

Silver Ribbons

Joseph Michael Marek



Presented by

My poetic Side 

Dedication

To all those who have been hurt and who I have hurt. I have realized that inflicting any kind of pain onto others inflicts pain onto the one inflicting three-fold. In time, it helped me understand that I can do the opposite by offering words of wisdom into the self.

My poems often hold a philosophical theme, either as a hidden consequence that I have endured, or a general theme. Having chosen to heal rather than hurt to uphold the way of Hope, Redemption, and Self-Betterment.

For those searching for a silver thread in darkness, when lost, or if discouraged. May you always find your path.

Acknowledgement

Finding your higher purpose. Education of all types. Having friends and family. Progression in any form. Hope for those without. Sorrow in the soul. Random acts of kindness. Uniqueness in every individual. Learning from your failures. Striving to be better. Being in the moment. Living right over wrong. Helping others get through. Determination gets things done. Knowing what you want. Attempting four words apiece. And The Golden Rule.

About the author

I was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in 1991. My mother was married to my brother's father--not my own father--when I was conceived. I have spent 19 years labeled as mentally ill due to smoking some laced marijuana when I was a teenager. My mother had died two years before I became 18 years old from suicide, though everyone on both sides of my family suspect that it was not a suicide at all. So far, in 2026 I am still involved in the mental illness system. I have been forced to take anti-psychotic medication everyday that come with the usual tiredness, sickness, struggles, and other strange symptoms, along with an overall sense of misery in my life. Currently I live in my own home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin through the mental health commitment that has been recently ordered. I spend time with my brother's dad regularly and I am doing okay for myself. I could even say I am happier than I ever have been since losing my mother. 2007, when it happened, was a hard time for me that never seems to make me feel any better when I remember that feeling of loss in my heart. She was my best friend.

I graduated from an online two-year course on Creative Writing on March 19, 2014. It took me three years after graduation to try my hand at poetry, and I found that I truly loved writing poems.

I am also a regular practitioner of Cartomancy.

summary

Light And Darkness

Remembrance 5-Haiku

Half Of My Heart

The Stone Tower

More Than Words

A Shadow Of My Own

Past Ablaze, Awakened Today

Free To Fly

A Friend In Me

Morning Sunlight

Trust In Each Other

Always With Me

Mutual Matters

Sightless Insight

Vital Wind

In Exchange

Untitled

A Land Of Monsters

The Night Above

Do You Know Me

Forty-Three Branches Of One

Love And Wonder

Liberty Eternal

Light And Darkness

Light Knows Darkness Eternally Well
Some Live Heaven, Others Hell
Ghostly Spirit Awards Great Energy
Shadowy Soul Makes Things Aplenty
Fire Brings Light And Warmth
Sacrificing, Until Dark Once More
Man Meets Woman, Says Hi
Looks Into Her Eyes, Sparks Fly
True Love Need Not Try
Light A Path For Life
For Darkness Knows No Time

Remembrance 5-Haiku

It Felt True
We Kissed The First Day
You Spoiled Me I Must Say
Love I Will Repay

Me And You
You Said Leave Me Be
This Pain I Can Not Believe
Locked Away... No Key

I Hurt Too
No More Pain Thereof
You Are My Angel Above
Remember Our Love

Missing You
Thinking About Love
I Find Myself Thinking Of
Memories Above

Memories Of You
I Still Think Of You
I Remember Our Love Too
Ever Missing You

Half Of My Heart

After Having lost two loves so dear
never fathom feeling death twice near
my heart now knows this terrible fear
my Eyes Remind In tears.

...

My soul is more hollow and bare
do I or don't I still care?
I feel myself a shadow, now compare

...

Hidden from me my feeling
of true sorrow gladly stealing
karma would yet charge kneeling
to everyone i'd consider meeting
my heart is not worth beating

...

lost my mother, then another: my lover.
I feel empty and lonely, deep down, still wonder?
Hades I would enter two times over,
I've broken god's commandments, shall I bother?
My soul Is stained, And I'm to blame.
being free in life I must believe
arachne spins a web I may leave.

The Stone Tower

A Secret Tower Made Of Stone
Floating Like A Cloud, Hidden, Unknown.
A Man Condone, Is Sadly Alone.
A Foggy Night, Down Cast His Sight.
From This Height, The Lights Are Bright.
Bound To This Stone Tower He Found,
Long Ago He Remembers Ground.
Still Stuck In This Cold, Stone Tower,
Silence Is This Tower's Power...
Only Breeze Raking Him By The Hour.

More Than Words

So Many Words Unspoken
So Many Hearts Left Broken
Ending Love Way Too Often
Leaving Feelings Uncertain
Words Can Hurt, Also Shaken
Words Can Love, Words Can Strengthen
Sometimes Words Are All We've Got
Words Will Be There When We're Not.

A Shadow Of My Own

I Sit Here By Myself, Alone
Then I Stand And Move To My Window
I Send A Glare To The West
Where The Sun Begins To Rest
I Wonder A Question, One Of The Best
Just Where Did My Loved Ones Go
This I Demand To Know
These Clouds Put On A Colorful Show
Because How I Feel Inside, This Deep Sorrow,
Sadness Is Thrown Upon Me,
While Happiness Grows Too Slowly
This Sun Though, It Forces My Glare Elsewhere
And I Find Myself Not Alone
With Me, On The Wall, Is One Of My Own

Past Ablaze, Awakened Today

I Will Pray That I Still May
Be Able To Say That For Today
I Am Okay With Changing My Ways,

Weary Eyed, And In A Daze
Though Ahead I Set My Gaze...

I Try To Find My Way Through Life's Maze
May I Walk And Wander Unafraid
Until The End Of My Days

Free To Fly

The Birds And Bees Are Essentially Free
Free To Fly From Flower To Tree
All Of This Is Important To Me
And To Break Their Flight Is Not Very Nice
We've Done This Much More Than Just Twice

...

They Are Born With The Power Of Flight
Yet They Still Cower From Fright,
Terror In Their Eyes When We're In Sight.
I Believe If We All Treat Nature More Kindly,
Our Spirits May Fly Ever So Highly.

A Friend In Me

Your Determination Matches The Sky
Broad As Day, Vast, Though Far Away
I Always Knew The Great Strength In You
You're Faith-Given To Rise Above This Too.
Realize The Great Fortitude That You Utilize,
Because The Care Is There, In Your Eyes
Like A Flare It Brightly Shines.
A Best Friend To Me, I'll Help You Through
During Tough Times You Know Its All True
Sometimes Its Unfair And Unclear
But Positivity Is Innately Very Near
May Each Of Us Hold This Close And Dear
I Hope You Get Around To Choose Sound
On To Much Greater Things You Are Bound

Morning Sunlight

A Blue Sky So Still

Glistening With Morning Dew

Barefoot And Shining.

Trust In Each Other

In Casting Away All Pain And Regret
Forgiving Is The Core Way To Forget
Avoid Resentment, Try Your Best
Joy Will Preside Over The Rest

We Silently Suffer All Alone
I'm Sorry To Say To Each Their Own
We All Find Ourselves Down This Road
Its How I Found My True Path Home

The Hardest Part Is At The Start
To Implore You ? Speak Heart To Heart
Make The Choice ? You'll Not Be The Same
This Life We Live Of Love And Pain.

Always With Me

You Tell Me Be Good
I Know What You Mean
You Care For My Soul
And My Well-Being

You Taught Me Some Things
And Lectured Me Through
I Want You To Know
I'll Always Love You

My Mother At Peace
Father Dearly
You're All I've Got Now
You'll Always Have Me.

Mutual Matters

Emotions Of Tears

If Only My Peers

...

You'd See What I See

And Be All You Can Be

...

And Feel What I Feel

Instead Of Unreal

Attempts At Appeal

...

When You Know I Too,

That I Truly Do,

Feel Better When I'm With You.

Sightless Insight

My Mind Grew Numb Throughout The Years

Medications Awakened Fears

The Sound Of Clocks Ticking In My Ears

Itching To Clip My Fingers With Shears

...

The Inside Of My Voice Crying

From The Information Prying

Expression Solemn And Somber

And My Conditions Still Unconquered

...

Realizing I'm All Alone

And Hating The Ones Who Condone

Caring Only For What They Own

Not For The Effects Of This Unknown

...

There Is No Saving Me, From These

Things That Disrupt My Inner Peace

These Are All Things That Shouldn't Be

My Faith In Life Was To Be Free

Not To Catch A Thought As Vast As The Sea

...

Instead Take A Look At My Dread

Simply This Is All In My Head

My Brain Is As Heavy As Lead

You're Zombie To Me, I'm Walking Dead

...

I Have To Deal With The Unkind

While Being Forced To Get In Line

Twice A Day I Squawk Like A Crow

The Pills Are The Only Thing I Know

...

Used Like This Causes Sedation

Hindering My Concentration

Pointing Toward An Affectation
And I Blame False Documentation

...

There Is No Plea For Me You See
I Can't Stand And Say Its Just Me
I Was Normal Naturally
As A Teen Initially
The Facts Are At The Beginning
My Mind And Soul Has Degraded Substantially.

[March 23, 2025]

Vital Wind

The Wind Is Always A Breeze At My Back
That Calls Me To Breathe This Life That I Lack.
The Chill Touch Of Whisperings Of Used Air,
I'd Rather Not Care, This Truth That I Bare.
This Quiet Rejuvenation That We All Share,
It's Simply Something We All Must Fare.
As Always, Until The End...
The Breath Will Fade, And Begone From There.

In Exchange

An Alert In The Past
Now A Future Clash,
I Speak Of Strong Feelings
For You Meant To Last
Possibilities, Too, Will Forever, Everlast.

...

Its My Fault, My Folly
Revealed Our Prosperity
Now Know Of My Treachery.
Moreso My Kindness, I Gave Ground
Two For One We're Found
Toward A New Undying Century.

...

Thankfully The Choice Is Yours,
Left To You - Your True Course.
Perchance I'm Doomed. I've Brought More.
Patience, And See, What I've Got In Store

...

When Faced In The Present
The Feeling Is Evident
Wield Virtue To Become Prevalent
And Time Will Prove Proper Precedence.

...

Belief Is The Key
And The Reward To Be.

Untitled

From Days To Narrow Streets,
When Things Aren't What They Seem
And Our Troubles Are Past.

...

Having Found Relief At Last,
In This Place Of Cobblestone Paths.
Carries A Glow Quite Like Cloud-Light,
It's Quiet As The Night.
Still, As The Body Might.

...

There's Many Synonyms For Gleam,
Back When Things Aren't What They Seem.

...

This Ghost Town Is Still A Mystery.
So Its Hard, At Least For Me,
To Title This One Perfectly.

A Land Of Monsters

Unspeakable Beasts Of Hunger In The Dark,
They Come Out When They Come Out.
You Must Not Be Found,
Where You Cannot Stand Your Ground.

...

Through A Forest Of Leaf And Green,
Crouch Silently Behind Mossy Trees.
Notch Your Arrow, For Tonight's Feast,
Because Now It's Just You And The Beast.
From Behind The Tree, Catch A Glimpse.
Don't Be Seen, Just Try A Peek.

...

For Now It Is A Matter Of Who Stands Fast,
Because This Monster Is Built To Outlast.
I Hope You Strike True, To Avoid Becoming Tonight's Stew.
I'm Sorry I'm Not There.
I Wish Good Luck To You, And Beware.

The Night Above

A Dark Sky, Several Stars, With A Purplish Hue.
Nightmarish Complexion, Clouds Floating Through,
Half And Half, Such A Truth.
Shadowing A Still Night
In Blissful Solitude
The Harvest Moon.
This Portrait Is Just For You.
Black, Purple, Orange, And White-Speckled, Too,
Against The Midnight Blue.

Do You Know Me

I Don't Mean To Ask If You Know Who I Am.
Nor Do I Ask If You Know Of My Past.
I'd Ask If You Would Be Attentive, If You Can.
For These Words Are My Soul.
Written For You, To Read And Behold,
To Find And Guide, To Help You Realize
That You Are One Of A Kind.

...

I've Made This My Duty, My Own Personal Legend.
To Hold Open Pretend Doors.
To Walk With You Up Stairs Along With Those Who Care.

...

Not Saying That Life Is A Walk Through The Park,
But Knowing Who You Are Is More Commonly Found Alone And In The Dark.
Like When You Wake Up In Morning Sheen To See Things More Clear And Differently.

...

My Poetry Rhymes To Redeem, And My Words Are Chosen For Mystery.
To Reflect For Effect,
To Reach A Goal We Have To Stretch.
To Reach Our Purpose, We Must Sketch.
And To Reach Unity As One, All We Have To Do Is Take That First Step.

Forty-Three Branches Of One

A Tree Of Nine, Seven Are Four, And Six In Unlife.
Still Strong, Standing Tall In The Sky.
The Breeze Sways With Ease, This Tree Yet Alive,
With Leaves Of Spring Shine Bright Green And Lime.

...

Outside Of My Door, Everything Is So Nice,
Though When You Ask How I Am, I Say That I'm Just Fine.
Because We Both Know That Its A Lie.

...

Simple Things In Life Are More Than Enough To Get Me By,
Like This Tree Outside My Door
Of Beauty, Strength, And Life.
But Sooner Or Later,
Like Me, Too,
Will Die.

Love And Wonder

Love is like a wave,
Body language you can't hide,
Something that flows through your souls
Something felt all around you, deep down inside.

...

Powerful like storms,
That can raise and turn the tide.

...

Both soft and strong,
Love warms your heart.
Bringing memories
Of comfort, happy cries,
And being together,
Because this kind of bond
Is forever tied
And entwined
Hand in hand.

Liberty Eternal

To escape the institutional pace...
The law-lords will never quit this race,
Freedom most may never again know

* * *

When things were fair and face to face.
I hope again we will find our place,
And fix our problematic case.

* * *

To replace
Without disgrace
To build and grow,

* * *

Instead of lifetimes of nothing
For deeds not cunning.
This destiny is shunning.

* * *

It is the law of men
To ruin lives of those we never see again,
Causing danger to those of civil minds, and lawmen within the pen.

* * *

Make them learn,
Make them work.
Guards are strong
And guards are stern.
Guards know what is right...
And also what is wrong.