



# VOICE of the SOUL

A Compilation of Poems



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# Fore Word

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It has been my utmost pleasure to announce the first publication of a poetry book initiated and hosted by Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch. The original idea of the book has been proposed by the speaker of a webinar entitled Voice of the soul: Collection of Short Poems, Puan Hajjah Sharina Saad and later she set up an editorial team to realize the mission. As the head of department, I will always support initiative like this one and will be looking forward for the coming editions of more creative writing books in the future.

While we may live and work in different campuses and in different fields, we all share the same core giving philosophy. This book captures that philosophy and shows that it is more than a fable or a pipe dream. It is real, it is original words from all of you who have contributed your poems in the first edition of this poetry book. This is the real art of giving. A book of poems from academicians to academicians.

Congratulations to the editorial team and to all contributors.

**Azlan Abdul Rahman**



# Pre Face

It is our pleasure to introduce this first edition of the poetry book called Voice of The Soul: Collection of poems which originated from a webinar series entitled Voice of the Soul: Collection of Short Poems organized and hosted by Academy of Language Studies and ILD Universiti Teknologi Mara Kedah Branch. The major purpose of the workshop is to learn how language expresses feelings and emotions and to encourage lecturers to write creatively as a hobby or perhaps a therapy from stress at work. During the webinar, participants were introduced to poetry writing and were encouraged to submit their written poems to be published as a creative work. Alhamdulillah, we received a remarkable response from the participants, and we extended the invitation to interested lecturers from various campuses all over Malaysia. Within a month period, 150 poems have been successfully compiled from interested 118 lecturers and academicians from UiTM and other higher learning institutions.

The aim of the poetry book is to provide in one edition, a compilation of unpublished poems from academicians to unleash the potential in them to become better writers. To encourage the beginners to write their poems, the selections in the edition are free verse and the writers are given freedom to choose their own themes. The themes include love and life, family, happiness, experiences, positivity, hopes, spiritual, education and life during the pandemic. The poems reflect the poets' inner voices and their own perception on certain issues in life and their environment. It is hoped that readers of this book would benefit personally and professionally.

Finally, this book could not have come into reality without a great deal of assistance and encouragement from many sources. We must acknowledge the great efforts of the contributors of the poems who have penned down their creative juices and diligently wrote their masterpieces. Our hope is that they will continue to write poems in the future because Poetry has a power to inspire change like no other art form.

**Editor- in - Chief**  
**Hajjah Sharina Saad**

# Acknowledgement

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Inspired by the words from Friedrich Nietzsche,

“One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star.”

I have always like to encourage others to write poems because I believe there is a little poet in you waiting to come to light. All you need to do is dig into yourself for deep answers to all your doubts and worries and let them be expressed into words that you have been keeping in your head for a long time. I suppose you must have felt relief and pleased after letting go your inner voices. You have just produced your masterpiece! I am delighted that you have finally poured your heart out and let your voices from the soul to come out to create wonderful poetries in this book.

Please be proud that now you can call yourself a poet.

I would like to personally thank the head of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa Encik Azlan Bin Rahman for the utmost support and to the diligent editorial team for the effort and dedication to the publication of the first edition of the poetry book. My heartfelt gratitude goes to each one of you who has contributed your poems. Keep up the good work and keep writing poems.

Voice of The Soul: A compilation of Poems is published today because of you. Congratulations and Thank You everyone.

**Chief Editor**  
**Sharina Saad**

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A COMPILATION OF FREE VERSE POEMS FROM ACADEMICIANS TO  
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**VOICE**  
of the  
**Soul**  
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**Spiritual**



## T.I.M.E.L.I.N.E

By Afifah Fadhlullah

All of us have a timeline  
that marks our life on earth.  
For some there is still a long way to go  
but for others it is approaching near.  
It might be a matter of days, hours, minutes or seconds  
before one's soul is taken.

I came to be cautious of the passing of time.  
The temporary world that we are living in  
of illness, old age and death  
whenever I hear news of my neighbours, my relatives and my friends' passing.  
But it became a real story when it hit close to home.

It was the first near-death experience for my mother  
when she complained of breathing difficulties.  
She had to be wheeled into the CCU  
when things took a 360 degree turn for the worst.  
My father and siblings could only wait and pray  
putting our faith in Allah the Most Merciful.

After what felt an eternity, though it was only a 7 hours' wait  
The doctor, like a saint, a saviour dressed in all white appeared.  
My mother is still unstable he said,  
her heart valve is too weak to pump oxygen without the machine.  
She had to be put to sleep to stabilise her breathing  
so we had to wait till the next day to know her fate.

When finally my mother was able to open her eyes and sit on the bed  
all of us were greatly relieved.  
We could not express how deeply thankful we were to Allah the Giver of Life.  
for listening to our prayers  
for not taking my mother away just yet.

It has been more than a week now  
The frightening episode of nearly losing my mother.  
Regardless young or old, healthy or sick,  
we will return to our Maker  
This is for sure.

We will never know when our timeline will end  
We should count our blessings for still being alive  
Life is temporary, Jannah is everlasting  
Have you made your preparations?  
Before death comes knocking at your door?



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