



VOICE of the SOUL

A Compilation of Poems



Fore Word



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The aim of the poetry book is to provide in one edition, a compilation of unpublished poems from academicians to unleash the potential in them to become better writers.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

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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**VOICE OF THE SOUL: COLLECTION OF POEMS
A COMPILATION OF FREE VERSE POEMS FROM ACADEMICIANS TO
ACADEMICIANS**

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Education

FOR THE LOVE OF MY STUDENTS

By Su_aida

For the love of my students
I stayed in UiTM for more than twenty years
Twenty years of joy, sorrow, achievements, failures and more joy

For the love of my students
I stayed late at night
In the first few years of my career
Being a student myself, before I could teach my students
I put aside my fears and my anxious feelings
Of not being able to impart basic legal knowledge to my non-law students
Of not being good enough in answering questions from my law students

For the love of my students
I spent monies on nice clothes
So that I look presentable in classes
I talked to the mirror, rehearsing my lecture slides
So that I would be fluent when I conduct my lectures
I prepared jokes and stories to be told in between lectures

For the love of my students
Looking back to what they used to call me
From "cik" to "puan" and now "Doctor"
I still enjoy teaching and meeting them
Either through the online or the offline platform
I still look forward to teaching them in years to come
Teaching would be my first and my last career ever

For the love of my students
I took time to talk to my students with mental illness issues
I changed the submission dates of the continuous assessments
When I knew that they were struggling with piles of other assessments
I helped my students with financial and family-related issues
I would do anything to help them within my limited capabilities

For the love of my students
Now that I am in my late forties
Seeing my students are like seeing my own kids
At times, I talk and advise like a mother
To prepare them for a balanced life in UiTM
I hope that they will remember to do good deeds and avoid evil deeds
On top of their other activities and commitments

For the love of my students
The remaining eleven years before my retirement days
I would want to make the best years to be remembered in my life
And when I die, I hope that the prayers of my students will help me in my afterlife



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