

TRIBUTES

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Frederick Douglas Harper

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

My Sons:

Frederick Vencil Harper
Renfred Douglas Harper

And

My Grandchildren:

Phoenix Mya Lynn Harper
Christopher James Douglas Harper
Gabrielle Christina Lorene Harper
Frederick Andrew Alexander Harper

PREFACE

This publication is my 12th book of poetry with prose. Having the theme “tributes,” its contents address tributes, honor, and acknowledgments to both the living and the dead. There are tributes to exceptional human beings who are no longer alive, but who stand out in history for their exceptional creations or their humanitarian services to the least fortunate or the most needy—outstanding human beings such as Helen Keller, Mother Teresa, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Albert Schweitzer. There are tributes to exceptional human beings whom I know, have known, or know of—those who have consistently sacrificed to help others. Also, there are persons who are honored for their sacrifice and contributions in helping youth. These honorees include a Sunday-school teacher, mothers, and school teachers. This book honors the dead who sacrificed much to benefit or bring joy to others (e.g., Michael Jackson) or those who died unjustly at the hands of the unjust (e.g., Emmett Till). Finally, there are tributes for special occasions (e.g., a birthday) or to persons in special groups (e.g., school and college graduates, outstanding athletes, and even two courageous animals: a dove and a dog).

I take pride in dedicating this book to my adult children and my grandchildren. By name, I dedicate this publication to my two sons: Frederick Vencil Harper (age 35) and Renfred Douglas Harper (age 18). Both have developed into achieved persons and fine human beings. I also dedicate this book to my four grandchildren: Phoenix Mya Lynn Harper (age 8), Christopher James Douglas Harper (age 7), Gabrielle Christina Lorene Harper (age 4), and Frederick Andrew Alexander Harper (infant). It is my high hope that my adult children and grandchildren will continue to develop God’s light of talent within them to the highest possible level and that they share their worthy creations and services with others in need.

Lastly, I acknowledge and express my gratitude to Jacqueline A. Harper and Neisha-Ann Thompson for their review of the manuscript for this book.

Frederick Douglas Harper
2012

I WRITE BECAUSE . . .

I am who I am;
I am what I am;
I write as an expression of
A gift to me from beyond;
I write because it is what I do
And what I am supposed to do
At this time and in this small
Earthly place of my brief existence
Among eons of cosmic times past;
I write about the universal theme of
The Spirit that transcends me but gives
To my being and purpose;
I write with a chorus of ancestral
Angels who guide my thoughts as
They do my writing hand;
I write from thought of heart and mind
As messages from the Spirit of God;
I write about love, rightful living,
Social justice, beauty, and the sacredness
Of life;
I write about peace, climatic change,
And human destiny;
I write because I saw no other choice
Except to choose the choice that was
Divinely placed before me;
I write because of a Divine gift of talent
And the need to honor that gift.

THE SUPREME MEDAL OF HUMANITY

Tributes to:

*Helen Keller • Mother Teresa • Harriet Tubman • Frederick
Douglass • Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi • Martin Luther King, Jr.
• Albert Schweitzer*

All of you have lived a life of growth, sacrifice, courage, love, forgiveness, and unselfish giving. Therefore, I salute you and present to you posthumously, but in presence of spirit, the highest medal that I, as a humble poet, can bestow upon you—"The Supreme Medal of Humanity."

Helen Keller, will you please come forward in spirit.

You were born with sight and hearing; yet, before age two, because of illness, you lost these—becoming both blind and deaf. With loving parents and the commitment of an angelic life-long teacher, you refused to accept darkness and defeat, lifting yourself higher in education and aspiration, in communication with the world, and in your benevolent service to humanity. Through communicative touch, you were able to know the light of the world and to give back to the world through your brilliant light of love. Through your courageous and determined spirit and the help of numerous good people, you became the first deaf and blind person to graduate from college, receiving your degree with high academic honor. As an international writer and public speaker, you repeatedly advocated for the rights and needs of women and the disabled, especially the blind and the deaf. Your book, *Light in My Darkness*, inspired and gave hope and help to many disabled and oppressed people around

the world. You were and are a beacon of triumph, achievement, and unselfish giving.

Helen Keller, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Mother Teresa, will you please come forward in spirit.

You dedicated your life to helping the poorest of poor throughout the world—feeding the poor, providing for their health needs, and teaching a spiritual way of forgiveness, love, and peace to many. In your own words, you stated God’s mission for you, “I had the call to take care of the sick and the dying, the hungry, the naked, the homeless—to be God’s Love in action to the poorest of the poor.” You saw the light and followed your heart in God’s call, and others joined you and assisted you in your mission of good. With gifts and volunteer aid from others, you set up many homes and missionaries to carry out your sacred work of helping the poorest. You made the world better through your establishment of hundreds of missionary homes to help orphans, the homeless, lepers, the sick and dying, and others who were forgotten and in extreme poverty and disease. You spoke and wrote publicly of forgiveness, peace, love, and giving, while teaching that “works of love are works of peace.” For your exceptional and benevolent efforts, you were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in life and beatified by the Pope of the Catholic Church after life on Earth. As indicative of your name, Mother Teresa, you were certainly a mother to thousands in need.

Mother Teresa, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Harriet Tubman, will you please come forward in spirit.

Born into slavery, you were destined to fight its injustices, and you so valiantly did. Divinely gifted of body and mind, you were blessed with extraordinary

mental and physical strength as a human being. For your so-called stubbornness as a child, you were once bashed across the head with a cooking utensil, but still you stood and rebelled against wrong and insult, eventually escaping to freedom. As a free woman and natural leader, you used your strength, determination, charisma, and intelligence in order to free hundreds from the bondage of slavery. In the Underground Railroad to free slaves, you helped group after group to escape North to freedom, while risking your own life in the process. Your courage was undaunted, your shrewdness unmatched, and your will undampened. The Universal Spirit and your ancestral spirits carried and protected you in your destined mission to free so many. You inspired others to join the struggle against slavery with your powerful public speeches. You were admired and respected worldwide by queens and leaders for justice. Some antislavery advocates addressed you as General Tubman, which was symbolic of their highest respect for and honor of your courageous and tactical leadership in bringing human beings from the darkness of slavery to the light of freedom.

Harriet Tubman, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, "The Supreme Medal of Humanity." We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Frederick Douglass, will you please come forward in spirit.

Born a slave, you chose not to die a death of infamy as a slave. You learned to read as a child, later escaped to freedom, and became a person of great value to yourself and many others. A public speaker, book author, newspaper publisher, and U.S. statesman, you fought persistently for the abolition of slavery and the rights of women and other disenfranchised groups. In 1848, you were among the few men who attended and stood up for the rights of women at the Seneca Falls Convention. Your charismatic orations and inspirational writings internationally influenced the cause for the uplift of the downtrodden and oppressed. During your period of refuge and travel in England, Ireland, and Scotland, your powerful public speeches helped to raise awareness and money for efforts to abolish slavery in America. Yours was a life of struggle against injustice, oppression, and persecution. Your impact was felt then as it is now.

Frederick Douglass, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you

for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi, will you please come forward in spirit.

You stood up for your country against the British Empire, and the masses followed your nonviolent resistance against a world power. For much of your life, you searched for truth, concluding that “God is Truth.” You chose self-imposed poverty to enhance your spirituality and to maintain your focus on your mission. As a lawyer, government leader, and protestor, you constantly fought for the alleviation of poverty, the rights of women, and the peaceful coexistence among religions of India. On several occasions, you suffered prison for your persistent nonviolent efforts to get the British to quit its occupation of India. You were nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize, but the Nobel committee did not award the Prize to you—an award that numerous world leaders thought that you so much deserved. Nevertheless, you positively influenced the times of your life as you influenced the course of world history. Courage, wisdom, sacrifice, and perseverance characterize and honor your legacy and accompany the mention of your name.

Mohandas Gandhi, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Martin Luther King, Jr., will you please come forward in spirit.

You dedicated your life in the defense of the poor and in your struggle against injustice. With an earned doctorate, you could have taken a professional path of safety and comfort or a life of power and status in governmental or corporate leadership, but you chose the humble and destined path set forth in God’s stars for you, eventually being killed because you stood up and led as a drum major and soldier for the poor. By choosing God’s destined path for you, you changed history while inspiring and benefiting the masses. You wrote and eloquently spoke out against acts of inhumanity and injustice, just as you fervently advocated for human rights and civil rights. Your love and actions for humanity earned you the Nobel Peace Prize. By your leadership of the masses

and eloquence of speech, you broke the will of the powerful and changed the hearts of the malevolent and misguided. Your charismatic image still remains in the memories and recordings of this day, and your legacy is reflected by the light of your contributions to humanity.

Martin Luther King, Jr., I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Albert Schweitzer, will you please come forward in spirit.

Philosopher, musician, theologian, scholar, missionary medical doctor in Africa, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, you gained much in knowledge, skills, and money, and you gave away your blessings and earnings to help others in dire need. You excelled as a scholar, receiving a doctor of philosophy, doctor of theology, and doctor of medicine, but, even more important than your academic achievements, you gave your gifts of wealth, knowledge, and service for the betterment of humanity. You built hospitals for the neglected in Africa and provided medical staff and services for those without. You taught others about health, life, music, peace, reverence, and unselfish giving. Through your speeches and writings, you taught the world a way of spirituality and peace. As an example of your beliefs, you gave away your Nobel Prize money for the erection of hospital buildings in Africa. You gave away money from sales of recorded music and published books—all for the health, education, and welfare of the dispossessed and ignored.

Albert Schweitzer, I am honored on this day to say to you that you are not forgotten; that you are held high as one of the greatest human beings ever to live and give light to the world of others. Therefore, I take pride to salute you for your accomplishments and high service to humankind. I present you with the highest possible honor that can be bestowed upon a human being, “The Supreme Medal of Humanity.” We love you, and generations appreciate you. May your spirit and positive light live on to inspire and help others.

Closing Commentary

Last year, at our inaugural Supreme Medal of Humanity Awards Ceremony, we honored the great spiritual prophets of all time. Next year, we will honor others as we so did today. All recipients of this distinguished Award have given

their lives to a very high mission of helping those who are most in need, and their positive impact has been felt worldwide and over historical times and generations. They have not only been a light for others, but, even more, they have brought out the lights of others to shine upon those in need.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2007). *The light within us*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

A WOMAN IS . . .

(A Tribute to Woman)

A woman's face is important;
It is the window to her soul—
Her very being, her disposition,
Her inner spirit from beyond.

A woman's movement in space
Is more important than her form,
And her form is more important
Than her color, as movement and form
With spirit and soul are her true essence.

A woman's warm smile is sunshine
From God; her goodness of giving
Is God's gift through her to the world;
Her ability to bear life is an expression
Of her creation as God's trustee to create
Life with man.

TO THE GRADUATE

*(A Tribute to Graduates and
Their Supportive Loved Ones)*

Today, you feel special;
Today, you are special;
Today, you celebrate with those
Who helped you to accomplish the
Honor of being a graduate;
Let your family rejoice and be
Proud and happy with you;
Let your school or college rejoice
For shaping and training you
To go forth and be worthy to
Yourself and others;
Rejoice within yourself; be happy
And proud, because you did it with
Responsibility, good effort, and
Determination;
Rejoice now and fret not in the face
Of future challenges;
Rather go forth and remember two
Lessons of life; the lessons of
Continued growth and giving.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2009). *Time and timing*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

This is your day;
This is our day to
Celebrate you—
To celebrate your life
As God's worthy life so
Given to us and the world;
This is your special day—
This is our special day with you:
A day to give to your happiness,
A day to share in your happiness,
A day to sing for your happiness,
A day to sing "Happy Birthday to you."
This is your special day of the year—
A day that marks another year with
Those you love and those who love you;
This is a special day and moment
For us to show our love for you
In so many special ways—
HAPPY BIRTHDAY [NAME];
WE LOVE YOU.

Note. I wrote this poem during June 2012 for the 16th birthday of Sania Bauswell, the granddaughter of my longtime friend and colleague, Dr. W. O. Stone.

TOUCHED BY GOD

(A Tribute to God's Gifts)

Those who make music and song
Have been touched by the voice of God;
Those who serve the least who are without
Have been touched by the heart of God;
Those who sculpt beauty from wood, stone,
Clay, or else
Have been touched by the hands of God;
Those who perform in the arena of sport
Or dance under lights of the stage have been
Touched by the Bodily essence and spirit of God;
Those who create from the gift of thought
Have been touched by the mind of God;
Those who suffer from pain and affliction
Have been born again through the suffering
Of the Son of God.

TRIBUTE TO
MRS. MATTIE CAREY

Thank you for spreading my word
As God's word;
You have given away more than
300 copies of my poem books to
Others in need—to lift their spirit,
Celebrate their joy, and light their way;

You have been sunshine to God's life by
Lighting the lives of others—
By bringing out the gifts of light and joy
From others—
By giving of yourself so unselfishly
With precious thought and care;

God has graced your life with joy—
Through the joy of others from your gifts
To others;
God has given you fulfillment and a long life
And years yet to come in order to do His deed
And spread His grace even more;

Now, I pause with my pen to celebrate
You and to celebrate your life and living
As a blessed life that's so worthy of
God's gift—a life so worthy of living,
A life so worthy of giving as your service
And gifts to others in need as God's gifts
To others.

Note. Mrs. Carey has spent a lifetime helping others. She has purchased and given away more than 300 copies of my poem books to others for specific occasions (e.g., birthdays, graduations, and weddings) or in times of personal need or grief such as illness or death of a loved one.

THANKS MOTHER

*(Written by the Poet
as Tribute to His Mother)*

There is nothing you can say,
That is enough to thank your mother;
There is nothing you can do,
That is enough to thank your mother.

A mother is a trustee of God's seed,
A sacred temple of life;
A mother's touch cannot be duplicated,
Her comforting voice is never replicated.

A mother's greatest gift is the gift of life,
Her highest status is that of motherhood.
No matter what else a mother might be,
No matter what a mother does—
A mother is a mother.

Thanks Mom; I love you.

Note. This poem was written for my mother, Reatha Mae Harper. I wrote it in early 1985, and I read it to my mother upon its completion. She passed away in September of that same year.

FROM: Harper, F.D. (1985, 2004). *Poems on love and life* (2nd ed.). Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

DEATH OF A HERO

(A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

My heart falls fast and low
Like Galileo's weights
From the Tower of Pisa;
What news has been brought to my ears
Through that miraculous instrument of Bell;

I slump in my chair,
My breath is deep and rapid;
Pain, fear, anger, and shock
Rush to my viscera like
Mad dogs to a lone bone!

Can it be true, can it be true, can it be true?
The hope is gone, the spirit is gone,
The dynamo of the people is gone,
Taken away by the guided missile of man;
The King is gone, the King is gone,
The King is gone;
Dr. Martin Luther King is dead.

Note. "Death of a Hero" was the first poem that I wrote that was published in a book. I wrote the poem on the night Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, April 4, 1968. "Death of a Hero" was published in my first book of poems in 1985 (see bibliographic note below).

FROM: Harper, F.D. (1985, 2004). *Poems on love and life* (2nd ed.). Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON

In earthly form, Michael was love;
In spirit, Michael remains with us as love;
His message of love and giving is God's
Gift to us;
His talent of music and dance is God's
Gift to our world.

Now, he is gone in body from our presence,
But we will forever remember him—
We will forever remember his music and
Visual images;
We will forever remember the joy that he
Brought and still brings to our lives.

Michael, we love you as you loved so many;
Michael, your spirit will always be with us;
Michael, hear us and hear our wish that your
Soul will rest in peace in the world beyond.

Note. While at a shopping mall on the date and approximate hour of Michael Jackson's death, I received a premonition that a gifted and famous person had died without my knowing whom. Although I had never written a poem at a shopping mall, I was compelled to find a pen and write "God Calls Home His Gifted Children." About an hour later, I picked up my younger son from high school band practice, and he told me that Michael Jackson has passed away. "God Calls Home His Gifted Children" was first published in my book, Time and Timing (2009).

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2009). *Time and timing*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

THIS IS THE MOMENT

*(A Tribute to 44th U.S. President
Barack Obama)*

This is the moment;
This is our moment—
A moment of transition,
A moment in transition,
A moment with inspiration and
Expectation,
A powerful moment in our history and time;
A moment of hope, a moment of pride,
A moment of joy, a moment of love.
At this moment and in these times,
Let us commit ourselves to right,
Justice, and good;
At this moment and time,
Let us act on our best virtues
In every venue and with every opportunity;
In this moment and time,
Let a new spirit of right and good imbue
Hearts in leadership of the masses.
Let us love our country as we should love
Ourselves and each other;
Let us love the Earth as we should love ourselves
And each other;
Let us fill our cup with sweet love and dispense
Vinegar's bitter hatred from our core;
Let us plant the seeds of hope and distribute
The harvest of fruit to many.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2009). *Time and timing*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

CHOICE

We often:

Choose your God-destined path
Or allow others to choose a path
For you.

We often:

Select your friends, or
Allow others to befriend you.

We often:

Choose what you should to
And what you should ignore.

We often:

Harbor your pain in constant complaint
Or view your pain as human experience
Worthy of making you stronger.

We often:

Choose your lifestyle and thus
Ordain and determine your future.

TRIBUTE TO TIM RUSSERT

Tim Russert was a man for his time,
Whose journalistic work was so very fine;
He made magnificent all that he touched,
And he cared deeply and loved so much:
 He cared for his work,
 He cared for his family,
 He cared for his friends and colleagues,
 He cared for the young,
 He just cared for people and all life;
Now he rests with his spirit under care,
As we all will remember that for
Others he was there.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2009). *Time and timing*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

GOD AS MY LIGHT
AND WAY

Each step of my life,
God has protected my walk and my way
Each breath of my life;
God has guided my choice
Each special thought of my life;
God has guided my pen's writing
Through days and years of my life;
God has held my health in Her sacred
Hand and protected my life as a man;
At each fork of the road I've approached,
God has led me to a path of right
And a purpose thus shown and accepted;
Each good thing that I've done in this life,
God has returned even more in goodness
To my children and their children;
God is light;
God is the light of my way.

ACHIEVERS AGAINST THE ODDS

(A Tribute to Unlikely Achievers)

You realized a spirit of inspiration and talent
Within you, and you acted upon it;
You felt a Divine Light of warmth and protection
Around you, and you heeded Its presence;
You knew within your heart a vision of talent to develop
And a mission to pursue, regardless of the challenges,
The adversity, and the odds against you;
You chose your path and persisted along your way.

At times, you trudged alone in the torrid desert
Of pain, shame, and doubt;
At times, you climbed an unforgiving and steep mountain
With fear of falling down or tumbling back to the painful
Past;
At times, you walked unnoticed in drenching rains—
Shaking from the cool wet pour and your listless despair.

Within intermittent and rare moments of
God-blessed respite and rest,
You found true happiness and felt the sunshine;
Within the narrow interstice of momentary impasse,
You found rainbows of hope and angels to help;
During moments of your successes, you could
Feel the ecstasy of peak experience and self-fulfillment;
Yes, you honored your God-given talent and mission
By unselfishly honoring the spirit of God's gift within you.

ODE TO MRS. COOK

(Tribute to My 6th Grade Teacher)

Oh, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Cook,
Whence forth are thou?
Remember Us, remember Us please;
Remember Us, and accept our gift so gently;
Remember Us, for we will always know you,
Forever in our hearts, in our minds,
And in our lives;

You taught Us how to compete with laughter,
With enthusiasm, with curiosity;
You lighted our hearts with your smile;
You taught Us to seek love and appreciation
And to abscond bitterness and greed;
You never allowed Us to feel failure;
You taught Us how to teach ourselves,
While giving Us the desire to grow
And participate;

Now I sit in utter remembrance of a dream,
I cry out in the silence of the night,
I choke and tense in holding back tears of joy
In sweet memory of one who loved so dearly;

Mrs. Cook, please remember Us.

Note. Mrs. Cook was a master teacher of my 6th grade class. "Us" was that class. Mrs. Cook died in an automobile accident some years later during my college years. Mrs. Cook's daughter, Dr. Mary Alice Smith, taught me educational psychology during my freshman year in college.

FROM: Harper, F.D. (1985, 2004). *Poems on love and life* (2nd ed.). Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

HOW CAN I HELP THE HELPLESS?

And one asked a loved one:

How can I teach you to love,
When you've never experienced love?
How can I teach you to feel love,
When you've been numbed by years of pain?
How can I teach you how to cry,
When you've never been allowed to cry?
How can I teach you how to forgive,
When you've invested in a lifetime of
Internal anger and hurt?
How can I teach you how to give,
When you've felt you've had to take
In order to survive?
How can I help you,
When you're not ready to be helped?

ODE TO EMMETT TILL

The light within you
Was not allowed to shine;
It was snuffed out before its time;
Brutally by the viciously unkind;
Now, the entire world has been shown
What some had seen—
That is, what happened to a mere child
Of age 14;

Emmett, Emmett, Emmett Till;
We call your name still and at will;
Emmett, Emmett, Emmett Louis Till;
We summon your name from the grave,
With a sad image's reminder of the
Ungodly who smashed in your head,
Then shot you dead;

We will not forget you Emmett;
We will not forget that day;
We will not forget those days and
Years in infamy's history—
An ugly time of unconscionable
Acts of prejudice and hatred.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2007). *The light within us*. Bloomington, IN:
Authorhouse.

A LIFE BLESSED AND FINE

From my kitchen window—
I looked upon the naked trees of winter,
And thought I then of death's fallen leaves.

I looked upon a rooftop near,
And prayed I more of life and not death's
Fear.

I looked out upon the wintry snow so white,
And prayed in thought that I would awake with
Next morning's light.

I raised my glass to drink red wine,
With thoughts of my past which reminded
Me of a life so much blessed and fine.

BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME . . .

Because you asked me a question,
It means that I have the answer
That you seek;
Because you asked me the question
That you did,
It means that you have the need
To know the answer;
Because you asked me the question,
Does it mean that you are ready and
Open to learn from the answer—
Open to apply such to your daily life?

Now listen to my answer:
Always grow and give back;
Exercise, eat right, and get sunlight;
Don't be distracted from your
Positive goals by others or challenges;
Love yourself and your loved ones
Who count and care;
Beware of false smiles and promises;
Ignore emotions within that can weigh
On you or cause your self-destruction;
Acknowledge ancestral spirits and
The Spirit of God that can protect you
And lift you up;
Work hard and meticulously,
And excellence will be your trademark;
Above all, dream and believe that
Anything is possible.

Note. This poem was my answer to a young writer who asked me, "How can I stay focused and true to my purpose in life?"

STUFF

A problem with getting stuff
Is the need to manage stuff;
A problem with owning stuff
Is the need to protect stuff;
A problem with keeping stuff
Is the need to house or warehouse
Stuff;
A problem with wanting much
Stuff is to make one oblivious
To the stuff that really matters.

ODE TO A DOVE

(Tribute to a Dove of Norway)

*And a dove spoke of truth through
its countenance and disposition:*

You came for my Lady;
You came for my Lady Dove—
You came as we stood together on
The perch of a terrace in late summer,
Swooping to snare her in your
Claw and rip her with your sharp beak—
To shred her breast and devour her
Warm flesh and pure heart;
You ate her, and left her guts and
Bones for me to see and grieve;
You ate her, and, in doing so,
You ate my heart; you devoured my soul.

You came again, you greedy hawk;
 You came again—
This time for me, and
I stood my ground to save my dignity;
I stood my ground against your greed,
As I really should have stood against you
For my Dove Love.

Now I stand; now I walk aimlessly in
Peace no more but with sadness;
Now I stand alone; now I walk in the
Absence of my Dove Love.

You came once more for me,
And a dear lady of Norway
Fought you off and took me into
Safety's shelter for the moment;
She prayed with me and for me;
I looked at her and prayed more.
I know not her name, but
I know her face and her spirit;
I know her heart;
I know her presence, and
I seek her comfort.

Now in fear no more; I often
Fly to her terrace to seek solace—
To seek her love in the absence
Of my lost Dove Love.

Note. This sad story was conveyed to me by a friend of Norway. It inspired me to write this poem.

BOBBY, A DOG'S DOG

(Tribute to a Special Dog)

Bobby was strong and courageous,
He led from the front;
The other dogs deferred to him and
Followed from behind;
He was a leader of dogs—
A leader of the pack;
Bobby won as a street fighting dog
Until none who knew him challenged him;
He was a muscular dog, a strong dog;
A boy's dog, a man's dog.

The lady dogs adored him and gladly
Gave him pups;
As boys, we loved Bobby;
We admired him as he strutted through
Our neighborhood with his crew;
He and his dog pack had no home
Except the streets, fields, and places
Where food and fun could be found.

One noon day we heard the sound of a
Rifle that shattered our peaceful and playful
Sunny summer day in the streets;
We looked toward the sound to find
Bobby and his fellow dogs running from a
Neighbor's house and across a fallow field
Of high wild grass and Florida wintry brush.

Bobby slowed as he ran with a rounded
Red spot on his white chest of hair
Until he could move no more, until he collapsed.
Bobby was dead or dying, and we were
Sad and crying.

COAL MINERS' CHALLENGE

(A Tribute to Coal Miners and Their Families)

How brave they are;
Men as a brotherhood of workers;
Doing what they have learned to do
 As workers;
Doing what they have learned to do
 As their life's work;
Doing what they know as men.

How brave they are;
Coal miners' women and wives;
How brave they are
To wait and worry—
To wait and pray and hope;
To wait with child or more
And pray and hope
As their "men be men" for family,
God, and self.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2007). *Transitions in life and to death*. Bloomington,
IN: Authorhouse.

SOUND GOOD

Some things sound good,
But they aren't good;
Some people sound good,
But they aren't good;
Some people sound full of
Promise and promises,
But they don't pan out—
They don't keep their word;
Some people talk a good line,
But they walk cowardly behind
Or just don't deliver on time.

SILENCE SEALS GOOD-BYE

And one spoke of a love that never was:

Your silence signals
Your good-bye;
Your silence seals the end
Of what could have been.

Your untimely silence
Signals rejection at a
Time of my readiness to
Come into your space
And meet with you
Face-to-face.

Good-bye and thanks
For what we shared afar
Over time and in our
Earthly existence.

WHAT DESTROYS LOVE?

(Friendship, Romance, and Love)

Jealousy,
Disappointments,
Rigid beliefs and attitudes,
Untrue assumptions,
Negative attitudes,
Constant blaming,
Frequent complaining,
Selfishness and lack of giving,
Self-centeredness,
Greed,
Disrespect,
Insensitivity,
Sameness and boring routine,
Lack of expressed appreciation,
Deceit and lies,
Unwillingness to forgive,
Limited to no expressions of love,
Lack of interest in another's needs,
Constant unrealistic suspicions—
These and more can harm or end
Close relationships.

JACQUELINE:
MOTHER OF OUR CHILD

I saw you and was captured by
Your spirit and the beauty of your form;
I met you and felt you so
Destined for our future union;

In our first seated talk, I saw the image
Of my mother's presence as a veil
Around your head, and the intrusive
Thought that you would be my wife;
Dismissed this thought, I did, because
There was nothing then between us
Except the space parting our presence;

When I thought you were gone
And no more for me to see,
You then again appeared in my view—
Though thoughts of your year's absence
Were with me;
You intermittently came into sight—
As if God were placing your image with me
To see as Her message of things to be;

When I thought you were gone forever
And no more for me to see,
You then again appeared in my presence
To embrace of each other's energy;

We soon sat and ate and talked and laughed
A little;
I felt above all else that we were destined
To be together in body and spirit;

We soon lay in love,
Stood in marital vows,
And sat in pride with child
As God's gift so intended to be;

Now, memories of love and
Purpose do remain in our hearts
And in the life of a joy with our
Precious son as God's gift to us
And to the world.

Note. Jacqueline is mother of our child, Renfred Douglas Harper.

FROM: Harper, F. D. (2007). *Transitions in life and to death*. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.

ANGELS ALONG OUR WAY

(A Tribute to Living Angels)

There are angels that come to us along our way;
Who help us from day to day;
There are angels who may help on a given day,
But may come not to stay;
There are living spirits on Earth whose role is
To help those whom God has chosen to
Create and serve at the highest level—
Angels such as Anne Sullivan and Polly Thomson
Who were the angelic eyes and ears for *Helen Keller*.

ARSENIC AND ARSON

Stop the poison and toxicity;
Stop the fiery self-destruction;
You're hurting yourself with
Sad and negative thoughts
About your world and what you think
Others may think of you—
Or what others actually do think of you.

Ask yourself: "Does it matter?"
Ask yourself: "Is it worth my time
To wallow in despair or wrap myself
In anger, or fret over misfortunes
Of the day or the past?"
Stop your arsenous and arsonous thoughts;
Stop the toxic and destructive thoughts
From within you.

WHEN YOU HAVE

When you have what you want,
You have;
When you have what you have,
You have;
When you have who you have,
You have him or her;
When you do what you want to do,
You have done it;
When you have a wish and do nothing
About it, you only have a wish.
I repeat:
When you have a wish and do nothing
About it, you only have a wish.

ODE TO CREATIVE GENIUS

There are few yet living
Who can fully understand the intensity
That drives the creatively God-gifted mind;
And those among the few who understand
Fully have transcended beyond heaven's gate
From their mortal work stations.

Yet, alive now and ahead in time,
Still others come with God's gift to create—
Yet, alive now and ahead of their time,
Still others come with God's gift to serve—
Yet, alive now and ahead of their time,
Still others come with the light and talent
Of God's gift to create, serve, or lead.

CAGED CANARY

A canary whistled to me one day;
Trapped, she could not escape;
Trapped of mind, she would not escape.
Her husband wanted to keep her as
A trophy—his trophy wife for show.
A canary called to me
Of help and hope after reading
A poem of mine;
Yes, a canary phoned me
For help and hope after reading
A poem of mine—a poem about freedom,
A poem about freedom of the mind and spirit.

SINCE

“I haven’t eaten
Since I was hungry;
I haven’t slept
Since I was last sleepy;
I haven’t seen you
Since I was last with you;
I haven’t thought about that
Since you reminded me of it”

“And when was that?”

“It was since then.”

TRIBUTE TO JIM BROWN

(The Football Player)

Jim was badd, superbadd;
He could have played against any
Man at any time on any football field;
Jim was badd, superbadd;
He gained all those yards in the
Shorter seasons back in the day;
Jim was a Mandinka of a man—
Jack Johnson and Paul Robeson
Wrapped into one son of mighty parents;

He ran 5 touchdowns against “Big
Daddy” Lipscomb, yes in one game;
He was speed, power, and balance—
The best combo of such I’ve ever seen;
He was a human highlight film;
Jim was “badd”; he made black and white
TV into colorful moves;
Yeah, you thought he was hurt when
He was slow to walk back to the huddle,
But he was just reserving his energy until
He touched the ball again;

Yes, I remember from my youth,
Jim made me feel proud to be a manchild—

Proud to be a Black man in the making;
Jim Brown made me proud to
Be a Black American in that day;

Jim was the man; Jim was a man—
A strong Black man in a White racist world;
Jim Brown was poetry in motion—
Jim Brown was a painter's artistic
Brush in motion on a canvas field of green;

Respect him, *more than* 100 yards per game
And *more than* 5 yards a carry as lifetime averages;
He never missed a game in 9 years of play—
A smart and strong African prince;
Jim Brown was the best;
He was the best we could offer to sports—
The best we could offer to America and the world;
Jim Brown was the best we could offer to our race;
He was the best we could offer to the human race.

Note. Culturally speaking, "badd" means good or outstanding.

GLOBAL GENEALOGY

We are one,
From the same tree;
Our blood flows deeply from
The same red roots;
We are one, joined by branches
To the same tree trunk of Africa;
Let us act accordingly,
Let us act in harmony and love;
Let us act as one, as one global family—
As one human race.

MALCOLM WAS A MAN

Malcolm awakened a spirit within us—
The latent and sleeping spirit of the
Warrior within;
Malcolm X fired us up to defend
Ourselves, our families, our people;
Malcolm X awakened the spirit of
Nat Turner, Toussaint L'Overture, and
Marcus Garvey
Just as Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm
Reminded us to stop begging *the man*;
Malcolm taught us goals of self-determination
And self-sufficiency and not the goal of
Integrating racially just to feel accepted—
Not just to take pride to integrate or
To sit on the toilet seat next to a person of
Another skin color or hue.

Yet Malcolm X taught us in his latter years
To accept people for their deeds and not
Their words, just as he later accepted Whites
Whom he met and learned to know and accept—
Including Whites of his Islamic religion;
He gave us the message; he gave us
The “Message from the Grassroots”;
Malcolm was a man who would
Stand up to anybody anywhere;
He debated a panel of doctorates at
Harvard University and won;
Malcolm X was a man; he was our
Warrior man of the 1960s as he so
Remains our Shining Prince
In memory and in spirit today.

JUST DON'T DO THAT

If you're a professional and
You know it's wrong to enter an
Intimate affair with your client,
Just don't do that;
If you know it's wrong, and you know
It's against the law to do something
Inappropriate with a minor child or teen,
Just don't do that;
If you've been hurt by another or others
And therefore feel the urge to hurt
That other or innocent others,
Just don't do that;
If you have a married friend whose
Spouse is attracted to you and willing to
Be with you in intimate touch and pleasure;
Just don't do that;
If you know in your heart and mind
That something is wrong,
Please, just don't do that; just don't do it—
I repeat to you; "just don't do it";
Not because you may get caught, but
Because it is simply wrong.

Note. As a Professor, I wrote this poem after a discussion about ethics and legalities with students in one of my doctoral seminars in counseling psychology during the fall of 2010.

THE BLACK MAMBA:
TRIBUTE TO KOBE BRYANT

Oh what a name,
Let him so sing,
In two minutes or two seconds—
Before the end of a Los Angeles Lakers game;
Give him the ball with quickness
At 6-6 tall,
The Black Mamba will strike—
Whish sounds the strings or slash to the hole,
That's all you see as previously told;
The Black Mamba has struck from the treetop;
His dagger's hand has thrust the hopeful hearts;
The home fans relish in it, the teammates expect it,
The opposition team and its fans despair from it;
The game is over, no question, no doubt;
The Black Mamba has struck once more.

SNOW SHOVEL IN JAMAICA

A man carried around a snow shovel in his car
During the months of January and February.
When asked, “Why? We don’t get snow
Down here in Jamaica—never.”
He would always answer, “You never can tell;
You never know. I might need it.”

In years to come, as the Earth’s climate changed,
A big, big snow storm came and all was in disarray,
Except the man with the big, wide shovel.

SING YOUR SONG

Sing your song when
The sun is bright;
Sing your song at
Morning or night;
Sing it, sing it, sing it.

Sing your song
When your day is dark;
Sing your song
With the spirit of a lark;
Sing your song
During day or night;
Sing your song
To realize and feel God's light.

IN THE PARK

I've seen trees grow;
I've seen people come and go—
You know, in the park;
I've seen children grow,
I've seen trees downed by winds galore—
You know, in the park;
I've seen flowers bloom,
Though sometimes early,
Yet never too soon;
In rare years, I've seen the squirrels
In harsh winters—
Too hungry, much too hungry as
They prayed with paws for human nuts
Or practically any human food near signs
That read, "Don't feed the squirrels."
In the park, winds of winter do blow;
In the park, the sun of spring shines
And life continues with time to grow.

ODE TO THE SUN

Face of God's love;
Starlight of our world;
Our sun as source of our life—
Our daily light and energy;
Origin of God's life from
Stardust;
Praise God's source of life for us;
Praise our star; praise our sun.

EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY

Every day is a good day if we wake up
And realize that we're still alive;
Every day is a good day if we can see
Or feel the sunshine;
Every day is a good day if we will kneel
Or just bow in prayer or purposeful thought;
Every day is a good day if we have someone
Who cares, someone who can smile and laugh
With us.
Every day is a good day if we can find the
Strength to minimize our complaints and
Maximize our actions for good;
Every day is a good day if we have a job for
Earning or meaningful volunteer work to help;
Every day is a good day if we have food
To eat and water to drink;
Every day is a good day if we make it
A good day in our mind and in our life.

TRIBUTE TO
DR. CONSTANCE M. ELLISON

You have helped so many students within
The University as you have helped faculty
And staff in need and pain;
You have stayed on the University campus
Late into the night to listen and to help;
You have gone beyond your duty to assist
Students to succeed and not to fail,
To graduate and not to give up.

You are a reflection of God's Spirit at work
In a mission of helping those in need and pain;
In doing so, you have at times sacrificed your
Professional advancement and personal needs;
Beyond the workplace, you have gone the extra
Mile to help your family and mother in illness,
As you have surely done with numerous others.

Although not a mother of one, you are a mother
To so many students—to so many young people;
Therefore, the poet's pen writes on this day of
Appreciation for mothers to salute you as a mother
To many, and humbly say to you with immense
Gratitude, "Thank you"—
Thank you for all that you are and for
All that you do to make this university and
The world better places for humankind.

Note. This tribute is to Dr. Constance M. Ellison, Professor and former Associate Dean in the Graduate School, Howard University. The poem was written and given to Dr. Ellison in 2010 on the occasion of Mother's Day.

ODE TO MRS. DOWNEY

(1921-2010)

On this day, let us remember, honor,
and celebrate a life that was worth living—
the life of Mrs. Edna May Farquharson Downey.
Mrs. Downey embodied the spirit of
giving, forgiving, and love.
Mrs. Downey gave much to those she
knew and to those in need;
She forgave the imperfections in others;
She cherished the loving relationship she shared
with her belated husband for more than 52 years;
She loved her daughter, Diane, dearly;
She loved her family as well as people of all
cultural backgrounds;
Mrs. Downey loved reading and learning, which
kept her memory, mind, and spirit so alert to the end;
She loved to talk about Egypt and Giraffes with
Great and equal affection;
Mrs. Downey loved to talk about the importance of
racial heritage and racial uplift;
She loved her church as she so loved God;
God gave her to us and our world for 88 years;
Although God took her in body,
He allowed us to keep her spirit of goodness—
Her spirit of giving, forgiving, and love;
God allowed us to keep our treasured memories
Of precious times spent with her.

*Note. I wrote this poem for presentation at a memorial service on March 23, 2010
for my friend Mrs. Edna May Farquharson Downey.*

TIMES CHANGED

Times changed,
People unhappy with
 The same thing;
Times changed,
Technology came;
Runaways—
Runaway horses,
Runaway cars,
Runaway brides,
Runaway grooms,
Runaway spouses,
Runaway children,
Runaway prices,
Runaway bills,
Runaway rivers,
Runaway ocean tides;
Times changed,
People changed,
Things quickening in change,
Little remains the same.

WHY YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?

And one supine in introspection asked:

I ask, why it is you didn't tell me,
To turn off the noise and just relax—
To listen to the world within and around me?

Why it is you didn't tell me
To seek the silence, to close my eyes
And embrace peace, or just sit alone in
Quiet darkness?

Why it is you didn't tell me
To listen to the world within me and
Around me; to hear myself breathe,
To hear the cars' tires splashing rainwater
Against the early morning road?

Why it is you didn't tell me
Until I was forced to lie on my back
In a hospital bed to stop and listen
And think about me and my world?

DON'T CRY FOR ME

Don't cry for me if I die of this world;
Don't cry for me when I die of this world—
For God has been good to me as I have been
Good to others and myself;
For my ancestors have been good to me as
I have been true to my purpose;
Rejoice with me;
Rejoice in my spirit for what I've been so
Blessed to do and give to others.

WE ALL HAVE FEELINGS

We all are fearful
In our own special ways;
We all are helpless
In our own special ways;
We all are angered,
By things that matter;
We all can feel rejected and hurt
By someone else's action or inaction;
We all are human,
In our common and individual ways.

THE APPLICATION

Salesperson: “For your new car loan, Please write down the following on this application: DOB, city of your birth, mother’s maiden name, employer, oh, and your Social Security number.”

Customer: “I’m finished.”

Salesperson: “Thank you, I’ll be right back.”

Salesperson: “Sorry, we couldn’t give you the loan, your credit score is a bit low—just a tad or smidgen below what we require.”

Customer: “Could I get my information back?”

Salesperson: “Why, you already have it; remember, you gave the information to me?”

Customer: “I mean my application I completed, and please erase any information you put in your computers about me.”

Salesperson: “Sorry, but that’s our property now; remember, you gave it to us.”

THE WAY

At times, life will be empty;
If so, then fill your cup;
At times, life will be lonely;
If so, accept the love of God within you,
And human love will come to your doorstep
And embrace you with warmth;
At times, life will be dark;
If so, then release God's light
From within you and light your world.

THE WILLIAMS SISTERS

(Tribute to Serena and Venus)

They play the sport;
They play the sport hard and to win;
They play for their father,
They play for their family;
They play for their race;
They play for their country;
But above all else,
They play for themselves
And for their pride of winning
And being the best;
They are love to each other
And to their family
And to their fans;
Hail to the greater of the
Greatest;
Win, win, win, oh win
Dear sisters of the sun.

JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

When I die of life this world,
I will transcend the horns of
Evil spirits and follow the
Celestial light to a place of right
Among Her sacred throne—
A place where my spirit has
Earned the right to forever belong.

TRANSCIENCE OF BEAUTY

Beauty is temporal;
It is transient—
Hold it and appreciate it
For every moment and through time;
It is pristine in its essence
And ephemeral in its aesthetics:
A rose, a romance, trees of spring;
A taste of chocolate, good wine,
The image of colorful flowers,
Or the sweet taste of ripened fruit;
The sound of birds singing in spring
Or music played by hand—oh so well
Or song sang by voice so elegantly swell;
The image of a beautiful person so
Sculpted by the hands of God's time.

OUR HUMANNESS

We are all weak, but
At different times and
In different situations;
We are all afraid, but
Of different things and
In different situations;
We are all needy, but
We differ by how much
We need or what we need;
We are all human beings—
The same in many ways.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SEAN TAYLOR

(A Fallen Football Player)

Part I

Sean was a man, but even more, he was a person
Who transcended manhood to humanhood;
In becoming a great human being, he honed his
God-given talent to allow his gift to shine—
To shine on the field of play, the football field.

In becoming a great human being, Sean loved quietly
By his example with his teammates, with his family,
And with his child;
With the birth of his baby, he was overcoming fear
With trust, overcoming a sense of abandonment
With love.

Part II

Sean, you worked hard in football practice
In preparation for the excellence you were;
You allowed your light of talent and love to shine;
In doing so, that light now burns from the spirit that
You left behind with others and in others;
Sean, you gave love, you were love, and now you
Bring out the love in us;
God took you and made us better through your
Spirit of example and love that you left behind;
May blessings be with your spirit and upon your soul.

Note. Sean Taylor was a very talented professional football player for the Washington Redskins, who was killed in 2007 at a young age.

FROM: *Harper, F. D. (2008). Beyond fear. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse.*

CONDOLENCES

You filled our hearts, and
There you will stay;
You lifted our lives
On each and every day;
You departed our world,
Just the other day;

Now you remain, I can say
Forever in our memories
To stay;
Now, you remain
In our future fears unknown;
Now, you remain
In sorrow of the tears
That we have borne.

THERE ARE
SOME WHO LIKE . . .

There are some who
Like to show it;
There are some who
Like to know it;
There are some who
Like to see it;
There are some who
Like to do it;
There are some who
Like to consume it;
There are some who
Like to criticize it;
There are some who
Like to understand and
Change it;
There are some who
Like to forgo it;
There are some who
Like to ignore it;
There are some who
Like to make it;
Unfortunately,
There are some who
Like to take it
Or even destroy it.

BABY ANGEL

God called a baby to the gates
Of heaven,
And said, "I'm anointing you
As an angel and sending you back
To my Garden of Eden to do good
For the least of those who deserve the
Most of our help;
So, let your love and work shine
As a reflection of my love through you."

OH GOD, WHY ME?

*And one with pain and sorrow
looked up toward the sky and asked:
“Oh God, why me?”*

*And God replied in thought transference
to human mind:
“Why not you; you are no different and
no better than the rest; you are human—
Ergo the way.”*

*And the one with pain and sorrow
Looked up toward the sky once more
And asked:
“Oh God, why now?”*

*And God again replied:
“You chose the time by the way
You have lived.”*

COME OUT

Come out from your darkness
And turn on the light from within;
Come out from your dark abyss;
Come out and believe in something;
Come out and believe in somebody;
Come out and believe in yourself.

We cannot surrender to a culture of critics,
Or at least we shouldn't;
We cannot be a nation of haters,
Or at least we shouldn't;
Let us acknowledge good when we
See it and know it;
Let us acknowledge good within ourselves
And within others.

LIVING WITHOUT THOUGHT OF LOSS

We often don't appreciate a job until we lose it;
We don't know a crisis until we experience one;
We don't feel hunger, until we are
Hungry from having gone without food;
We don't know severe thirst, until we have
Gone for a day or more without water;
We don't know the pain from a traumatic accident
Until we experience the trauma of such;
If we have money, we do not think about
Poverty, until we join the throes of those
Without;
Until violence visits our doorstep,
We do not think about its suffering or pain;
Until we lose something that is precious,
Until we lose something from our presence,
Until we lose love or someone leaves us,
Or until one is taken from us by death or else,
We do not feel or know the feeling of that loss.
We very often do not think about life and loss
Until we are forced to do so.

SIMPLY PEOPLE

People in their skin,
Vulnerable to their impulses
And feelings and thoughts—
No matter what their station
Or their height of success;
Yes, still vulnerable as
Human beings
Who live and breathe life.

ACCUSING THE HELPER

Some, if you request excellence,
They will think you are being unfair;
Some, if you offer to help,
They will try to make you think
That they already know;
Some, if you offer opportunity,
They will ignore it or reject it;
Some, if you engage them in conversation
With a smile, they will think that you are
Attempting to take something from them.

WHEN . . .

When I was young,
I thought of youthful things—
Of fun and food;
When I was a middle-aged adult,
I thought of family and work;
When I became old,
I thought of health, financial
Security, and precious things
In life—those precious things of
Love, giving, forgiving, peace,
And meaning.

A PRAYER TO
THE GOD OF US ALL

To the omniscient, omnipotent, and
Omnipresent God That represents all
Existence and That resides within each
Of us,
We come before Your presence with praise.

We praise You for your Divine creations
Of all beauty of existence and miracles of life;
We praise You for us as Your most creative
Species and as Your trustees to recreate
Our life as Your human life on Earth;

We humbly implore and beg of You to give
Us continued life as a human race—
To save us from extinction as Your global
Garden of Eden changes with time.

AMEN

STUPID QUESTIONS, SIMPLE ANSWERS

“Tell me, why are you unemployed?”

“Because I don’t have a job.”

“And, why are you hungry?”

“Because I don’t have food.”

“Why do you look so tired?”

“Because I just can’t sleep.”

**“Well, why are you wasting your
time talking to me?”**

“Because I’m lonely, and
I have no one else to listen to me.”

A PRAYER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Help me to work hard at my
Academic studies;
Teach me not to gossip about others;
Give me the ability to listen well
To my professors and others;
Help me to avoid loss of time by
Indulging in nonsense, addictive
Pleasure, and excessive fun;
Give me knowledge about quality living
And the way of a healthy lifestyle,
And help me to apply such to my daily life.

AMEN

BEWARE OF PROMISES

I promise to pay you back,
I promise I will not hurt you again,
I promise to be on time the next time;
I promise to love you this time;
I promise to keep my word this time;

Words are soothing, but too often
Intentions or promises are not realized.

THIS PRECIOUS MOMENT

This moment is true joy;
This moment is our joy;
For it may never come again,
As it has never come before.

This moment is a joy;
This moment is our joy;
To enjoy and to behold;
To keep and to remember.

Let us cherish every minute;
Let us record this moment;
Let us savor this moment and
Time forever for us.

STARDUST

Pulling in by gravity;
Pushing out by fusion;
Collapsing upon itself
To throw out dust, stardust.

Creation from destruction;
Creation to beauty;
Creation to life;
Order from chaos;
The sun's stardust into our
Earth and very life—
As God's miracle of creation
As God's method of recycling.

IMAGES SHREDDED

Sweet memories shredded to lost
Memories of the past once held dear;

Fragmented images remaining only in
Broken recollections of the aging mind;

Time does dim the lights of yesteryears
As hope remains for nostalgic images of
Those memories once held dear.

Note. Written as concern for Alzheimer's Disease and other types of dementia.

DEATH OF A LEAF

A leaf falls and
Blows from a tree—
Life so ephemeral in its beauty
But not meant for eternity;

A loved one falls from
A family tree;
A soul bequeathed to its
Spiritual destiny as a leaf
In autumn from a tree.

I'M SORRY DEAR LADY

I can feel your pain, but
I will never fully understand
Or know it as you;
I am sorry for your losses—
So much to bear as one;
I am sorry for your losses—
The losses of your three children;
I am sorry for your painful losses—
So much to bear as a mother;
Let the gift of your poetry
Lift you and soothe your wounds
So deep for so long;
Allow cherished memories of past
Lives so dear to comfort you and relieve
Visits of grief's sadness, anger, and fear.

Note. I wrote this poem for a colleague, friend, and fellow writer who lost three of her children.

ODE TO
MOTHER SARAH RICE

(Tribute to a Sunday School Teacher)

Mother Rice was a Sunday school teacher,
My Sunday school teacher in youth;
But more than that, she was love;
She was a reflection of God's love at work;
She lived for youth—
Coming to our homes to round us up
For Sunday school when we'd rather sleep;
Assigning us poems to learn and recite
In church on Easter Day.

With keys to the church, she would open
The door as we waited in innocence;
She would light the church furnace in winter,
And she plunked the piano as best she could—
But spirit of her play transcended her skill.

Mother Rice was love;
Mother Rice was God's love to us;
She was the living essence of Jesus
In how she lived and what she taught us;
We will always carry her with us;
We will carry her spirit, her love, her image;
We will carry her Christian teachings
In our hearts and in our mind's memory.

Note. Mother Rice was my Sunday school teacher when I was a child. She lived into her 90s, wrote a book about her life and Christian work, and was President of the Woman's Department, Auxiliary to the Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc. Mother Rice's niece, Mary Helen Bellamy, and her fellow church member Annette Hayes continue Mother Rice's mission of working with and helping youth.

TIME AND CHANGE

Wind weathers the rock as
It blows top soil to dusty air;
Water erodes the hillside as
Gravity pulls on youth to wrinkle flesh;
Extreme sun dries death's remains,
Just as it parches green plants in drought;
Time, an unbiased observer
As the reflections of change.

ONE LIFE, ONE SCRIPT

We have one life;
We were given one life;
We are the authors of our
Life's script;
We are the producers of
The life that we perform—
The life that we live.

Let no one write your script,
But rather be the producer of the
Life performance that you will live;
Again, let no one write your script
Or direct your life's show—
Only if the script is Divinely
Written for you.

I REFUSE AND CHOOSE

I refuse to be an artisan,
Though honorable one may be;
I refuse to be a singer, because
No talent of me to see;
I refuse to self-destruct,
Because God made sacred me;
I choose to be that destined self
That God intended me to be.

FREEDOM'S FEAR

Why oh why is it that when you
Free some people, they no longer
Want to be free?
Why oh why is it that when luck or
A blessing frees some people from poverty,
They squander their winnings or fortune?
Why, for example, when you free
Some people from prison, they
Fear to leave or often find a way to return?
Why oh why is it that when you
Free some people from domestic
Violence, they refuse to leave
Or they choose to return to what they
Have known?
Why, why, why are some people
So afraid of freedom?

T I R E D O F
F I G H T I N G F O R J U S T I C E

Sometimes, I get tired of fighting,
Speaking up, and standing up;
Sometimes I get tired of fighting
For justice and fairness for others;
Sometimes I get tired of fighting
For justice and fairness for self
And loved ones;
Why is it that when I get tired of such,
Do I then find the energy once more
From outrage of injustice to fight
Again—to stand up for justice once more?

ANCESTRY

The branches run wide;
The roots run deep,
And still I seek my past
As me.

The names are there as
Forebears to tell of legacy me heir;
I seek to find my future way
By searching my past each passing day—
By searching to understand my past
And to find my ancestral place in history
To last.

Nobody is better than anybody else,
Because we are blood;
Nobody is better than anybody else,
Because we are from the same seed or seeds;
We may differ in our talents and predispositions,
But we are same and one and family.

DON'T HAVE TO LOOK TO BE

You don't have to look like an athlete
In order to be an athlete;
You don't have to look like an intellectual
In order to be intellectually gifted;
You don't have to look like a musician
In order to be a virtuoso;
You don't have to look like a prophet
In order to be a messenger of God's Spirit;

JUST KEEP GOING

When you are tired,
Keep going;
When you are disappointed,
Keep going;
When your reputation has been
Unfairly attacked,
Just keep going;
When you doubt your capacity
To accomplish your goal,
Don't quit, just keep going.

PERSONALITY ORIENTATION

Rushing is not a good habit;
Greed is not a good value;
Self-centeredness is not a good or
Rightful focus.

Take your time when you can or
Start on time when you should;
Share and give when you can or
When you should;
Show an interest in others, and they
Likely will show an interest in you.

TRUST AND MISTRUST

If you violate a trust, you may not
Get it back,
Well, maybe you will be trusted again if
You ask for forgiveness and are so forgiven.

If you repeatedly violate a trust
Or if you violate a serious trust, you may
Never get the confidence of that person
To trust you again, to trust you in the
Same way and manner.

Keep your word and value the welfare
And feelings of that special other;
Keep your honor and respect your other—
Your significant other.

THINGS THAT EXIST

If something exists, it's likely to have purpose;
If something exists, it's likely to affect something else,
Or be affected by something else or both;
If something exists, it's likely to change as time passes.

KIND AND ACCOMMODATING PEOPLE

Be appreciative of the genuinely kind and helpful,
Yet beware of the exploitative who parade themselves
As kind and helpful to the point of accommodation
And ingratiating.

Beware of those who are kind and accommodating
Only because you are in a position to help them or
Give them something they need or want;
If their kindness and accommodations are not genuine,
You may know if they withdraw such behaviors
Once you refuse to give or no longer have what they need—
Or if you no longer have the authority to help them get what
They need or want.

Beware of those who once they get what they need from you,
You may never see them again, or you may not see them
Until they need what you have again.

Simply, beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.

ANYBODY CAN TALK

Surely, anybody can talk;
Anybody can brag, bluff, or
Promise;
But give some people a shovel,
And they will not lift to help;
Loan some people money,
And you may never see it again;
Give some people boxing gloves,
And they will surely not fight;
Expect them to compliment others,
And they will persist to compliment
Themselves.

MEANINGFUL LIVING

Listen to me, one said:

I don't necessarily want to be known;
I just want my service or gift to be helpful
And shown.

I don't necessarily want to be praised;
I just want my gift of talent from God to be shared
And hopefully raised.

I don't necessarily want to be seen,
I want my words to be read, heard, and gleaned.

YOU AS A
MIRROR OF MY PAST

As I look into your faces, I see me of the past,
A mirror of who I was then;
As you look at me and listen to the wisdom of my years—
The wisdom of my mistakes, challenges, and learned lessons,
You cannot see over the horizon to the future—your future;
You cannot easily trust my words of advice;
I beg you to use my experiences as your wisdom in choosing,
Or surely experience will be your teacher,
And hindsight may be the telescope to
An unforgiving and regretful past.

PEOPLE TRYING TO BE ELSE

Young folks trying to act older;
Old folks trying to look or act younger;
Poor folks trying to act or become rich;
Rich folks trying to keep from looking rich;
Athletes wanting to be actor, and
Actors wanting to be athletes;
Intellectuals wanting to be athletes;
And athletes wanting to be intellectuals;
Scientists wishing they were poets,
And poets trying to be theoretical scientists;
I tell you this, find the light of talent within you,
And be that self that God intended you to be.

MIRACLE, DISAPPOINTMENT, AND HOPE

The most pleasant and phenomenal **miracle** is
Divine creation of Homo sapiens on Earth—
Our Earth as God's Garden of Eden.

The greatest **disappointment** is the human destruction
Of God's global Garden of Eden.

The most pleasant thought and **hope** is that
Humans can transport their life to another cosmic
Sphere for their survival as a species or they can
Salvage Earth as the viable Garden of Eden
That God so intended it to be.

LITTLE LIGHTS, GREEN AND RED

Yes, little green lights
In our bedroom—in our night's space;
Little red lights in our bedroom.

Monsters of the night,
Monsters of our night's sleep:
Digital clock lights,
Cable box lights,
Computer printer lights,
Computer modem lights.

Little red lights and green lights—
Interfering with our sleep's night;
Turn them off for peaceful sleep
And night's true darkness.

AS WE DIE, WE PLAY

As we die, we play;
As we die, we play
Games and sports galore;
As we die, we play
With little thought to pray;
As we die, we play,
We kill each other from rage,
Greed, selfishness;
As we die singularly as humans,
As we die as a human species,
As we die as a human race.

CHOICES TOO MANY

Times changed, but nostalgia remains,
No more simple and few things;
So many choices to confuse the mind;
Too many choices to complicate these times;
Added stress, confusion, and unwanted strife;
Often resulting in a dehumanized, bewildered,
And meaningless life,
Too many new things to choose from vs. the old;
Too many preferences and time-savers
Unnecessarily so:
HDTV, Smart TV, SUV, ATM, GPS, iPod, iPhone, iPad,
AM, FM, satellite radio, and gadgets much more,

“Number 1 with a large drink please”:
Fast foods vs. home-cooked food vs. no food;
Mobile phones and cordless phones vs. line phones;
Air conditioning vs. natural and free air;
Frozen and refined foods on many themes,
But few with natural and alive taste;
Sugared and colored cereal vs. the old fashioned
Corn flakes, rice crispies, or shredded wheat;
Happy Meal vs. Oatmeal vs. no meal;
Paper and pencils of yore and the poor vs.
Handheld electronic devices galore;
Make your choices, make few choices,
Or make no choices, when you can.

WITHOUT,
I WOULD NOT BE HERE

Without my mother and father's meeting,
I would not be here;
Without my ancestors' paths and choices
Along their way,
I would not be here;
Without the Little Ice Age,
I would not be here;
Without the sun, I would not be here;
Without the death of the dinosaur,
I would not be here—
Without God's grace and protection
Of me along my way,
I would not be here.
Without . . . I would not be here—
We would not be here as a human race;
Without God's grace of creations,
You and I would not be here.

FIND YOUR VOICE,
BE AN ADVOCATE

(Kendra Jackson, Guest Poet)

I haven't had a voice long,
but I assure you I will not lose it;
I am done hiding in the shadows,
not broadcasting my sorrows,
Not addressing to another there's always tomorrow—
a better day than yesterday,
some happiness to stop the rain.
I will be the Band-Aid that others need
to compress all the pain—
I am ready to be an ADVOCATE!
I used to live in fear,
because someone told me to,
made me believe a whisper was as good as I could do;
preyed upon my heart to the point I wasn't strong;
tried to take my all because I remained quiet for too long.
I took all of the abuse
Verbally and physically—
Cried every single day
with hopes of someone rescuing me—
Had to realize no one was coming,
That I had to make a way.
I am ready to be an ADVOCATE,

For all the women lost today!
There is no such thing as a bottomless pit;
you only lose, when you choose to quit.
Don't forget you have power—
those choices are an option
even when you see no path;
just grab the nearest rock sticking out from the mountain.
Yes, days are long when you are hurting—
tears fall hard without you trying;
Sometimes your worth becomes a question
followed by the thought of dying—
you are carrying all the weight from your current,
and maybe from your past,
and something inside keeps you from dropping,
Use it; don't lose it:
It'll keep you from stopping;
find your reason to keep on pushing.
It's okay to fall, just use your bottom as a cushion,
and just get back up.
You are stronger than they say,
so don't be afraid;
be louder than a whisper,
impact another sister.
Share your story; it might not have much glory,
But it may convey hope,
which is what most women are seeking,
when their backs are against the rope!
Become an Advocate!!!
"My struggles created what you see;
My past did hurt but it saved me.
Now I tell others how they can be;
Some hope plus the drive . . . is all you need."
I'm a **Proud Advocate**,
for the Physically, Emotionally, and Verbally Abused.

Note. Kendra Jackson is a college student in Washington, DC.

THOUGHTS

People who cry wolf are sometimes the wolf they see in others.

«««

Why is it we don't need to sleep in eyeglasses in order to see our dreams clearly?

«««

As a blossoming flower on a branch, a romance often lasts for a brief time, unless there is true love beneath.

«««

If one has a worthy bird in the nest, that person should not necessarily seek an unproven bird in the bush.

«««

Excellence and competence cannot flourish in a setting where people are likely to embrace rumors and ignore evidence.

«««

We're often too myopic to see or value wisdom and talent among us.

«««

Don't let anyone define you.

«««

Lawyers tend to be better actors than actors of film and stage, simply because they often have more practice and performances in the same role.

«««

One should respect the legacy and live for the journey of continuing it.

«««

Accidents usually occur because people are rushing and not paying attention to the task at hand—rather, they are being distracted by the spontaneous thoughts within their mind.

«««

There are things in life we're not concerned with, that is, until we get to a point where such things become a concern.

«««

We all have foibles, although we hate to admit this in our wakened state. We all have foibles, and these make us human and imperfect as we are and are born to be.

«««

Thinkers often take leave of their consciousness in following their thoughts to another place; colloquially, this is called daydreaming.

«««

There are some who are kind and accommodating to others, because they want others to help them. Then there are those who are kind and accommodating to others simply because they want to help others.

«««

There are those who are acting like they are great instead of allowing greatness to claim them, if they are so fortunate to be among the few who are very highly accomplished.

«««

Those who seek a quick impression of another by brief observation and obtrusive interrogation may likely get the wrong impression.

«««

What can you say, what can you do, and what are you trying to do for yourself?

«««

Because no human being is perfect, then none has to act perfect or strive *always* to be perfect.

«««

You don't have to look like an athlete in order to play like an athlete.

«««

Just because one is interested in being with you, it does not mean that person is interested in you.

«««

Sometimes, we don't show appreciation to those who give appreciation.

«««

Oversight is understandable, but consistency of the same is inexcusable.

«««

A peacemaker is often one who carries the message and sets the tone—one who has the courage to go against the grain at all risks.

«««

Persons are less likely to remember the 9 things you did for them, but they are more likely to remember the one thing you didn't do for them.

«««

Some people often gravitate toward power and genuflect to power—very often for the sake of privilege.

«««

One thing that is much harder than writing poetry is selling it while you're alive.

«««

Difficult times pass like water over a waterfall on a cloudy day, and then we see the rainbow and the sun beyond.

«««

Often, happiness for a *child* is to spend money with them and allow them to eat and play. Often, happiness for an *adolescent* is to give them the money and get out of the way.

«««

If you cannot shine within your own constellation, then help a friend or family members to shine.

«««

As human beings, we are the best editors of the behavior of others and the worst editor of our own behavior.

«««

Practically everybody is stupid, but at different times.

«««

When you get old, you should spend much time trying to make others happy, while, at the same time, concealing your challenges and unhappiness.

«««

Some people are toxic—biologically, mentally, temperamentally, and spiritually.

«««

Oftentimes and unfortunately, the more familiar persons are to us, the less sensitive we are to their needs and feelings.

«««

Love is wanting to be with a person, that is, wanting to be with someone special as well as sharing special things and moments with that special one.

«««

If you want to give to me as appreciation for what I have done to help you, then give not to me but give to those of my preference who are much less privileged than I to have and to know.

«««

Homo sapiens have been the best creation for the development of wonders on Earth, and they have been the worst thing for the destruction of Earth as a livable environment.

«««

Many, if not most, look out for themselves, while giving or trying to give the appearance that they are looking out for persons or things outside themselves.

«««

There are some you can help, but they may get angry and stay angry with you simply because you didn't help them as much as they expected.

«««

There are some among the selfish who come to you or come into your life with intent to see how you can help them. Then there are those who come to give you something without expectation or exploitation.

«««

As we get older, the load gets heavier and we tend to get more fatigued from years of the weight; yet, we sometimes choose to tread the rugged road and accept the daunting challenges before us for a fulfillment that transcends transient pleasure or joy.

«««

There is a presence beyond us that's special and that protects and guides our light.

«««

It's good to be blessed to have, and it's good to be blessed to have options, especially if we choose and use these wisely and unselfishly.

«««

You don't have to learn music to know music; ergo, some things are learned and some things are given by God.

«««

A beautiful person is beautiful not just in body but, even more, in spirit, thought, and way.

«««

Because one smiles much, it doesn't mean that the person is happy, content, at peace, or fulfilled.

«««

A true intellectual thinks alone and outside the box—and not just regurgitates someone else's knowledge and thoughts.

«««

The more stuff you get, the more stuff you have to fix and maintain.

«««

What we see is not always what is; it's just what our brain perceives.

«««

Most of those with strong opinions often do not have the facts that are necessary to form their opinions, or they just ignore the facts that are presented to them.

«««

Be careful about what personal information you give to others, because they can very well take that information and form opinions about you or others.

«««

Certainly, there is order to the disorder of Earth and The Universe.

«««

Very often, anxiety and anger ride the same horse.

«««

Many groups and persons steal; a question is who has authority or gives authority to take unfairly from others.

«««

Some people think that God created humans and then retired.

«««

If one is not a choice taken, that should not cause that one to make a wrong choice of another.

«««

Some people work hard to look good, and some work hard to do good things.

«««

Some people find it easy to explain difficult things, but hard to explain simple things.

«««

There are those who are often motivated by what they want and not by what they want to give.

«««

There are many among us who constantly evaluate how others can complement their puzzle of life, fit into their life script, or satisfy their self-perceived needs.

«««

Greatness is what you are; greatness is sometimes what you make people think that you are.

«««

Those who live in straw houses should not burn candles or cook with fire.

«««

Clean up and clean out before you're found out.

«««

Give a person hope, and that person will reach for a rope.

«««

Often, things can be simple if we choose to make them simple.

«««

Don't fret over misfortune of the past or present. It is what it was. It is what it is.

«««

With some people, you don't know when or if they will show up. With others, you don't know what they will do when they show up.

«««

Some people are good at being good. However, beware that some people are good at acting as if they are good.

«««

No one can ban a word if it exists in a culture and in the minds of its people. However, we can change its meaning or just hope that it will be lost in the minds of future generations.

«««

We lose loved ones with time, but we must find strength, if at all possible, to help and love those who remain behind while remembering those beyond.

«««

In romance, a couple attracts at first; then the mutual magnet often loses its force with time and repeated exposure to each other.

«««

A writer writes to be read, or simply to get his or her thoughts from brain to paper.

«««

Some people have a need to get others to like the personality that they present or project, so they will not discover the real self. Such persons want others to fall in love with their mask so they will not see the real masquerader.

«««

Talking past someone is not listening to that person, while it's also "hijacking" the entire conversation with one's own selfish topics of interests and emotional needs.

«««

Each of us has an obligation to honor the gift within us that has been given to us by God and ancestors.

«««

Those who are not sure what they want may sometimes be forced to accept less.

«««

When the student is ready, the teacher will be heard.

«««

When earthly angels go beyond the call of duty to help a worthy other, their wings often bump in frustration.

«««

One who means right would have acted right from the beginning.

«««

If you have the power and resources to make someone happy, then choose carefully who it is.

«««

There are two cycles in life: the growth cycle and the death cycle.

«««

When God gives you a gift, it has no explanation; it has no apology; it has no excuse for waste.

«««

When you're not looking for romantic love, it will find your doorstep. All you have to do is smile and accept it.

«««

When we're on death's doorstep, we want to be able to say that we tried to live up to God's expectations, and we tried to honor God's gifts of life and talent to us.

«««

Some people lose themselves in their confusion, indecision, and personal conflict.

«««

Our strength in one venue can be our weakness in another.

«««

When you're experiencing burnout, you find you sometimes don't have the energy to get what you want or need.

«««

As human beings, we all are vulnerable at times and in situations, that is, by our impulse and lack of good judgment.

«««

You paid your dues and you've earned your due.

«««

All colors in a rainbow are equally beautiful.

«««

Sharing is knowing and practicing that anything here belongs to everyone here.

«««

How we see the world and how it is interpreted to us are not always actually how it is.

«««

It's difficult to follow those leaders who don't know what they're doing, and it's even more difficult to follow those leaders who don't do anything.

«««

Time brings change; time is change.

«««

In granting longevity, medicine spares loved ones while burdening those who love them.

«««

Oftentimes, it's better to have no company than to have bad company.

«««

Don't push the envelope but rather accept worthy contents within an envelope.

«««

One should spend more time creating and serving and less time bragging and gloating in accomplishments of the past.

«««

If you want more, don't let your oppressor know that you are satisfied.

«««

Because someone tells you that you can't do something, it doesn't mean you can't do it. However, it may mean that you will believe them and choose not to do it.

«««

It's sometimes easier to lead when you're not in power or don't have a title.

«««

You can rush everything but time.

«««

Rightfully so or not, anybody can criticize a worthy creation, but, among the criticizers, few are talented, disciplined, and motivated enough to create worth of their own.

«««

Successful poets don't live long enough to know their fame; successful novelists often don't live long enough to spend all of their money.

«««

It's good to perform a creation, but it's even better to create for performance.

«««

Just because you look like a saint, it doesn't make you one; just because you dress in ceremonial clothing of religious rite, it doesn't mean that you are pure and righteous.

«««

Talking to a person or people who are not willing or ready to listen is like talking to a stone wall, but people can change as with their thoughts and perceptions.

«««

A man who spends much time living in a cave will find little time to hunt for his family or loved ones.

«««

If baby birds in a nest expect their mother to continue to bring them worms or food, they will never learn to fly and search for food.

«««

If you feed a lion and find that you no longer can afford the meat to feed the lion, the lion will likely eat you.

«««

A natural talent that is undeveloped is a wasted gift from God.

«««

The future is not a guaranteed gift; it is an earned possibility.

«««

Sometimes it matters less where you are going but rather if you are going in the right directions.

«««

People who often talk unfairly and negatively about others very often don't matter or don't know better.

«««

The truth lies in the stars, and we are children of God's stardust.

«««

Jesus accepted all people regardless of their status, affiliation, or circumstance, so shouldn't the Christian church accept all?

«««

To discover is commendable, to know is divine.

«««

Every four years, the U.S. elects a president, and, at the same time, gets thousands of self-appointed presidents who each knows best.

«««

People who cannot control themselves, sometimes have a need to control others.

«««

God has blessed me with written words and spoken words; therefore, know me by God's words through me.

«««

If the world ends tomorrow, who will notice?

«««

A Casanova-type lover was asked, "How do you get to love so many women in your lifetime?" He answered, "For those willing to listen, I simply tell them what they want to hear and give them what they want."

«««

Love transcends romance; spirituality transcends religion; truth transcends lies.

«««

There is an existence and order of the Universe, which is God.

«««

When a man alienates a woman's interest or love, it is often impossible to reset her interest in or love for him.

«««

If you cannot share much about yourself to another, how can you share yourself with another.

«««

To have wisdom does not necessarily guarantee wise choices, judgment, or responses all the time.

«««

The key to living a worthwhile and fulfilling life is helping many and creating much.

«««

Whatever we do; whatever we've been blessed to do; let us do it well—as well as possible. Let us do it well, and do it well in this human lifetime of ours.

«««

The greatest gift to humanity and culture is a good idea.

«««

It is what it was, and it turned out to be better than it could have been.

«««

Among the greatest influences on adult human behavior are beliefs learned as a child from culture and family.

«««

Where there is fear and suspicion, there is unlikely to be romance. Romance requires freedom and trust.

«««

Heaven or afterlife is not a place but rather a state of existence.

«««

Religion teaches us how to think, but God, as a higher power, tells us in mind and heart how to live.

«««

Truth needs no explanation, it simply is.

«««

On every morning's wake, one should pray: "Thank you dear God for this day and for another day."

«««

There are some people who don't say much, but when they do say something, it's much in meaning and importance.

«««

There are some who are liked by many and loved by few to none.

«««

When you open your mouth to talk or put your thoughts on the Internet, you put yourself in the public domain.

«««

Michael Jackson (the entertainer) gave so much. He gave too much. He gave his life in preparation to give his best for his fans.

«««

Many thoughts that we receive come from a source or an existence that we cannot know but that we should trust as truth.

«««

Talkers appear to be competent as long as they don't have to perform what they profess to know or be able to do.

«««

The primary purpose of the human race is to save itself as a species. A secondary purpose is to learn how to live together effectively as one global community.

«««

Some ways of understanding human beings is to observe their motives, beliefs, dispositions, interaction patterns, moods, consistent reactions, and questions asked.

«««

Romantic love is a beautiful thing, until it's not beautiful anymore.

«««

Not going to church regularly doesn't make you evil, and going to church regularly doesn't make you good or virtuous.

«««

Many can sound good, but few can do good things.

«««

Beauty should not unnecessarily be altered or destroyed except by God and time.

«««

All politicians and seekers of leadership look good as spectators or armchair philosophers. It's when they enter the arena of leadership and encounter the fray that their foibles are very often revealed.

«««

If you do good things, good things are likely to happen for you.

«««

Prolific creation comes with high discipline, singular focus, and much work—ergo, a formula to greatness.

«««

There are at least 3 causes of death: not living right, living too long, and being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

«««

Human behavior can often be interpreted in terms of its context, intent, the medium or communicator, and the provoking incident.

«««

To live well and at peace, one has to find the love and the light from within.

«««

God and ancestors can give you a gift, but it's up to you to discover it, develop it, and share it with others.

«««

Some people are happy as long as they are getting what they want, as long as they are getting their way.

«««

I've listened to God's and ancestors' messages; therefore, I am who I am, and I have done what I should have done and should do.

«««

Human sexuality is of less interest when one realizes that much has to be done in one's limited lifetime.

«««

One way to prophesy the future is to determine the future within our controls.

«««

Good singing is singing that most people like once they hear it. A good singer is a well-liked singer. Good music is music that's loved and cherished by the masses or a cultural segment of the masses.

«««

Whatever God may be, God has been with me.

«««

There is something within you that makes you who you are, and there is something beyond you that brings out what you are.

«««

For retirement, there is never a good time to leave voluntarily if your services are valued, but there is a time when the workplace wants you to leave if it no longer values, needs, or can use you.

«««

Although some people have nobody, they could have somebody, only if they learn to give, love, and forgive.

«««

Just because you read something, it doesn't mean it's true. Just because you hear something, it doesn't mean or make it true.

«««

Hope without effort is still hope.

«««

We should ask our children not to walk in our light but to be a reflection of God's benevolent love, giving, and forgiveness—to reveal God's light from within them.

«««

Seemingly, most everything is cyclical in time and in space. Time evolves and matter evolves in space.

«««

Christmas tends to bring out good spirit if not good gifts.

«««

Some think ahead, and some think without their head.

«««

Our greatest enemy is the enemy within ourselves. Our greatest friend is the friend within ourselves.

«««

A man should not touch a woman in that special way, unless he's attracted to her and feels her readiness to be touched.

«««

Those who unworthily steal from halls of fame will surely one day find infamy in their selfishness and shame.

«««

When God gives you much of your own, there is no need to usurp or own that of others.

«««

Sometimes, politicians are simply persons who want a job or need to keep a job.

«««

When retiring from a job, some fellow workers apologize to you from guilt, some say "I'll miss you," some say "Thank you," some ignore you, and some symbolically kick you out the door.

«««

Some who are famous often have made a famous image mainly by their insistence to be seen and heard.

«««

In general, women have a spirit for creation, and men have a spirit for destruction. Maybe, both are needed, in a way, for re-creation and continuity of life.

«««

Some people listen very well when they are talking; however, when another or others are talking, they have problems with patience and listening.

«««

A college degree teaches you how to talk more and say less.

«««

The best way to show love for a tiger, is to feed it well before giving it a hug.

«««

Retirement deals with preparation, self-evaluation, and timely notification.

«««

There are some who live their lives by constantly talking about other people's lives.

«««

There are people who act as if they know it all, but very often, they know little of it at all.

«««

Humans are smart enough to destroy themselves as a species. Humans are also smart enough to save themselves as a species.

«««

Sometimes, it's wise to turn off the TV so that we can hear ourselves think.

«««

When you get old and slow, realize that every awakened day is a gift from God and your ancestors—a gift to be used for good and joy.

«««

Just because you play the game, it doesn't mean that the person on whom you're playing the game doesn't know or recognize the game. It could mean that the person is just tolerating your game but may not tolerate it later.

«««

It's many times better to act than to react.

«««

Unflattering honesty with a woman can be a death knell to romance.

«««

Some people pay even when the piper doesn't play.

«««

You don't have to mean harm to do harm—be careful and wise in your choices and actions.

«««

Soon, we will discover things that we don't know; soon, we will be tested even more.

«««

Be careful not to make a decision or how you make a decision when you're tired, stressed, or emotional.

«««

Just because we know what's right doesn't mean we will do what's right.

«««

We certainly can't allow our successes in life go to our head, or we won't be able to use our head as we should.

«««

Sometimes, we meet people as destiny and for purpose.

«««

If there is one rose, there are others. If there is one earth-like planet, there are surely others similar to ours.

«««

Some things are meant to happen, but it's sometimes up to us to make them happen.

«««

Find out what people want and find out how to get it to them at an agreeable price when they want it, and you will likely have a successful business.

«««

Unfortunately, some people talk on and on like flowing water that cannot be interrupted.

«««

In order to have a good friend, you certainly have to be a good friend.

«««

Is stupid being stupid when you don't know that you're stupid?

«««

If you don't have a way, you simply find a way or make a way.

«««

All human beings become persons with disabilities, i.e., if they live long enough.

«««

In life, try to keep your nose clean. If you can't, just try not to inhale before acting or reacting.

«««

God calls a person to do one or both things: to create for good and to serve for good.

«««

You don't have to be perfect; you just have to try to be perfect.

«««

The future of existence for the human species is not given; it must be earned and deserved.

«««

People with a confusingly stupid grin of face can sometimes do stupidly destructive things, if their stupid or distorted thinking is not changed.

«««

We can see things and not notice their meaning; we can hear things and not realize their meaning; we can know without knowing that we know.

«««

Above all else, prepare yourself by doing right so that the messages of God will come to you and the spirit of God will come into your heart.