



Playing
with Words

VOICE
of the
SOUL

Volume II

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS



اَبُو سَيِّدِي وَرَثَةُ كَلِمَاتِي
UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Compilation of Poems :
Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah Branch



الجامعة
UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Playing,
with Words



ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

**Compilation of Poems:
Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah Branch**

**PLAYING WITH WORDS :
VOICE OF THE SOUL VOLUME II ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS**

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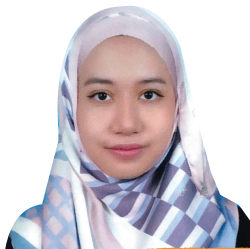
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FORE WORD

Azlan Abdul Rahman
Head of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa
UiTM Kedah Branch



It has been my utmost pleasure to announce the second publication of a poetry book initiated and hosted by Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch. I am proud to say that the second poetry webinar entitled Playing with words has resulted in the publication of Playing With Words: Voice of The Soul Volume II Anthology of Poems. As the head of department, I will always support initiatives like this one and will be looking forward to the coming editions of more creative writing books in the future.

The poetry in this anthology are original and well-crafted and I would recommend you to read the poems from various themes and genres the book offer. Poetry is the only form of writing that touches primarily on the emotional spectrum of human experience, rather than communicating via mental constructs. It enables the writer to share her emotional message directly with the reader, without having to rely on the intermediary form of an intellectual argument or a story.

👉 Thank you all of you who have contributed your poems in the second edition of this poetry book. 👉

This is the real art of sharing a book of poems from one creative mind to another. Congratulations to the editorial team and to all contributors.



It is our pleasure to announce the new edition of the poetry book called *Playing With Words: Voice of The Soul Volume II Anthology of Poems* which was originated from a webinar series entitled *Playing With Words: Voice of The Soul Volume II* organized and hosted by Academy of Language Studies and ILD Universiti Teknologi Mara, Kedah Branch early this year. The major purpose of the workshop is to guide writers to write creative poetry for publication. Poetry writing is an excellent practice for strengthening one's writing skills. Through poetry writing, we gain command of language, cultivate a robust vocabulary, master literary devices, and learn to work in imagery. And that's just a small sampling of how poetry improves basic writing skills. Moreover, poetry writing has long been hailed as a deeply therapeutic practice. It imparts a broad range of emotional and intellectual benefits that are useful to personal growth, whether we're working on self-improvement, emotional or psychological coping and healing, developing relationships, and even furthering our careers. Poetry writing and reading is indeed a therapeutic platform because it is both healing and transformative because it allows you to voice out your inner feelings.

Alhamdulillah, we received a tremendous response from the participants, and we extended the invitation to interested lecturers from various campuses all over Malaysia. I am proud to announce that in the anthology we managed to publish 203 poems which were contributed by 156 lecturers and academicians from UiTM and other higher learning institutions. This is in fact the largest collection of poems compiled in one anthology.

The themes include education, emotions, experience, family, life, values, love, nature, patriotism, hobby and religion all written in English language. We have also embarked into publishing 30 poems written in Bahasa Melayu. 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. As the chief editor, I observed improvements in the poems published in the anthology where poets have successfully put emphasis on symbolism, metaphor, and imagery.

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 because poetry allows people to express concepts in unique and resonant ways that sometimes survive and continue to inspire readers for thousands of years.

Acknowledgement

Sharifa Bivti Saad
Chief Editor

Inspired by the words from my favourite author Emily Dickinson,
If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me,
I know that is poetry. – **Emily Dickinson**

From the quote we know how powerful the diction in poetry is. Diction is important part of writing and understanding poetry because each story helps create the poem tone, mood, and all the poetic literary devices. Each word helps the poet to express her train of thoughts to create her story. Poetry writing has given us the opportunity to play with words innovatively and intelligently.

In Robert Frost's words - "Poetry is when emotion has found its thought, and thought has found words"

I would like to personally thank the Rector of UiTM, the Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs, Head of Academy of Language Studies, for the utmost support and to the diligent editorial team for the effort and dedication to the publication of the second 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.

Playing With Words : Voice of The Soul Volume II Anthology of Poems is published today because of you. Congratulations and Thank You everyone.

 **When in grief, play with words,
When in trouble play with words.** 

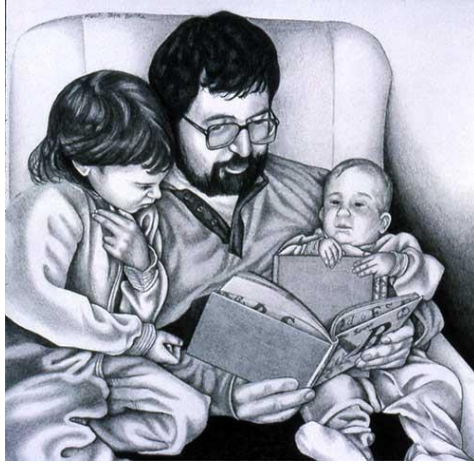
Sharifa Bivti Saad

Family



说故事的人 (The storyteller)

by 李献华 Lee Seng Hua



说故事的人

“你有没有听说过。。。”
你总是以这样的开头
开始你的故事
直到我们睡去

你告诉我森林里的故事
你告诉我天空中的故事
有时
你会重复相同的故事
我不知道你是忘了
还是你特别喜欢那个故事
喜欢到就算重新说一遍
也一样新奇可爱

下次，
我想听你们邂逅的故事。
下次，
轮到我来说我的故事给你听。
下次，
大概没有了下次。

说故事的人，
沉睡在
曾经相拥入睡的床边，
留下了一堆未完的故事。

Translation:

The storyteller

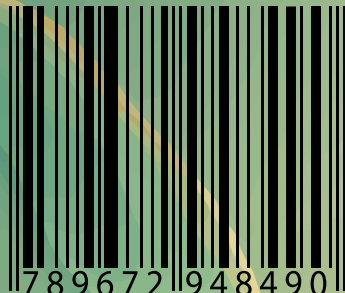
“Have you ever heard of...”
You always use this beginning line
to start your story
until we fall asleep

You told me about the stories in the forest
You told me about the stories in the sky
Sometimes,
you will repeat the same story
I don't know if you forgot
or you really like that story
So much so that even you tell it once again
the story is still novel and adorable

Next time,
I want to hear the story of your encounter with mom.
Next time,
maybe It's my turn to tell you a story.
Next time,
but probably no next time.

The storyteller,
lying fast asleep
at the bedside where we used to hug each other and fall asleep
left behind a bunch of unfinished stories

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