Anthology of Daniel

Presented by

My poetic Side 🗣

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The World Outside

Step back and still yourself And look through refreshed eyes Look beyond the ignorance The hatred and the lies See the world for what it is And not how you've been taught Now tell me what you see my friend Does the world still look so dark

The storm

As I sit still and close my eyes And free myself from the storm I hear the voices that were silent to me The ones that went unnoticed and ignored

They are memories of simpler days Pictures of faces long since gone They are the words they spoke to me When life got hard and I was lost

They are memories of my youth And of the games that I once played Of the hopes and the innocence That over time did fade

They are the memories of newer times And of the loved ones in my life That have guided me and gave me strength When I felt that I had lost all fight

But as the voices fade unto a whisper And though the moment was short lived It gives me the strength to fight once more Because the storm can never win

Endless swing

To and Fro in endless swing No time to stop and breathe it seems The hustle and bustle That becomes our cage The key to which is hidden away Then all of a sudden we take a breath And the walls that we've built fade away And simple beauties once ignored Present themselves like trinkets on a market stall Then as fast as it came, it goes again And we slip back into that endless swing Waiting till we can breathe again

This picture before me

I look and for the first time see A landscape glimpsed through new eyes A revelation of colour and sound Shackled by an implausible scene

Little by little this world melts away It's weight removed with gentle ease Whilst natures gifts present themselves Within this ever changing picture before me

So rejuvenated I find my feet unshackled from my sweet confinement From this canvas that has held my gaze This painting hung before me

Our sins

What are my memories but a fiction A story scrubbed clean from the truth Free from regret and consequence And from the sins I've tried to hide

What are our lives but a symptom Of our actions our words and our thoughts We tell ourselves we had no choice And that we did the things we had to do

When a door opens we walk on through With no thought to the future or cost We hear the things that make it easier As we turn our lies into the truth

I feel the sins of my father lay down with me So easy lies that path But the woes of my mother yell out at me And is the light that Pulls me back

Will I be the father I want to be Or are these my lies turned to truth Will I protect my children from my sins Or will mine lay down with them too

Delicate are our wings

Delicate are the wings we spread So gentle is their flutter Their rhythmic beat is never felt As we soar high above the mire

They let us reach beyond our grasp And to our dreams for us to hold They lift us from our darkest thoughts And far above the coming storm

They are our dreams and hopes The songs that take us far away Or the Kind words of strangers The feel of a warm embrace

Yet we are born to yearn for more To let desire rule our heads And too often we chose to forget How delicate are these wings we spread

The chorus of Christmas Day

As the dawn announces the new day Icicles hang like jewels from the trees The birds sing a gentle chorus Their song carried on the icy breeze

Light filters through the frosted glass It's light dancing softly around the room The decorations glimmer like the stars Around an impish moon

So as the dawn light breaks slowly And as the night slips quietly away We listen to the faintest melody Of the chorus of Christmas day

Mayhem of Christmas

The alarm bell wakes me from my sleep And for a second I forget the day But the children rush in to my room With cries of get up it's Christmas day!

They run quickly to the living room where the tree stands proud and tall But they see only the presents That lay neatly on the floor

What of it's meaning I say Of forgiveness, hope, and cheer But as I look upon the frenzy It has fallen upon deaf ears

So I sit back and watch the mayhem And take in the tantrums, tears, and joy Take comfort it's over for another year As they dismantle all their toys

Regret

Her words fall softly as if a mist Her voice quieted by time Gentle are the words she spoke That tread softly in my mind

These memories still haunt me of all the moments left undone Of all the words I never spoke When still I had the chance

I still long to here your voice once more This pain a bitter friend And so I look forward to the time Till once more we meet again

The song

As a song plays, I feel myself smile I relax and let the music resonate within me setting me free to wander without bounds So I walk through my past, and my future I walk through times i wish had been I walk through a world of my own creation Free from the things I don't care to see

God closed his eyes

On this day god closed his eyes As the angels cried their tears That on this day in history Was painted in blood and fear

On this day I was born afresh Reborn into this world My soul freed from it's innocence My eyes without their veils

Sometimes light shines through the cracks It's so gentle in it's caress But it cannot lift the darkness My memories cant suppress

The dawn

Gently it goes unnoticed As if whispered in a crowded room A delicate luster on the horizons edge A flower before it's bloom It's fingers gently reaching out So gentle in their touch Slowing blotting out the stars As it welcomes on the sun

Self pity

It is easy just to remember the pain

- To look back and see only struggle
- Are we only defined by our fights
- The physical mental and emotional
- Or are they just an anchor
- To keep us moored in our sorrow

Salvation lies within

We write of angels and demons And of gods and kings We look to them for salvation But we fear to look within

And so we speak of a divine forgiveness And of a love that knows no bounds We look for these answers in others But never from within ourselves

Why do we hunger for acceptance From others it always seems Why do we always look outward When our salvation lies within

Judgment

Here i stand before you With my arms opened wide Free from all my stubbornness Free from all my selfish pride

So please look upon me kindly And look beyond my sins Or are we forever stained for all the things we did

And who of you among us Is free from all mistakes And which one of you among us Is fit to judge us all the same

Narrow gaze

Who am I amongst you all Which of you knows my name Who has looked beyond the skin Freed from your narrow gaze

But what if you had tried To see through others eyes Freed from all your prejudice Freed from your shallow pride

So try to see through my eyes And feel the things I feel Don't judge me with a single glance Until you've seen inside my heart

Hindsight

It is with our eyes we look But with our heart we truly see And with clear sight I look upon The truth of what has been

To some I was demon and others a king To some a defender A Knight among men

But I was Just a fraud A joker and fiend A silver tongued devil Who carried his lies as a shield

And so I created a fantasy For other to see A thinly painted projection Of what I wanted to be

But I knew little of the truth And It's beauty within So I was imprisoned by my fantasy This monument to my sins

But the past lays our lies bare The truth a beacon in the dark And so I look back To see the truth in my heart

The 2am kebab

As the music stops And the lights come on We finish our drinks And stumble to the door But the nights not done There is a craving I have for the king of foods The donner kebab Chili sauce and all the salad place on an unknown meat That's not fit for consumption All neatly place in a pitta bread I await this culinary sensation With abated breath The is no cure I know It's an addiction I have For This freak of creation known as the 2am kebab

The abyss

As I stand at the edge of the abyss I wonder at the gifts the darkness brings The angels dare not venture here The flames to hot for hallowed wings So as hope gives way to despair There can be no room for such things here So I welcome my demons as my friends I do not cower from there their acid kiss For they alone comfort me

As I stand here at the edge of the abyss

Revolution

It is a whisper in the nights decline A word carried in the breeze A voice inflamed with every cry As we plant revolutions seed

Spoken on hushed lips And within darkened rooms But as it finally finds the light And grows like a flower in the spring

So like a snowball on a hill It gathers weight with every turn Until it has grown far beyond The whispers spoken in darkened rooms

Open curtains

As I open my curtains and let the light venture in My eyes rest upon the little things That in the darkness were hid

And though they were always there And they offer no surprise These trinkets fill me with a hope A new found sense of pride

So why in the darkness

Do they not bring me any cheer Why do my eyes not search out What in my heart I know is there

SNAKE OIL

Repent I hear the preacher say Confess to me your sins I can offer you forgiveness Your salvation lies within But it's just snake oil in a different Jar A promise that can't be kept It just a way to bury our guilt between the pages of an antiquated text So round up all you people Come see his miracle cure For the price of a small donation Your soul can be scrubbed pure But for me I look for forgiveness From those that I have wronged Not someone singing the same words Of a two thousand year old song

The scars within

If you could see the scars That lay beneath the skin Or hear all the screams That are cried for every sin If you felt all the wounds That this world could inflict Would you turn and run Or face the demons within

The stars

As I slip into silence And watch the daylight fade I look up at the darkened sky And the stars in all their grace And I think about the travellers That they once guided home And of all the ancient myths And the stories we were told And of how we look to them In the hope they know our fate But how many still look to them For their ever timeless grace

Servitude

What am I in this never ending game A single drop of water in a downpour of rain I follow the flow without resistance or complaint Only to repeat this process again and again Are we born to follow without question We take direction with no reasons told Yet we hold tight onto our chains Fearful they'll break, too scared to be bold So as we walk in ever straightening lines Towards an end hidden from captive sight We accept our bondage with frightening ease As we accept without question our captivity

Acceptance

One foot then another and so it goes As we move on to our next anecdote We paint our lives like pictures to be hung Or a story to be told or a song to be sung We play the hero and villain in life's little play Are we just a shadow puppet looking for a face We long to be seen we scream to be heard Just to feel the spotlight just to know it's glow So we play our part in this circus this play As we continue to march in our own parade Just one foot then another and so it goes Hoping to feel that light in our own reality show

Opening doors

What did you see Once you opened the door A warm sunny day Or a ferocious storm Was it a warm sunny breeze That you felt on your face Or an ice cold wind Or the sharp sting of rain So as you stand exposed Before us one and all How was it for you Once you opened the door

Choices

Each day we rise refreshed Each dawn a blank cheque Free to reach far beyond your grasp Or replay the day as you did the last Will you free yourself from your shackles And fly far beyond your gilded cage Will you walk the path still unknown Freed from your stagnant fate Or will you take the same old route And say that circumstance is to blame Or do you have the strength of mind To know it's a choice your free to make

A cautionary tale

It happened one Christmas Eve As I struggled to fall asleep I heard a crash from downstairs So I clambered to my feet There unconscious on the floor A man lay dressed in red I quickly checked his vital signs To make sure he wasn't dead Then to my relief he opened his eyes I offered him a brandy and a mince pie He thanked me as he stumbled to his feet As he was lead out the door by the police So be careful during the festivities Not everyone is as they seem And if someone climbs down your chimney He's there to rob you so call the police

Till we meet again

photograph is all that's left Just one small moment in time A memory of a life once lead A chapter in this story of mine It's too long since I heard you speak And i strain to remember it's sound Your memory is so distant to me But I still wish that you were around It was how I felt when you hugged me The smell of your dated perfume The sound of your laugh was infectious And how it would lighten any mood But times not kind and memories fade And the years are passing fast And so I rely on that photograph Until in heaven we meet again

Invisible beauty

Here in this barren land Does anything hold your gaze Can you find some beauty Within this god forsaken place Have you trained your eyes To see what lies within To search for hidden depths To walk where no one has been Open your eyes and your mind Free from established belief And you will see the beauty That all others cannot see

Old man in a modern world

When I was still young So many Many years ago We had black & white TVs And recorded songs off the radio No internet or smartphones You bought music from stores No streaming or downloads Just magnetic tapes or records There was no shopping online Cookies were something you'd eat And laptops wifi and 4G Were only the stuff of dreams You couldn't video chat or tweet Mobile phones were the size of a fridge Messages were only instant If you shouted it across the street No need to venture out of your house When the world is now online But I still crave the human touch Of a far more simpler time
THE REMOTE!

There is something on tv That I really want to watch So I make myself comfy My phone is switched off I reach for the remote To find the channel I need Nothing could be simpler Just how hard can it be But it has so many buttons Their purpose is unknown In would probably be simpler To break the zodiac code So on and on this goes My nails chewed to the nub This thing has me beat I'm so close to giving up Then like a knight of old In some chivalrous act My daughter takes the control And finds it in 2 seconds flat I pretend I knew what she did I'm trying hard to look cool Hoping she did not notice That the remote had me fooled

Winter

As the days become short And a chill grips the air The birds fly south And the trees grow bare Children wait excited For the first glimps of snow Immune to the cold As a cruel wind blows As green turns to white And the warm into cold It's easy to forget The sick and the old So as the snowballs fly And the fires burn bright Spare a thought for those Who dare not venture outside So as the days roll on The birds again will sing White turns to green As winter turns to spring

Far beyond our grasp

Far beyond our feverish grasp Our future lays outstretched Mesmerised by what might be We're like gamblers placing a bet We shrug off the past so easily Like a snake disposes of its skin Captivated by what may come But so blind to what has been So as we trample on the present Emerging blindly from our past Enslaved by our addiction For what lies far beyond our grasp

My Son

What is this magical music that I hear A symphony played on your every tear Your cries announced you to this world My shining light not yet one day old Before you arrived I knew no home No ties to bind me no roots to take hold I knew very little of this thing called love Free from allegiance no room for trust Like a bolt of lightning you made me see Beyond the raging anger that infected me You gave me a purpose a reason to live A meaning to my life to love and forgive As I held you in my arms for the first time I felt the tears as they welled in my eyes But not this time out of sadness or fear I cry out of happiness because you are here

water on rocks

The rocks they stand rigid and proud The ocean unrestrained flows free But the rocks as strong as they are Will always be shaped by the sea So in which one do you see yourself Are you the rock unchanged and proud Or are you the ocean my friend Who's waves would shape the world

The new year

As this year comes to an end And as we celebrate its passing We now reflect on what has been As we welcome a new beginning Resolutions to be made and forgot Like we have so many years before New friendships forged and lost Old acquaintances to be ignored So I ask for what it is we celebrate When we cheer the new year in Is it because we are full of hope Of what the year may bring Or are we that creature of habit Who finds comfort in its repeat Or is it because we love a party And it's an excuse to have a drink

No angels here

As we mourn the loss of innocence No trumpets sound no angels cry A mother screams unto the heavens To ask why god would let her child die Questions asked no answers given People's words they pierce like thorns Clumsy sentiment can't ease this grief No pious wisdom will help them mourn There is no meaning or great plan No higher fate or Divine providence No comfort found in hollow script Can explain this loss off innocence

The farmer or the farm

Tell me who are we We who would reach so far We the chosen farmers Of this our earthly farm Yet nature has her own ideas And can show her grizzly teeth Sometimes she is the untamed wolf Set loose amongst the timid sheep Unforgiving storms and savage seas The volcanos rage that hides the sun And the earthquake with effortless ease Returns once proud cities back to dust Drought and famine still claim waste Children starve as their parents watch Disease that spreads with unstoppable haste With all our advances still powerless to stop

So think again on who we are We who have touched the stars Are we really the farmers? Or the livestock on this farm?

The lady in the trees

The darkness falls quickly There's no moon to offer light A traveller rests his weary legs Beneath the starless sky

A bitter wind cruelly blows You hear it's banshees cry The cold cuts to his bones No kindling for him to light

He wraps up as warm as he can As he waits for the oncoming dawn And enough light for him to find Some shelter from this storm

But then with his eyes he sees Something he can't quite believe A strange vision of a woman Pointing to beyond the trees

The traveller gathered his courage And follows her into the trees And there stood in the clearing Was a dry shelter for him to sleep

With a happy heart he turned back To thank this angel of the storm For this kindness she had shown But to his sadness she had gone

As the sun rose the traveller woke The lady still heavy on his mind Who was this magnificent vision Who gave him shelter from the night

As the years go by he does not forget Her face ingrained in his memory Doomed to never know the name Of the lady in the trees

Mirror mirror on the wall

When you look in the mirror Tell me what do you see A prince or a pauper A beggar or a queen Are your flaws laid out For the whole world to see Or are you a movie star A goddess of our screens The mirror only shows What you chose to be So if you chose beauty Then that's all you'll see

This picture you propose

Why with your eyes opened wide Do you keep your mind so closed That no other alternatives can exist To this picture that you propose Why do you follow oh so blindly This muddied path this empty road The signs so vague that point the way The route hidden the terminus unknown Can you tell me what scares you Into keeping your mind so closed Preventing you from questioning This perfect picture you propose

How will you remember me

As times ticks on and I get old I think more about how I've lived And how I will be remembered On the day my markers called in Will i be the father loving and kind There by your side through every trial Always there to pick up the pieces With a kind word and gentle smile Will I be the loving husband Who never wandered always true Our bond made in heavens forge My love never waned but only grew Or will I be remembered for my faults From which there are so many to choose Or as the delinquent youth full of scorn Who pushed away those who were close Or will it be a all of the above And the colourful life I have lead Maybe just being remembered Should be good enough in the end

Memories of last night

As I wake the light stings my eyes A thousand drums play a symphony My hands shake my mouth is dry As the room spins uncontrollably The memories of last night flood in Every detail felt like a kicking mule Regret and shame my regular guest To this my life as the jester the fool As I shower I search for some hope My sins like scars can't be scrubbed clean As a stranger in the mirror stares back I ask Where'd my life go what happened to me This poison my friend my prison walls Frees me from my shame and regret And whispers to me it's not your fault As I repeat each day again and again

The one night stand

What can I say it's not your fault Something's aren't meant to be Although our roads may have crossed We weren't meant to share the journey We are two ships a fleeting glance A single footnote on life's page What we had was a moment of chance An act of impulse freed from our chains I will remember our time with happiness Our senses unleashed passions reborn But please see this moment for what it is A moment of sunshine in a tropical storm

Merry Christmas

A happy Christmas to you all I wish you all you good cheer Please join me in a quiet prayer For those who are no longer here And for those who are less fortunate Who struggle to make ends meet And for the homeless this Christmas Who will spend it wandering icy streets Say a prayer for the sick and old Who have no family or friends Who's only wish this Christmas is To feel the warmth of friendship again And so for me this Christmas Eve Its a time to reflect and be thankful And to all my friends and family A very merry Christmas to you all

The walls we build

With pride we wear our paper crowns Arrogance and vanity is our throne Our castle shields us from contradicting sound Deaf to all voices except our own

As the truth lays siege to our walls Arrogant we shout out our battle cries Confident we will withstand their assault To defend our realm protect our lies

But with every assault we slowly retreat And hide deep within these castle walls Surrender is not the words we speak Till from within our gilded tower we fall

The beauty at our gate

To look beyond where we are Is no more than foolish hope Are we such gods to know our fate Or mere vessels of blood and bone Are we so rich that we disregard These treasures at our feet To vanish from our minds and hearts To become what could have been The future light shines oh so bright Our gaze transfixed upon its glare Blinded by its magnificent light The present fades without a care As we ignore the lessons we're taught We think we are the sculptor of our fate As we search for greener pastures And so ignore the beauty at our gate

As I lay amongst the tall grass

As I lay amongst the tall grass Free from consequence and care No need for pretence or farce Free to be me, no mask to wear My mind wonders to a simpler place Far beyond the world we all see Where I am free to wear my face For people look and see the real me These wild dreams that hold my gaze Briefly free me from life's dance They show me glimpses of better days As I lay amongst the tall grass

Flat pack hell

In my head I had it sorted There was no need for plan B I opened the box to get started But only chaos could I see The instructions offered no clue Written by some sadistic fiend Who takes joy in others blues As my words grow more obscene So I google it with foolish hope That this mystery has been solved But I can't find a single post So my patience starts to fold After many hours and some luck It starts to take a familiar shape To find its missing screws and nuts My will once strong starts to break So next time I buy furniture online I will select ones that need no assembly My sanity will never again be risked All for the sake of a flat pack settee

In the dark corners

As we hide in dark corners Far from warmth and light We speak only in whispers Hidden from prying sight Anonymity a skill we've learnt We leave no footsteps to follow Never Seen and never heard There is a comfort in our sorrow Please do not try to shine a light We do not look for rescue We do not need your judging sight We do not need your refuge Out of sight and out of mind Acts as our badge of honour And every scar acts to remind Why we hide in the dark corners

Love online

A young man knocked on the door Hoping to see a beautiful young lady He had spoken to her many times before On Facebook and sites meant for dating It felt like an age before he heard a sound Of someone moving about in a panic He had assumed it was fine to go round But now was feeling a tad embarrassed But to his surprise he heard the lock turn As the door began to slowly creak open But instead of a lady beautiful and young Stood an old lady dressed in a bathrobe I'm here to see my love he expressed Her photo he showed with such pride But to his horror and shock she confessed It was her he'd been talking to online

Reborn

Through your eyes I see the world In all it's resplendent beauty It's innocence and gentle care There is no malice here just mercy Through your ears I hear the world With sounds that fill my heart With laughter and loving words Nothing hurtful nothing barbed Through you i am again reborn The past is washed away Free to look upon the world once more Freed from my withered gaze

Man Flu

As I lay I'll upon my bed A drum beats a tune inside my head One minute hot and the next freezing My body shaking, my chest wheezing An unwilling prisoner of my bed Thoughts of self pity fill my head And as my whines go without reply The painkillers I take give no respite But no sympathy has flown my way Can't they see that I'm starting to fade This terrible suffering I'm going through This deadly affliction they call man flu

The demon in my dreams

What are you that haunts my dreams And why have you stayed so many years Just a silhouette no words do you speak But like a carrion you feed off my fears An angel, a devil, or a demon of myth From what darkness were you born I was so young when I first felt your kiss But now as familiar to me as the dawn So afraid was I to close my eyes Because I knew that you were waiting The night would dance to my cries But there was no one there to save me But now my cries have become silent My tears are now dried up old streams But I still feel your rage and your violence As you still wonder through my dreams

Life\'s miracle

From such beautiful violence We enter into this world Bloodstained and helpless Our stories yet to be told Our cries like a symphony Fill the hearts of all that hear The sweetest of all melodies No sound is sweeter to the ear With eyes wide and full of wonder We see the world with a curious haze Not yet tainted untouched by anger We rest under our mothers loving gaze

vive la difference

What you see through your eyes I will never see through mine So I'm not surprised that what I write Reads differently in your mind But don't think for a second That there's a mistake of any kind It is just that we are different And we think along different lines We are each a wonderful creation Alike but different from the rest With an independence of thought That should never be suppressed

Free to soar

Don't tell what I can or cannot do Or not to reach beyond my grasp Don't try to place me in a little box Or not to live each day as my last Don't tell me that I should not dream Or not to wish for much greater things Dont tell that this is as good as life can be For its these dreams that give me wings With your words a prison you would build For my dreams you would lock away So to keep me anchored to your world That my dreams would wither and fade But your words like rain bounce off me And although they may make me wet I will with time become dry once more To soar high amongst the clouds again