha latte, break off chunks of my double-dipped, chocolate chip giant cookie, and munch away like a zombie moron... entranced with life in this bookstore's cafe.

Adventures In Bed

You and I. Together in bed. Holding each other tightly sometimes, Sweetly on other occasions.

We caress each other. Probably starting with each other's hair. Running our fingers through the strands. Maybe gently rearranging A runaway strand or two, and Planting a kiss in its place.

We will doze on and off. Maybe alternately, maybe simultaneously. When we wake up, We will greet each other in mock surprise! And laughingly delight in repeating the Whole Process.

And then it won't end there. Spurred by our mutual enjoyment, We will devise like clever spies, New ways of titillating our senses.

We will offer ourselves to one another. In complete abandonment, We will Be Ourselves and the other, Both at the same time.

Thus will our countless adventures in bed Begin and end, Just a small part, But a fixture in the fabric of our daily lives.

As The Heavens Above, So The Earth Below

Pure and simple Sun and moon Still hanging in the sky. God's creations... Time He had plenty On His Hands With a smile, Dimples in his cheeks, Waved his fingers Through the sky Leaving behind a trail of Sparkling stars, Each their own color. Some red, yellow green and blue. Some cold, some hot. They look at us down below From far above the heavens. Occasionally a shooting star, A renegade comet comes Diving down... Leaving us with mouths agape. And so a small part of the dancing skies Play in this part of God's creations.

Somewhere on Earth, girl and boy Played and prayed the game of love They looked up at the heavens Quietly whispered their dues, Vowed to leave not one and the other A testament to their undying love The heavens above The firmament of sun, moon, Stars and skies... With time winding down Just for them.

Caught Among Cacti (Based On Actual Dream)

A soccer field-length Grassy field Former recess playground of my former elementary school. Now, in my strange old dream, I find myself transported there. The perimeter of the field, Lined with cactus plants, The stereotypical plant of the desert, holding its limbs up high, Its body filled with thorns. The difference? The dream-like quality Of the cactus plants Having human mouths, and not only, they - the cacti talk to me in a never-ending chatter. It's so surreal. It's almost cartoon-like, Except being a dream, Makes it normal. Or is it normal for a child To have a strange dream Of talking cacti.

Crocodile Tears

Crocodile tears-They allegedly poured, Down her face...

But did she know, As other people knew, That those salty tears Poisoned the dwellings Around her?

Though a curse, She has become accustomed To her surroundings Which she herself Made a part of.

Crocodiles live a long life, After all...

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a blessing given to man by God.

We view it as a curse, a burden.

Yet, it is necessary like the air we breathe. Like oxygen to our lungs, we need it to cleanse our souls.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. But forgiveness soothes.

It pains us to carry out this task. It is like a mole, a wart, or a fly buzzing around our head.

That unfinished homework, dirty laundry, or other bothersome chore we have kept promise to.

Yet, sorry to say, it is nature's, God's, the universe's, way of righting the wrong, evening out the scales, THE proper way of saying an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, except through mercy's gentle eyes.

Happy Sun

The sun rises joyfully, spreading its warm rays, nurturing the earth with its friendly sunlight. It is welcomed gratefully.

King of the sky, partner of moon, the day is the king's domain, whereas the night, the moon's reign.

The sun warms all living beings. From the tiny blade of grass to insects, animals and humans. Its yellow rays spread joy, cheer and warmth. It is alive, its recipients receiving well-being and vigor, a certain gladness to be up and alive.

At dawn, it rises gently, sleepily, ready to greet the rest of creation with its cheery pastel hues. At noon, it's at its strongest. The defining moment, the point during the day when it reaches its highest amidst the blue sky. During the afternoon, it begins its slow descent, lazily warming all of God's creation, once more. And finally, at dusk, the sun leaves its last farewell. Its mark a plethora of grand colors. A magical and painterly mix of fiery, warm hues, mixed with shy pastels. Shades of reds on fire, warm oranges, soft pinks, royal purples and baby lavenders, play together in this twilight sky a greeting to the mysterious, magical night sky, and a farewell to the bright, alive day.

Thank you, Mr. Sun!

Another day has passed under your happy reign. Pouring your warm rays over all, nourishing all of God's creation.

Janus

"You hypocrite! " Words which many, undeniably Must have silently uttered And felt, convulsed and offended In their thoughts and emotions, Towards a guilty offender. Perhaps it is the reflection of One's own weaknesses, Bouncing back from offender to Offended, which causes us to Recoil, cobra-like, Ready to attack, Verbally or non-verbally. Being two-faced is a crime Everyone is guilty of. Let us participate merrily In this parody or comedy of Manners which Fate Has assigned us.

Jesus

Jesus, my Brother, My Friend, my Teacher My Lord, my Savior. But also -My Enigma, My Illusion, My Delusion, My Mystery... Opposites which fit My Everchanging Moods Which Face of Yours, this time, Will I Confide, or Despair in, Lord? Nothing but reflections of my **Hidden Feelings** But at the same time a Discovery of a Forgiving Reality, an Eternal Peace. - Attainable or Unreachable?

Little Lime Frog

A lime green frog hopped from one lily pad to the other, a hopscotch game to its content. Life is good, sweet. The rains have been coming. The sun has been shining. Food was not in want.

A fly buzzed by. The frog eyeballed it carefully, then

ZAP

evenly licked it clean from the air onto it's hungry lips. Dinner was plentiful.

The moon arose. The sun set, and crickets sang. It was time to venture out. And out went little lime frog, jumping to and fro, croaking once, twice, thrice.

But lo and behold, here was one big fly on that leaf which passed him by. Taking his stance - one. two. three.

GULP

Little lime frog was swallowed by Big brown snake who was quick to spot his meal. A croak once, twice, thrice was

all that was left.

An echo suspiciously familiar, lingering in the now silent, sweet night.

Mediterranean

Salty, balmy ocean air, Here is Mediterranean flair. Senses stimulate our being. Bringing joy to you and me. Rush of jasmine flowers, Sounds of ocean waves. Never will we forget Such beauteous charm, Imprinted in our senses warm.

We walk past local shops, Hand in hand as sunset falls. Down the boardwalk Stroll you and I, Ever walking sigh by sigh. Sitting by the pier alone, Sharing kisses by moonlight's glow. Such beauty is truly nature's gift, Thus the charm of Mediterranean life.

Mighty Lion

The thunder sounds It sounds like a mighty lion Ready to announce its territory. About to die and sacrifice its life. But it's time which plays its hand. And the lion succumbs to time. Because it will bellow over and over until eternity It makes a majestic sound, asserting itself.

Moonlight Sonata

The moon rises slowly over the ocean sea. It casts shimmering lights over the blackness of the night ocean. Twinkles of silver run to and fro, riding the waves with bouncy merriment. What fascination, what beauty my soul proclaims.

God's creation, the moon hanging still, in the dark sky, reflecting off mirror-like, silvery cobweb lights. Like a queen on her throne, she displays her beauty and effect over her reign, the sea.

Lovers and lonely hearts alike, are transfixed by the moon's magical powers, drawing them ever so subtly, yet magnetically, to her. Lovers, in delight, share a kiss. Lonely hearts, in hope, pray to meet their significant other.

And the moon? Who knows if the moon sees or listens. She is a testament, alibi, and witness to their desires and prayers, silently overseeing the rest of God's creation.

Mr. Potato And Mr. Pea

Mr. Potato and Mr. Pea were best friends. They met each other on the dinner plate of Mr. Bimby. You see, after all other potatoes and peas were eaten, only the two of them were left. They loved each other like brothers. Turned to each other in consolation and shared misery. Time was running out. Bimby took his fork, speared Mr. Potato, and swallowed him. "Don't forget me, my friend! !! " screamed Mr. Potato. " I won't! Here I come toooo! !! " shrieked Mr. Pea, as Bimby speared him subsequently. Together they lived, together they died. Friendship started and ended, with Bimby as Culprit.

Native Freedom Roots

I wish I can find myself. Belonging to my native country. A true native, amidst the Coconut palms and sandy beaches. Riding the wild, colorful jeepneys, Careening to and fro amidst the busy streets of Manila, Los Banos, and Balanga.

I hope to mingle amongst my people. I will eat the native delicacies. And celebrate all the holy festivals, religious pageants, and family reunions, countless as they are.

I will participate in hours-long afternoon siestas. Without air conditioning, I will sweat like a pig, losing weight until I become Svelte, young and pretty, like the young mestizas.

My skin will become soft and supple like theirs. Why? Because coming from a well-to-do family, I will have: maids, drivers, cooks, and gardeners, working under me. I will become a senorita, free to wander and squander my life under the Philippine sun, and do whatever pleases me at the moment.

So, the question is, will I be happy? With all this freedom.

Nervous Wreck

I am weak and waiting but I'm a nervous wreck I'm waiting to be filled like an empty vessel because I was born the day the Vesuvius erupted on Pompeii So the day I will be filled with ashes is the day my barren days will be over. Game over.

Ode To My Best Friend

In many ways you're a mystery. Out of the blue, you came to me and reached out your hand, lifting me from the clumsy waters of my life...

Sometimes when we speak, or actually when we speak, I feel and see butterflies in between and around us. They carry messages of sweet-nothings, of love and grace, humor and life.

Why did you choose me? Why did I choose you? If a delusion, this one is rare - if you're meant to be with me.

Wont you ride my sailboat with me, in the undecided waters of my fate, or shall I hop into yours, and make your boat my home?

Each day is a blessing to have known you - in the past and a promise to the future, however it may pass, for I will at least be graced to have crossed paths with you.

So here's to the intertwining of our lives. Thank you, for simply being you, my friend.

Love always.

Orca Swimming Pool (Based On An Actual Dream)

Picture an indoor swimming pool. Easy enough. The room's walls are blue, Reflecting the pool's hues. Now picture baby orcas. Baby orcas? Perhaps in the wild, in the vast ocean, Frolicking with other wildlife, - But the orcas, baby orcas, for that matter - Are right here in the pool. So tame, so cute. And to finish the picture, What do I see, but toddlers riding the orcas Like toy rocking chairs. Joy and laughter abound. In both the children, who scream and shout, And the happy orcas, quick to be tamed, Gently playing with the toddlers. The front edge of the pool, Lined with a neat, straight row of the orcas With the happy children boisterously screaming As they ride the creatures. It sure is a strange sight. It could mean everything, yet nothing. Meaning exactly what you see. Or does it carry a deeper meaning -The orcas and toddlers signifying a connection, An innocent love between nature and man, In a future of man-made surroundings, Instead of the open wild. Who knows? But this is a dream -A joyful and strange dream, But a dream nonetheless.

Prism Heart

Here I am stuck in my own heart which is a prism, a rainbow prism. Sometimes it's plastic, other times it's crystal And other times it's made up of diamond. And finally other times it's made up of Water. The droplets shine. My tears shine and the sunlight shines

through them.

So they console me because they produce colors.

Rain

Rain droplets drizzle at first, gently caressing whatever they encounter Mothers with their babies seek shelter. Babies open their mouths, as if the rain which touches their tongues is sweet honey.

Rain, God's gift to the world.

Gently, it waters the grass, flowers, shrubs and trees. Earthworms venture out of the soil. Birds seek shelter under the leaves of tree branches.

Suddenly, the gentle rain gathers in strength. Heavy dark clouds form, pregnant with water ready to descend and nourish the thirsty - the dry, parched earth and its inhabitants.

Now the rain pours in buckets. Angry and mighty clouds roll about, their friction causing deafening thunder, sudden lightning illuminating the sky.

This show of sound and sight is God's creation. The rain nurtures and relieves Earth.

Thunder and lightning seemingly display God's anger; only meaning to showcase God's power, Nature's power.

Sea And Sky

And Earth tried on its garment of glitter and feathers, sea and sky.... to clothe its vast Nakedness.....

Technology

Part One

I wake up -Startled by the alarm clock's shrill cries, Knocking onto the doors of my Peaceful, Restful, Dream-filled consciousness Forcing me into a sluggish stupor, And eventually into a wide-eyed wakefulness

For the rest of the day. I go to the kitchen, Fix myself a toast and microwave Some eggs and a cappuccino. I turn on the TV, Check out The latest satellite-derived weather forecast, And catch up With local, national, and international news.

Before rushing out the door, I turn on the security alarm home system, and Out I go, Ready to face another workday With the same complacency And certainty one feels When one's life is mapped out With the predictability and routine Of modern technology.

On the way to work, I encounter an accident downtown, Spurring me to whip out my cell phone And inform the office that I will be Late for the morning meeting.

Hours later, My day at work is spent, As usual, At my desk, Researching and editing with the help Of the Internet and word processor, And later on, Videoconferencing with other colleagues In Paris and London.

I look at my wristwatch. It is five o'clock, and, Glad the workday is over, Tiredly drive back home Where I turn off the alarm system, Heat up a can of soup On the electric stove, And watch Jeopardy on TV. After, I decide to catch up on My e-mail and correspond with family And friends through instant messaging Around the globe.

I decide to relax a bit with a CD by Mozart. Later, at bedtime, I put on the radio, As always, And set the classical music station To play for half an hour -About the time it takes For me to fall asleep.

Part Two

Yawn - I wake up after What seems to be days..... The intense bright rays of the sun, waking Me up, prompt me to grope at the nightstand for my alarm clock. Strange - it's not working! The digital clock displays a blinking 12: 00 a.m. Holding my battery-run wristwatch up to my myopic eyes, I read the time as 8: 40 a.m. I gasp in panic, Realizing I only have twenty minutes left To shower, Dress up, Eat breakfast, And make that twenty minute commute into A five minute Grand Prix expedition.

I shower quickly, dress into my shirt, blazer and skirt, And frantically comb my hair and apply lipstick on my Way to the kitchen. I try to reheat some coffee and a leftover donut in the Microwave, only to encounter the red, impersonal, digital time display Innocently blinking at me. "! @#\$%&* this power outage! " I think in despair, as I Run out the door, Briefcase and purse in hand. I get in the car, speed down the neighborhood, and decide to

Inform my office of my delay.

No doubt they will understand

Maybe this power outage was in the neighborhood

And not only at my house....

... " What? ! " I cry in disbelief.

The cell phone is not working:

The dead, gray blank screen reflecting my outraged face.

But the worse is yet to come -

Two blocks ahead, the traffic light is down,

Causing major disarray, mayhem, and confusion.

And that is not the only light down either.

In the city of New York all the roads are one big mess of tangled

Cars angrily honking at each other.

Suddenly, a car sneakily cuts in front of me.

Furious by now, I pound away at my car's horn.

I drive across an intersection testily, stoplights still awry, And next thing I know, "BEEEEP BEEP BEEEP! "BAM! Darkness all over Thick as a cloudless, moonless night, The blackest china ink, The deepest well.... Part Three

"What the...? ! " I wake up startled, my heart pounding hard in my chest. I automatically turn my head to my nightstand. The time says 8: 30 a.m. on my (functioning)digital alarm clock. Anxiously I turn on the TV for news of the outage. What happened? And when? The TV anchor delivers the news in his usual Deliberate and professional manner..... But no news of a power outage, Neither in New York City, statewide, or nationwide.

Was it just a dream then?

Shaking like a leaf, my sense of reality tested,

I laugh deliriously.

That dream was too surreal, yet vivid and real

At the same time.

I suddenly stop and muse on this thing called

Technology

- A backbone of society, industrialization, progress, and culture.
- Modern man's blessing and curse!

The Formation

The clouds form billowy wisps at first. A trace of a wind plays around with them. Dust revolves, twirls around. Forms a whirlpool. Tornado shapes. Dark clouds gather. They are outlined in black and varying shades of gray. They feel heavy, like steel. Rain trickles at first. Slowly it becomes heavier. It downpours. Earth, thirsty, thanks it. Plants grow. Children scream, howl, dance in the rain Their mothers scolding them.

The Internet

The World Wide Web AKA " The World Wide Wait" Why " Wait? " Signs of the Times A Feeding Frenzy of Information And More and More Feeding us past the level of Gluttony Not only - Faster and Faster Contest after Contest Between Million-Dollar Corporations, Competing for Your Undivided Attention, Serving You Info Needed And Unnecessary. The Time Has Come The Information Age The Digital Highway the Digital Generation Are All Here -Now.

The World Wide Wait? No, thank you, I'd rather "wait" For my lover's kisses, A morning sunrise, Fresh-from-the-print newspaper Or a friend's new letter. To slow down, To savor every precious moment Without the need for Speed Is the Real Key To Today's "World Wide Wait".

The Little Hypocrite

Little did she know She angered people Broke hearts-Her family's and friends'...

Little did she know... Or did she...

Did God create her to cause Distress, suspicion, contempt In other people's hearts?

Surely there must be a reason For her to exist in this manner-Sowing trouble wherever she went...

A scapegoat she was, God made her like that, So she would feel the same suffering She poured on others...

A Judas, a scapegoat for the Learning.... Always awaiting the final transformation in others' hearts -and in her own...

To each and everyone their lesson-Their equal suffering in life... Hers was no different...

But in that suffering, A Victory, always earned.

The Rain Pours Down

The rain pours down It touches my head It kisses me gently on my crown. It goes slowly down my body. It feels good. Cleansing, refreshing, sensual. In tune with the earth, sea, and sky. God is talking to me and He kisses me with the rain. He also is crying for me. And cleanses me and purifies me. I become one with the earth and with Him.

The Rock

I am a Rock I stand there silently, placidly, While gentle waters rush and Caress my skin. All is well.

The sun beats down on my brow. I give rest and shelter to a tired Iguana, content to catch some Rays.

I am now in a jungle. Moss is happy, for it now inhabits me.

I am in the playground. Children paint funny faces on me and Use me to play hopscotch.

I am Stonehenge, time stands still. Tourists admire me. I'm History.

I am Earth. I am the Foundation. I am necessary, ever-present, And things rely on me.

Rock is stable, Rock is good. Rock is steady, as it should.

The Stars, The Lovers, The Ocean

The waves splash gently across the shore. The moon shines softly on the water, Caressing the waves. Lovers' delight. They stare out onto the horizon. A soft breeze tousles her hair He looks at her and cries. Caresses her hair. They kiss. It's pitch-black. The stars sing out from above. They shower their blessings. " It's ecstasy! " But they don't fumble for each other. They continue to to look into each other's eyes. He repeats the process. Caresses her hair. She moves ever so slightly. Her neck tilted like a doe's head His hand moves down her neck Fingers tracing the silhouette Delighting in skin. It's too soft. It's fragile. He can't do anything. He whispers to her the unimaginable: "You embody my perfect, ideal girl." She is in 7th heaven. And he too. Both for the same and different reasons. They smile at each other. Their souls dance a million dances. The dance of love. The dance of life. Once more, the stars sing out. The lovers dance to the stars' song.

She gently falls asleep. He looks at her, slowly.

Amazed. Longingly. She sits by his side, But he takes her head slowly And places it on his lap. He just stares at her. His heart beats One with the Universe. He doesn't know what to do. He is just stupefied. Frozen. He doesn't know what to do. Whether to cry. To laugh. To shout. He is full Like an empty vessel Filled by God. He looks up. Smells the air. Smells of the ocean. Smells musty and sensual Smells of life. Here he is In nature with his loved one!

He falls asleep.

God touches his eyelids.

He dreams of faraway places. The childhood memories. The dragons he wanted to slay. The bullies he wanted to befriend. The girls he wanted to prove...

A song beckons to him through the fog It is his lover's voice calling out to him. "Where are you? " He was lost! Lost in the maze of his past. God showed him his present. He belonged with his lover now. The past was the past.

He found himself in pitch-black darkness. The darkness of sleep. It was a dreamless sleep. This was his future. Would he make the same mistakes This time? With his new-found love?

The Stranger

He comes almost every Sunday

We, my parents and I, drop

by Barnes and Noble bookstore after Mass, and there he is,

in the cafe',

working with his tablet laptop,

with a stack of papers by his side,

possibly correcting or researching said papers.

So he sits there, his tall, lanky body barely fitting in the chair, side-wise,

legs crossed elegantly,

like a prince.

So we usually, for some or no reason at all,

as if by magical design,

gravitate to a table next to his,

and sip our coffees and eat our scones,

our bagels with cream cheese, and blueberry muffins.

Mommy grabs some magazine and skims the articles. Daddy cracks jokes, concocts clever puns,

and the three of us engage in idle chatter.

And I look up surreptitiously.

Drawn by curiosity, vague dreams of sweet promise, fantasies fluttering in my head like butterflies,

I throw him a glance or two.

And oh, is he aware. Or is he.

He has a radar mind.

It picks up my waves of butterfly flutter-wishes.

But the question is, does he like it? He does not smile.

But something deep down in me pulls at my heart. It nags me, and thus this game

I dare to play with him.

A one-sided game.

A one-sided conversation.

He sometimes, or actually most of the time,

jooks as cold as a corpse.

Pasty white skin, pale blue eyes and blonde hair.

Another time, this time defined by Daddy,

he is a squid.

Probably because of his transparent skin.

Most of the time, he looks like a loner snob.

Just like me.

But just like me, he hides a secret. What is the secret? That secret is a warm, compassionate heart, a high-flying passion, a burning idealism. But then again the question is, for what. Is he a mirror reflection of me? A twin flame who like a moth, sought out the flame of his counterpart.

Other times he looks like the Angel of Death, What with his height, pale skin and hollow eyes. But then again, death has unfortunately always had that certain type of glamour.

He probably has been sent by God (as usual thank you God for being with, and thinking of me) at this juncture in my life, but to show, or do, what -I don't know. Maybe this Stranger just accompanies me.

He just is there with me. Appeared, and appears, and will appear? Maybe at the right time. When he will disappear, I don't know.

And the sad thing is that he doesn't know that I think of him. Or rather, he knows. But he probably doesn't care.

The Ways I Am

I'm like Joseph's technicolor coat, and my heart is a rainbow prism. I'm a wandering minstrel, and my songs I gather along the road. I weave them over my multicolored quilted coat.

I am Raggedy Ann. My dress is multicolored quilted too. I let myself be used by thousands of lonelies. They whisper their secrets to me. I just smile in return. Big eyes glazed over. Raggedy Ann becomes one with her friend.

Useless

Uselessness To trouble or not to trouble To be or not to be That's the fine line That's the silver lining Lying so maddeningly Behind the gray clouds

I try to express I try to explain Shall I cry or Shall I laugh

Life goes on It trudges on Breathe in Breathe out Are we grateful?

Why Do I Do The Things I Do

Up and down To and fro side by side A maelstrom of confusion Confetti from a crazy piñata Raining like manna from heaven Quenching my parched tired soul My ideas come like this- tired icy hail, crystal snowflakes, beautiful to me, but they cause Avalanches, blizzards, snowstorms of confusion in my mind and being, and stormy fate. Fare to my hungry soul, thirsty and hungry from an insatiable appetite and self-destructive Longing for more and more Knowledge. How much is enough. I bury myself in this crystal Ice-house. Preserved, eternal, glacial, Finally immortal. Which is Hell.

Yin And Yang

The duality of it all.

One -Are you a loser or winner? Do you live to lose or to win? To win is to lose. To lose is to win. We are all winners and losers in the circle of life. Therefore, think before labeling one a loser or winner.

Two -I whine my loss but I don't lose my whine.