

VOICE of the South

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS



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



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Playing
with Words
VOICE
of the
soul Volume II
ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

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

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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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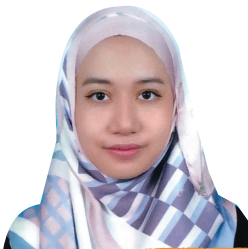
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FORE WORD

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 Sharila 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 Bivtti 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 Bivtti Saad

Poem in Malay Language



Aku dan Kabus

Penulis: Noraziah Mohd Amin

Selama nafas masih menghembus
Selagi jasad belum dikambus
Aku dan kabus
Sepi dan halus
Merindu terus
Jiwa yang tulus...

Kabus halus yang datang
penatnya menunggu hilang
lamanya menanti suria pulang.

Di balik kabus itu tak terbayang
kepastian yang terhalang
oleh kekaburan yang panjang
selagi mana angin terus bertandang
selagi mana dingin terus menggigit tulang.

Rindu makin sirna dikucup angin terbang
dalam kabus yang mengisi ruang
fikiran yang melayang-layang...

Perluakah terus menunggu kebisuan?
Perluakah terus mata dibutakan?
Atau berhenti menanti dan pergi meninggalkan?
Sebuah kekaburan fikiran?
Kerana jiwa telah rimas dan lemas
Dalam pelukan kabus yang tidak pernah ingin lepas
Dan hakikat yang tidak pernah diperjelas
Selagi bibir terus tertutup kemas...

Kabus sejuk yang menyelubungi
Hanya akan pergi
Bila muncul panas mentari
Maka, hatiku tekad untuk berlari
Berlari mengejar mentari
Cerah dan pasti...

Translation:

Me and the Mist

Author: Noraziah Mohd Amin

As long as I am still breathing
As long as my body has not been buried
Me and the mist
Quiet and subtle
I keep missing
A sincere soul...

A thin mist that comes
I'm tired of waiting for it to leave
And I'm tired of waiting for the sun to appear...

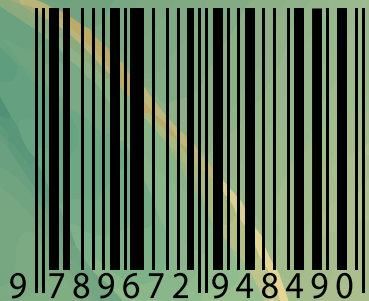
Behind the fog is unimaginable
Shrouding certainty
With thick obscurity
As long as the wind keeps blowing
As long as the cold continues to bite my bones.

Longing fades away with the kiss of the wind
With the mist that's filling the space
My thoughts are wandering...

Should I keep waiting for the silence to break?
Should I keep being blind?
Or should I stop waiting and leave?
A hazy mind?
Because the soul has drained and drowned
In the embrace of the fog that never wants to let go
And the fact that has never been explained
As long as the lips remain tightly sealed...

The cold mist that is shrouding me
Will only leave
When the sun has started to disseminate its heat
By then, my heart is determined to run
And chase after the sun
Bright and clear...

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