



Playing
with Words

VOICE
of the
SOUL

Volume II

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS



اَبُو سَيِّدِي رَسِيْلِي رَسِيْلِي رَسِيْلِي
UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Compilation of Poems :
Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah Branch



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

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Certificate/ Logo : Dr Shafilla Subri

ISBN : 978-967-2948-49-0

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ISBN 978-967-2948-49-0

Published By : Universiti Teknologi MARA
Kedah Branch
Sungai Petani Campus
08400 Merbok
Kedah
Malaysia

Printed By : Perpustakaan Sultan Badlishah
Universiti Teknologi Mara Kedah Branch
Sungai Petani Campus
08400 Merbok
Kedah

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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

Life



今天 Today

by 李献华 Lee Seng Hua



今天，
我在家里醒来
家乡的蓝天依旧蔚蓝清澈

今天，
我狠狠的吸了一口气
熟悉的洗衣液清香萦绕身旁

今天，
妈妈为我准备了美味菜肴
可是味道似乎比平时咸了些

今天，
我在偷听邻里间的私语
才惊觉少了几道熟悉的声音

今天，
我参加了一个葬礼
我妈说这将会成为常态

今天以前，
我以为一切都会似从前一样
可是一切都不会像从前一样

今天，
我的新一天如约而至
可有些人却永远停留在昨天

今天，
我许了个愿
愿时光善待我所在意的人
愿明天一切如昨

Translation:

Today,
I woke up at home
The blue sky of my hometown is still blue and crystal clear

Today,
I took a deep breath
The familiar fragrance of laundry detergent lingers around

Today,
Mom prepared delicious dishes for me
But the taste seems to be saltier than usual

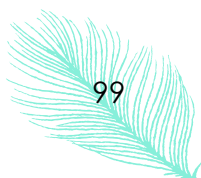
Today,
I have been eavesdropping on the pleasantries in the neighbourhood
I was surprised that there were few familiar voices missing

Today,
I went to a funeral
My mom said it's going to be the norm

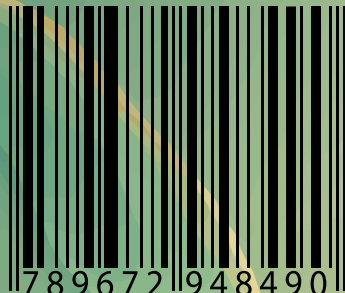
Before today,
I thought everything would be the same
But nothing will be the same

Today,
My brand new day comes as usual
But some people stay in yesterday forever

Today,
I made a wish
May time be kind to those I care about
May tomorrow be just like yesterday



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9 789672 948490

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