



Playing
with Words

VOICE
of the
SOUL

Volume II

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS



اَبُو سَيِّدِي وَرَبِّي كَوْنِي وَرَبِّي
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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TABLE of CONTENT

Foreword	i
Preface	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Theme: Education	1 - 14
Theme: Emotion	15 - 39
Theme: Experience	40 - 61
Theme: Family	62 - 83
Theme: Life	84 - 134
Theme: Love	135 - 162
Theme: Nature	163 - 177
Theme: Personal Likings/Hobbies	178 - 183
Theme: Poem in Malay Language	184 - 233
Theme: Religion/Spirituality	234 - 246
Theme: Value	247 - 262



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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.



PRE FACE

Puan Sharifa Birtti Saad
Chief Editor

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

Nature



The cat in me

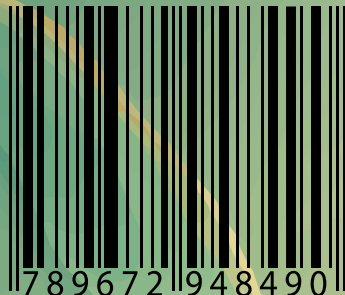
by Ibtisam Abdul Wahab

I am perfect, I looked perfect.
Not like Yom, the amputee
Despite having lost a leg, she climbs the staircase faster than me.
You want my lappy? Yom blinked once. Okay, then.
I provide my lap and she climbed on me.
She folds her two front legs and sits quietly.
But not long, here comes Ola, the beauty queen.
and Yom does not favour on sharing me.
Hence, Yom quits and goes off.
Now, Ola wins. For the time being.
While the cat in me is still figuring out
that plants are cats' attractants.
Pokok kucing galak hails from *Nepeta* genus
While *Actinidia* species can be the kiwi trees
These plants possess natural molecules.
The nepetalactone and matatabilactone
are the active principles
that would very much
excite the cats,
influence their response,
and stimulate Yom, Ola and Ariel,
as they are my lifetime comrades.



Ariel (left), Ola (middle) and Yom (right)

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