Poetry Series

keith Durante - poems -

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A Cog In The Machine

So come now and gather, young henchmen you design, more work with less help, this 'new' workplace you refine;

ever increasing workload demands, as hunger stills our steadfast hands, muscles rip, ligaments tear, fueling despair, corporate dollar profits increase their share;

children run the streets at dinnertime, parents bleed and sweat for one more dime, if only to squeeze one more penny of content, and pray to God to pay the rent;

herein lies the fate of the poor, not to expect anything more, service to the kindly corporate master, reaps and benefits human disaster;

fear has burdened the worker's brow, numb to the joy found in the now, corporate smiles-shimmer and sheen, oh! to be a Cog in the Machine...

Butterflies And Roses

Butterflies and Roses, Unicorns with wings, how simply the child holds dear such things, she dances on rainbows and sings in the rain, she cradles her wishes to soothe her pain;

a child chanced a look, to drink all life in, forests and fairies were her special kin, she loved a man that flirted with danger, in time, his heart, became a total stranger;

he called to decadent, a careless caprice, my sister was stripped of childlike peace, unknown to the reason, she becane quite ill, how fast her wonderland became so still;

absent was laughter only the child can share, as she sat wistful, no gaiety or care, no more dancing rainbows or unicorns to mount, consumed and ravished by her T-cell count;

the hospital was cold and wintry that night, when my sister decided to end her fight, her last note called upon God, sacred things, Butterflies and Roses and Unicorns with wings...

Come Away From There

I once heard an angel call my name ever since I haven't been the same I was just a child playing with fire the flames consumed me growing higher

I felt a hand grip my shoulder so vivid it is even now that I'm older 'come away from there' a giant voice said flames were dashing all around my head

I was lifted from within the blazing rage from then on I've been a wandering sage maybe I was touched to become a priest my descent was to hell it matters least

my bowels filled with the waste of addiction my sins a testament to a sacred fruition I languished sweetly in streets and alleys dreaming of dancing through rolling valleys

cursing and screaming I lived without caution pulled from the fire to reap such fortune through the stupor I denounced all shame because, I once heard an angel call my name...

Cosmic Blues

Levi's, sandles, and album news, the sacred order of our dues, we came of age in sixty nine, every whispered breath, a mystical sign,

friends were we like no other, wandering sages and earth, our mother, our heroes were Jimi, Janis and John, before long, our peace trip was gone,

we were shadows of psychedelic hue, bohemians searching the true point of view, we bathed in rainbows and expounded verse, never imagined our world could get worse,

we'd meet at the club down on the lake, wishing the roads, our lives would take, we covered each other with tender care, digging the blues through stupor and stare,

we parted forever one hot sultry night, on into life, so real with its' fright, prodical return with nowhere left to bruise, Purple haze, backlights, and cosmic blues...

Forever And An Hour

she use to wait for me after class how I longed for time to pass to hold her hand to stop the sand flowing through the hour glass of time for in that moment she was forever mine

with each enticing whisper our love we would share and though the world was watching we would kiss and double dare

how the innocent young bravely push back time a precious love so bold so pure and sublime the years push back exhausted heart in hand the hour glass is empty run out of sand

I remember touching together a promise of forever we vowed never say never

I dream of you dancing under moonlit skies the way sparkling twilight escapes your eyes how tender you still touch me then I realize how strong our passion time could never devour I was born to love you forever and an hour

Half Finished No More

hands feverish aching to form chords that resound the rythym in my loins born in the words I sing

half finished songs conceived in mad frenzy imploring me to complete or abort this rush of thought

but the feelings remain like cold puddles in the rain splashing and rippling my insides until the storm subsides

the bridge that ties all the feelings that bind repeating chorus and rising cresendo to each alone the lyric is blind

cascading like a wave crashing upon the shore libido swirling like a violent eddy until half finished no more

Her Last Smile In The Rain

There's a cold rain falling down on the morning, I stand at my window, I hear love calling, a blistery wind pelts a new formed puddle, I see her splash its'surface racing to the shuttle;

despite the chill she offers a wave and warm smile, tapping her wrist with a welcoming nod and sly style, I smile and mime, coffee at seven, tonight I'll disclose she's my love and my heaven;

we met at a cafe' just off the city thoroughfare, I was smitten by the many amber shades of her hair, we sat at a small table stripped of formality, neither of us languished in or cared for mystery;

we met and spoke often, shrouded whispers on the street, imprisoned by her art and her marriage incomplete, our love was stolen moments engraved in time, where each breath we exhaled ended in rhyme;

warm and tender her kisses upon my cheek, my heart lept each time the cafe' door would squeak, I still go there often, coffee seems to dull the pain, ravishing still, Her Last Smile In The Rain...

How Simple Can Simple Be

The best I've ever done is all the love I've won remembering to hold them dear each and every one cherish all the moments that nothing came between conversations sharing the places we've seen

all the times I've struggled discouraged and alone wandering aimless just chilled to the bone recalling broken promises where love didn't reach all of the lessons that time didn't teach

how ordinary special is just allright with me taking in the sunset with pleasant company never feeling foolish for my point of view content that our laughter rolls out true

reflecting how I've grown out of touch how simple things didn't seem to matter much yet how great the hand of human affection that simply offers a kinder connection

how innocence decays yielding to blind trust betrayed by the glamour of extravagant lust lost and stranded, tangled in mystery How Simple Cam Simple Be...

How Wondrous To Smile

how simple to smile, pretentious or real the intentions it may or may not reveal the coy charm summoned each time you flirt or the brave nod assuring your not hurt the sensuous look with alluring eyes a defiant glare unwilling to compromise or fond reminiscing somewhere in the past safe harbor are these that somehow last the cordial we blush meeting someone new the excitement of conversations we ramble through the cunning wit untangling manipulative ploy such as the milk not found in soy an infectious smirk that discovers clever or the crude abruptness of ties you sever the hunch that validates a strong intuition of course love soothes the human condition to see kindness extended-no strings attached to envision greed and war forever detached liberating all hearts to dine in style How wondrous to smile...

Human Awaken

Rise up to torture that cripples the soul, that which denies the world as a whole, sanctify your bretheren with utmost care, the joy of living, be willing to share,

engage and discuss, the many to feed, shame and denounce the hand of greed, tell stories of merry, delight, and glee, give your wisdom to many for free,

hold accountable all who sanction your breath, their zeal is relentless, causing your death, release and renew all hopes worth growing to, for clever is shame, it will silence you,

demand safety and kindness for all, hear the song of life, echo and call, you are the river, its' evv and flow, all birth is noble, did you not know,

those of cunning, confuse and illude, they master illusion, so fleeting and crude, the fruits of life are never forsaken, when they harvest love and the human awaken...

I Call Upon All Of You

I called upon God just last night I asked if we were living wrong or right the answer I heard left me quite disturbed it seemed God was somewhat perturbed not that God was indifferent or didn't care but that I asked didn't seem fair

'I gave you a luscious mountain view you cut it down and sold it for a pew I send prophets of love to seduce your senses you insist on flags and strategic defenses many the hands to hold one another you clench fists killing sister and brother...'

'...you talk of gains and the marginal line yet make Heaven so hard to define you zest for war and kill in my name your balance sheets are not in my game the vision of life, of love, and beyond lives in your heart not the preacher's wand...'

'...if it isn't joy it's therefore not right I call upon you, each and every night...'

I Could Not Cry

If I could how sweetly I would try to greet the world with an innocent eye so often I have lived tragic and hip every turn of the page losing my grip

I feel deadly demons consume my soul how foreign love feels, I languish in cold bitter seems a life long friend expecting less is better, it seems in the end

how I gather my courage and greet each day praying for a loved one to come my way how I have portrayed any role to survive just to have a friend, just to feel alive

Many times to the wishing well finding it dry so as my tears and I could not cry...

I Saw A Homeless Man

I saw a homeless man huddled in cold his hands cramped crippled just growing old our eyes met and I cringed inside I felt ashamed with no place to hide

his eyes blazed like morning sunrise simmering soft then ripping the skies he bid me closer with a gentle nod I stumbled at first a bumbling clod

his voice sounded like a warm summer breeze deep in my soul a stirring weakened my knees what morals did I carelessly surrender did I live reckless did I share tender

did I wrap myself in comfort and riches blind to the down trodden deaf to their wishes do my contritions ease human conditions free my sin and renew kind to many or a few

did I stand rightous for good to the end seek out laughter with family and friend my knees crumbled and in tears I realize I've seen myself through God's eyes

I saw a homeless man...

If Ever My Memory Fades

so soft the memory that wrinkles my nose and curls my smile into a playful smirk she would sit upon the bathroom counter her feet in the sink plucking her eyebrows putting make up on her nipples erect from the granite chill

I would see her reflection in the swirling mist covered mirror she would smile and smooch me a kiss I was complete as two of her smiled coy when just one of her would do

wiping the warm mist she would catch my stare and ask 'what' I answered 'nothing, absolutely nothing' and smiled the widest grin she would pose and vogue, tweak everything just so breathlessly alive and naked

how often this moment invades my senses reminding me how precious our time together was a sharp contrast to the years we grew apart this memory remains a treasure buried deep in my heart

so often I'm guilty of deep reflection and far away stare amazed how she slipped suddenly away content now this written moment will stay if ever my memory fades

It Takes But A Moment

It takes but a moment to slither and lie, truth is captured in the wandering eye, though it may seem a falsehood well done, honesty is a bullet and truth the gun,

deceive and weave to your hearts content, till your reflection looks all quite bent, I swaer to God and trust me won't do, looking in the mirror is only you,

what does it take to tell the truth, is it somewhere buried in your youth, back, where to fib, seemed somewhat felonious, yet now, it is cruel, dark, and inharmonious,

Oh! , to consider, the many hearts that break, because a lie can't give, it can only take, how sad for dignity, guardian of the soul, as lies encumber and wreak their toll,

they encourage bewilderment, at best a guess, they make all you do a fitfull mess, when you're alone, with your deeds, you torment Remember your choice, It Takes But a Moment...

Let Freedom Be The Toll

The world watched a peaceful gathering at Bethel, They came in droves to rekindle the past, A spirit lost somewhere through time, An ancient thirst for revolution,

And there, on the cusp. did the people gather, at a time called Woodstock, at a place named freedom, and though the spirit never dies, the voices became desperate cries, for an anthem, a challenge to the wise,

And the bands sang songs for political rescue, freedom rang for peace and virtue, Brothers and Sisters gathered on a farm, to the world they sang hope, no crime, no harm,

here at the awesome mercy of nature, tenderness nurtured the seed of revolution, Grace is the harvest of universal evolution, Peace is the spirit of loves' solution,

People of the earth are a delicate rapture, the earth is mystic, a loving soul to capture, and the sage that sings to the heart with flowers dares the grip of earthly powers.

Peace is an angel, born of Divine, Politics echo a warning sign, And the people, they gather to remember the past, they look to the future, how long will it last? ,

The leaders that save us, they scavage and plunder, Savage is war, it rapes Holy wonder, How does the earth pick up after, the mokery of political laughter? Here on a farm, In the time of Bethel, a bridge of peace, and people the vessel, seeds in the clouds impress the learned few. true magic is the beauty of sacred morning dew,

Take heed of the SPIRIT that festers peace and its constitution, hungry is the world of spiritual revolution,

And the people, they gather, for an innocent view, to witness the marvel of freedom ringing true, To each, The other, Is Natures' Host Lift a glass to your Toast,

The innocent so few, Oh! what's the world done to you? It's a gentle Nirvana calling, Heaven is falling

On earth, the wicked grow strong, On earth, peace must be the song, danger is out of control. Violence is destroying the soul,

Yazgurs' farm, a time of peace, no harm, take another look, the hand of fate is not in a book,

all you breath and tell, is it happiness or hell? , the time of hell is upon us, lay down your lust, gather your trust,

Sister and Brother, Love one another, hate and greed and war, seems society wants more,

Love the breathless shrew, they know not what they do, Learn to live and grow, The universe will flow, through your heart and soul, Let Freedom Be The Toll...

Love Enters Tender And Bold

It is said that love enters through the eyes that it leaves the same way comes as no surprise cunning and swift it out runs capture leaving you breathless begging for rapture

precious to hold when at long last it arrives unconditional surrender is how one survives the wretching challenge to nurture and cherish how crippling the fear that it may perish

to hold one's heart overcome with pain the burden of a comfort yet to gain when love decides it has run its course detached it leaves no care or remorse

a cold icy chill fills your chest never again will you give your best you pledge a vow to learn from this hurt love is a callous and pompous flirt

yet the empty longing of unmet needs the despair upon which love wantonly feeds the tears of alone growing old waiting for love to unfold Love enters tender and bold...

Many Times The Sinner

many times the sinner, never the saint, overwhelmed with penance, it makes me feint, outside my window birds chirp and chatter, to them, it seems, heaven doesn't matter,

the majesty of creation shimmers ruby bright, note to self, enhance your second sight, Be it an hour, the sun has risen, yesterdays' anguish is tomorrow's prison,

on trees of wings, the voice wakes, Oh! , how night long sorrow aches, no more shall I wait to speak, walk on before the body grows weak,

for pleasure is true concern, seek the comfort toils earn, dare to overcome wages of turmoil, dare to forgive, dare to sow and soil,

fate will bend and guard you well, she'll deliver you from the gates of hell, love is the brush and majestically you paint, the sinner is artist, the canvas is saint...

Maybe Heaven Is Coffee

the last time I looked in, it seemed Heaven was quite still least of all mentioned anymore, alone on a hill

I suppose if the mere mention piled up bonus reward miles it would indeed be a frequent flyer hot topic as foreign as the concept may or may not be I'm sure a few ardent cynics have given pause to reflect

to be sure it is a most powerful seducer enlisting both men and women as insane suicidal terror bombers,

no matter the many winding roads that unfold in the dreamscape of our minds, surely a heavenly bliss has whispered sweet dreams at times extolling comfort and reassurance

Indeed God, the God of all Gods, became flesh living and breathing, walking among us singing a song of redemption to free us, to love us quite the tall tale for a human to fabricate

an apple falls sparking the science of gravity eating one a day becomes a mainstay of sorts of health and wealth and retail trade Maybe Heaven is coffee...

Oh! You Woodstock Child

My spirit lay dead, no light in my eyes, I chiristened each bar with outlandish lies, empty and callous, I was spitting out sin, denying rumors of where I'd been,

most likely out chasing another skirt, too drunk to stumble, too drunk to flirt, stuck in a vacuum sucking up glee, craving every drug offered to me,

I was the hip woodstock child, a fiery mystic running wild, dancing and playing my rock and roll harp, I had no shelter, not even a tarp, but I would bewitch and write in style,

taking you hostage if only for awhile, riding love songs, peace trains and more, waking each day on the bathroom floor,

little by little, my lifeline grew weak, I awoke in a world where only demons speak, I screamed for mercy and heaven smiled, Oh! you woodstock child running wild...

One Gentle Light

One gentle light, a solemn candle burns, to enhance a moonlit dusk or a heart that yearns, to dream of distant pain, how it shadows many tears, a soothing light that burns upon the soul and its' fears;

a simple comfort that nurtures the mind with universal wonder, an enchantment of dark that stills time and unholy blunder, yet for all the heart cries to feel, the soul must somehow cope, upon the core of humanity burns a sacred message of hope;

how eager the youthful spirit rages with fire, how sad with age, dreams fade, a feint glimmer of desire, yet the world carries on reckless and bold, as hope becomes a memory sometimes told;

One gentle light, a candle, like the heart it flames, it spans time and reason with celestial names, sometimes to seduce the world with one whispered breath, upon your breast the vision of love survives even death;

in the seedy, cool, restless halls of dark, one gentle light flames life's miraculous lark, the divine journey is indeed, all we wish it to be, an angelic state of grace between you and me;

One gentle light, a simple light of night, it touches my soul with unearthly sight, I feel its' warmth, deep inside where I live, as if hope and love, I was born to give...

One Less To Give

So often exasperated, I draw another breath, slow it down, go easy, I'm racing to my death more work, more worry, no time left to live, does each anxious gasp mean one less to give,

mad dash of frezy, running out of time, more work, more flow, forced to dropp or climb take a rest, need a rest, hear the grass grow grind it out, burn it out, hear my mind blow,

so dead on your feet, your eyes can't sleep, the work whistle blows, too afraid to weep, you promise yourself time off with a friend, the whistle still screams, there is no end,

awakened at night, dreaming of work, absent of self, just another kneejerk, what's it all for, is it just for more, another gasp, your blood spills to the floor,

all of you breath living enslaved, all of the time you haven't saved, to languish sweetly in this world you live, breath in deep, fearless of, One Less To Give

The Lord Loves Rock And Roll

The Lord Loves Rock and Roll gives life to the soul so play on drums of old tell the story of Rock and Roll

born on the brow of sweat and toil in the bayou's and cotton fields sacred soil a sound honed from misery and despair to rapture the burdened with utmost care

breaking the chains of sinful restraint all the lies slave masters paint a resonate spirit ablaze, her rebellious echo tearing down walls, like those of Jericho

the carnage and misery of souls bought and sold gave birth to the rythym of Rock and Roll breast fed by her mother, sweet sister blues as Father Gospel sang heavenly news

the violence of brutality and murderous rage suffers the heart at any age somgs of freedom ring the unholy toll The Lord Loves Rock and Roll...

The Shadow Dancer

the sun slowly enters, creeps across my window sill waiting an invitation, it remains quite still I revel at it's warmth, almost like romance opening wide the shutters, I invite the sun to dance

It explodes upon me and splashes across the room in every crack and crevice, shadows dance upon the gloom shadow dancing a ballet of classical lore enticing me to dance as they lept across the floor

commanding the delicate balance of a Ballerina's grace sunlight announced 'All shadows take their place' my shadow mesmerized, appeared center stage seduced by this alluring and passionate rage

enchanting all my senses, my shadow began to sway responding to the touch of every golden ray slithering and sliding to the rythym of light a primal urge to heed this wondorous sight

I was Rocking and Rolling to the song of creation this was no rehearsal, whispered my elation Kings and Queens, all the Nobles and poor were all dancing upon my kitchen floor

The Symphony Of Our Reality

Long ago I gave up the notion, that I could fill with heartfelt emotion, it mattered no way, more or less, if I felt my worst, if I felt my best,

I only know a world of grave ill, sadness and madness that conjure a thrill, lies and misdeeds that fuel the insane, and suffer the soul of finest grain,

I plead, I pray, shake a fist to the sky, how many more are frozen and die, such horror that live and utter dismay, are we not more than hardened clay,

Yet, do we plod and wander on, all of our heroes are gone, have we failed a universal mission, living by and for the fruits of commission,

have we grown so needy, we cannot heed, a world so tortured, writhing with need, we fill the airwaves with utmost fantasy, The Symphony of Our Reality...

The Writer's Pen

the writer lifts and weilds a simple pen with the frailty or strength that moves women and men for what purpose is of no defined accord the mind's eye begs the soul to record

an explosion of notions and trauma filled emotions riveting ideas harvesting daily human devotions an echo of song searching to belong or a rightous thought consumed by wrong

perhaps to blaze a trail that links the past forging the truth that time has cast or how many times the sun has risen soaring above this immaculate vision

the writer's easel portrays passion or despair to articulate for all the world's dramatic flair to celebrate the triumph and trajedy of human kind exposing all the sins the devil leaves behind

with courage and conviction each word will form, a fresh and new perspective, freedom from the norm taste the fruits of heaven that feed your zen divine, the inspiration, that moves The Writer's Pen...

To Live The Love I Surmise

I wake in the still of my silent home and though it is just me, I don't feel alone empty of chaos I shelter a garden my soul I have learned, the only treasure to keep

I am the graceful touch of an artist divine my shangra la a blessed space to dwell only as sacred as I strive to be a candle of hope upon my window sill

how quiet now, the roost of an empty nest I gather my thoughts of things yet to do I pray I have more time to borrow a to-do list that won't wait for tomorrow

my needs are few and ever so simple yet my desires burn like fresh morning sun while Love has teased and caused a pain or two it is still a wondorous comfort to long for and hold

through the years cynics have stormed my beliefs yet small and big miracles somehow survive these moments illuminate diamonds in my eyes To live the Love I surmise...

Under A Cold Moon

one cold and lonely winter night snowflakes gently fell fusing with my tears they rolled to the ground and froze little mirrors reflecting my past

I knelt and looked closely I saw two children playing in the snow they giggled and laughed sledding into a tree no harm, just fun, each breath more anxious

we climbed the tree and counted stars but all we could see were the dreams in our eyes our breath hung frosted in night air she was my first kiss on a frigid night

we danced the evening sledding by moonlight feeling our hearts race with each embrace and there, that night, as the moon was still the touch of that first kiss lingers

It was more than just an innocent memory where passion and love collide It was the first warm kiss the first time forever was whispered Under a cold moon

Upon This Yoke I Feed

Damn these rumblings of utter dismay leaving my thoughts to scatter away how the mind exists amid such turmoil cohesive plans just rot and spoil

alone and adrift on a stormy sea no metaphors to comfort me no love or fellowship to be found a thousand worries keep me bound

off in the distance I seek a light dreaming of a life just right how not to disdain my mortal search nor the hope I besmirch

truly the healthy one can see the pain of such sympathy to my core I rattle and ache every minute of breath I forsake

I swear this numbness is not chosen nor my love that is chilled and frozen Oh Please! no more victim of need Upon this yoke I feed...

When Autumn Leaves Fly

Outside my window leaves tumble to the ground, slowly rolling without the slightest sound, a blue grey sky just waiting overhead, autumn leaves gently hurry summer to bed;

here in this moment, where seasons collide, how many leaves have taken this ride, soaring, diving, and floating on the breeze, revealing the weathered skin of naked trees;

stripped of the colorful plummage they wear, limbs dangling like tangled and knotty hair, bare and exposed awaiting the storm, all around, swirling leaves perform;

such a sight of awe and wonder, a seasonal ritual blown asunder, as certain as the stars, their evening light, dancing leaves assure the world is just right;

running and shuffling, pushing through leaves, all of the splendor that nature achieves, how soft and pleasing to the eye, when autumn leaves fly...

While Love Is Left To Dreaming

Wild and wicked, the world ever seeming, while love is left to dreaming, tempest of ill winds and merciless bombs, such fury that only exhaustion calms,

what statesman will stand and deliver, the innocent blood that stains the river, in the name of holy, walking tall and pious, swift is the rage that ties and binds us;

in secret or proud, war is a terror, the reasons why are all human error, boldly you dare to name your cause, while heaven listens in silent pause;

hold fast the scoundrel lost in vanity, his needs a plague upon humanity, and though the world is frought protesting the vein harbor secrets that need protecting;

they endevour to employ a kingdom come, rewarding the loyal a King's ransom, secure that the world continue screaming, while love is left to dreaming...