

# Apple Orchard

SHAHLA LATIFI

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Author: **Shahla Latifi**

Editor: **Kristen Hamilton**

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## DEDICATION

*To those who inspired me*



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*I am thankful to all my readers, who spend their valuable time reading my poetry.*





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## APPLE ORCHARD

*I miss you  
Do you miss me  
Do you feel ecstasy when you think of me  
Free as a bird in the garden with sweet air  
And thoughts that are so mellow and tender  
Like the love of redemption with no greed*

*I miss you  
Do you miss me  
As spring that waits for autumn to turn white  
And the season could return to the arms of colorful delights*

*I miss you  
Do you miss me  
Like the honeyeater in the apple orchard  
In a wish for the scent of the ripe pomegranate tree*

*I miss you with feelings that connect  
Love and feminine worries into the feelings of the heart  
That are content with security*

*And by time  
Again and again  
Stable as the sun  
As throbbing as the fish that swims in the stream  
Free as the wind that dances around a cherry blossom tree*

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*And as pure as the moon lit by the sun  
That mystifies the strength of transaction*

*I miss you  
And I'm thinking of you  
With the traces of my feelings  
With the hidden roaring of intimacy*

*Shahla Latifi  
July 15, 2016*

## A GRAND POEM

*"I love you like a grand poem."  
Like a poem that reflects the beauty of night  
In the arms of a sleeping lover  
Through his content breath  
In the sweet scent of satisfaction*

*"I love you like a grand poem."  
A poem that reflects the beauty of a day  
Under a silky sheet of roses  
An admirer seeks his love  
And holds on to the feelings of satisfaction  
With her aroma on his mind*

*"I love you like a grand poem."  
A poem that reflects the art of pleasure  
In the midst of two bodies  
That brings the joy of contentment  
And as a grand poem  
With amusement of its meaning  
That awakens our sleepy thoughts with the lush feelings of dawn*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 30, 2015*

## WINGS OF A BOOK

*Books – The land of imagination is so clear yet complex  
I could fly on the wings of a book  
On the layers of dreamy clouds  
I could sing from my heart in the land of freedom with no disguise  
I can meet a prefect hero  
An elegant queen  
In the fascinating layers of pleasure  
Face to face  
In books I can solve any puzzle  
Heal any pain  
And wipe out any tear  
I will find hope  
Pleasures  
Truthfulness  
And nothing of despair  
In books I will sink deep into with love  
That I adore  
For years to come and more*

*Shabla Latifi  
April 15, 2015*

## THE CHAPEL OF LOVE

*The chapel of love was peaceful  
All the angels were sleeping on the wings of happiness  
It was a beautiful December day*

*Inside the chapel  
A violinist was playing*

*The soft melodies  
That carried me on the wings of pleasure in a garden so green  
A garden  
That was covered  
With melodious sonnets and the  
Contrast of light and sound  
Of Beethoven's symphony No. 5  
And Mozart 3.'s sweet delight  
In a garden with soft passages of love  
On a breezy night  
With two lovers  
When the wind dances around them  
And the moon that smiled with no ominous clouds upon its face*

*And in chapel of love  
Guests sat calmly  
With no laughter, no sound of any kind, anxiously waiting  
To see the bride  
The beautiful bride with skin like ripe olives*

*From an olive grove that faced the Mediterranean sea*

*Her hair was soft  
And flowing  
Under a vanilla orchid tree*

*And to see the groom  
A man with a bright smile on his face*

*Very softly*

*Suddenly in the chapel  
The silence was broken  
By emotions and with the footsteps of couples that entered one by one*

*Their heads high with pride  
Their hearts excited with the sweetness  
Of a bond that is divine  
They held each others hands  
Like the cold branches of vines  
That shiver softly for the warmth of sun above*

*And finally when they stood face to face  
In the chapel of love*

*People smiled  
And the couple smiled  
To celebrate a togetherness  
To celebrate the beginning of incredible journey of life  
As man and wife  
Hand to hand*

*Shahla Latifi  
January 10, 2016*



## RAW PLEASURE

*My thoughts are swaying in my heart  
When I think of the warmth of one's skin on mine  
I tremble with that thought  
I smile with my lips tight  
And I taste raw pleasure  
I see the full moon covers  
The dimensions of a small bedroom  
In a cabin in the sky*

*My thoughts are swaying in my heart  
When I feel a pleasurable moment  
That consumes my femininity entirely  
With the gentle touch of a firm hand that feels mine*

*My thoughts are swaying in my heart  
My heart is beating with excitement  
When I see a hummingbird settles on a fresh summer peach  
To nibble the juice of life as a treat*

*My thoughts are swaying in my heart  
When I wonder the sweetness of his touch  
The caresses of his arms  
And the heat of his lips  
When he whispers his devotion into my heart*

*My thoughts are swaying in my heart*

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*With the view of unity  
That brings the mellow sound of a woman*

*With the sensual rhythm of poetry in the arms of a man  
In the majestic moment of relief*

*Shabla Latifi  
May 10, 2016*

## LOVE IS KINDNESS

*Love is kindness  
Love is compassion  
Love is the tenderness in our thoughts  
During a tragic event  
Love is a kiss  
That is set upon your cheek by your mother  
Love is the aroma  
That pours pleasure in the air  
Love is a strong wind  
That carries clouds of suspicion  
Behind the smoky mountains of Neverland  
Love is a word  
That brings the broken pieces of harmony together  
Love is a connection from your heart to mine  
With no boundaries  
Love is happy occurrence  
That brings people to laughter  
Love is a bird that flies high as she can with no fear  
Love is a surreal thought  
That encourages hearts to care  
Love is me  
Love is you  
Love is every one that could comprehend every aspect of war and hatred  
With the grand feeling of forgiveness with care*

*Shabla Latifi  
09-15-2015*

## PLEASURABLE DREAM

*Dark and drenchy in a drizzly cold evening  
He loved to be cherished  
In the shadow of his thoughts  
He imagined a pleasurable dream  
With restless whispers and moans  
He is lying under a willow tree  
In peace  
As harmony of the sea*

*With a smile of delight  
He reached out to her with adoration, without hesitation  
She stepped in the warmth of his affection*

*He tumbled like a leaf  
The hidden moon glanced down  
Stars twinkled overhead in a half-cloudy sky  
The breeze calming  
And the bliss of love began to stream*

*She smiled softly  
All of the touch  
The laughter  
The whispers  
And the secrets in their glances  
Faded away into the sunset  
And the night left the love nest*

## APPLE ORCHARD

*For the morning to rise above*

*With the oasis of serenity amid troubles*

*Shabla Latifi*

*January 1, 2017*

## TRAVELERS OF LIFE

*We are the travelers of life  
Each one of us takes a different path  
To differ our selves as individuals  
In the challenging circle of life*

*One takes the straight path  
That is safe, yet barren of happiness*

*The other takes a path so abstruse and knotty  
Yet rewarding and tight*

*Some take the same path as the the one next to him  
Without defining his own taste buds*

*And a few  
Stay in one path without rising the bars  
Of effusion and gains*

*But despite all  
We are all connected in one circle  
With hopes  
Wishes  
True sentiments  
Likes and dislikes as human  
The most complex race of all*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 18, 2015*

## AGE

*Age*  
*The defying beauty of life stands tall*  
*On any day*  
*On any night*  
*In every cold*  
*In every warmth*  
*Inside of the cocoon of life*  
*To guide us*  
*To carry us*  
*And to make us settle*  
*On the restless journey of life*

*Shabla Latifi*  
*June 15, 2016*

## BROKEN YOUTH

*The young girl with colorless cheeks  
Her hands as rough as the winter cobbled streets  
Her hair as soiled as the roots of an old tree  
Her stomach as empty as a small hungry baby  
Her eyes linger on the ceiling of a small room  
That contains nothing  
But empty shelves  
An old rug  
And a few books  
She wished she was able to read them all  
Piece by piece*

*As she lies quietly  
Like the flower's bed under her small window  
She thinks of her youth that was wasted  
Her heart that was abandoned  
Her imagination that has faded  
And of her parents who parted  
And she thinks of all her pain inside  
Since the day she was given away as a bride  
To an old man  
With tears in her eyes  
And her right hand on her heart  
She suddenly realizes that her path has already been chosen  
A path that's very narrow, yet straight  
And she has to grant the wishes*



APPLE ORCHARD

*Of her unborn child that breathes inside of her  
For better life  
With determination and strength*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 4, 2015*

## SURREAL REALITY

*Age doesn't define me  
As I do not set goals  
As I mainly go with the flow*

*With no fear  
I can fly charmingly  
To the peak of any dream  
With my spirits high*

*As the moonlit shines on the voyage  
Bold  
But oblivious  
I could fly on the wings of a royal falcon  
Of any desire  
Willingly  
Age doesn't define me*

*The melodious sound of affection  
That runs through my beating heart  
That's alive with hope  
With a taste of surreal reality  
With a fascination  
Raw and adoring  
That defines me*

*Age doesn't define me*

APPLE ORCHARD

*The real meaning of life  
That flows in my blood  
That runs through the garden of wisdom  
Defines me  
A smile of satisfaction blossoming on my face  
Defines me  
Age doesn't define me*

*Shabla Latifi  
July 1, 2016*

## WINTER

*Winter has arrived  
To make the bald eagles to fly up to their maximum power  
And to dive in the unfrozen lakes  
Or a river  
With the heat of their strength  
To catch a satisfying meal*

*Winter has arrived  
To fill up all the barren wells  
So tomorrow's gardens can grow fresh roses*

*Winter has arrived  
For the wolf to explore deep in the snow  
With his extraordinary sense of survival*

*Winter is not cruel  
It's not demanding  
And it's not here  
To make us suffer*

*Winter is a blessing of nature  
That awakens the love of life in heart of spring*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 20, 2015*

## FREEDOM

*Freedom is at our fingertips  
When we free a bird from the cage*

*Freedom is in a smile  
When we comfort an orphan child*

*Freedom allows our dreams to take flight*

*Freedom is in the air, and in the layers of a stream*

*Freedom is not a treasure  
A possession, or a jewel*

*Freedom is a happy wind that blows our hair  
Around an apple orchard in spring*

*Shabla Latifi  
November 25, 2015*

## GOOD INTENTIONS

*When I am down  
Down with the tears of disappointments  
That bring me a profound silence  
With an enthusiastic smile all around*

*When I am down in the darkness of shadow misery  
Bring me candles for the window to see joy and ecstasy*

*When I am down  
Very down  
With the shivering feelings of loneliness in the middle of night  
Bring me a comforter that has soaked in my mother's scent*

*When I am down  
In the strong wind of a stormy day with my eyes shut  
Bring me your strong hands to guide me through whatever lies ahead*

*When I am down with the secret thoughts of heartbreak  
Bring me love on the palm of your good intentions  
For this injured heart to mend*

*Shabla Latifi  
November 30, 2015*

## HORIZON

*As the new year approaches  
She is overwhelmed  
And she is a little cold  
With feelings of abandonment from all the injured souls In the hands of darkness and  
despair*

*Around the world*

*As the new year approaches  
She is nervous with conscious perception  
Of a mysterious feeling inside  
That all the wishes of children of Earth  
Will not be granted*

*As the new year approaches  
The lady in green is worried  
About the dark circumstances  
With which all sweet dreams suffer*

*She is worried  
That she is going to fail again to reach her expectations  
To end all the war  
To introduce humankind to an unfolded mystery  
Of how we can survive  
How we can mend the broken boundaries  
And how we all can triumph*

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*Before the horizon succumbs to the dark side  
For all eternity*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 28, 2015*



## MEMORIES

*Memories are like rain drops  
That soothe our minds  
By the touch of a loving pleasure*

*Memories are like an untold story  
That lives in our hearts  
With a desire and need to share*

*Good memories are like an uplifting memoir  
That contains the bold lines of sweet love poems  
That carries you on the imaginative wings of love and enthusiasm  
Bold and fair*

*Bad memories  
Are like a sad adventure  
In which you have been told to bury your thoughts  
Under a harsh brick wall*

*And we all are the players of life  
Spinning around all of our memories  
Good and bad  
Sweet and bitter  
Happy and unwanted  
To comfort our hearts In a balanced act of wisdom  
With care*

*Shahla Latifi*  
*September 2, 2015*

## LIGHT OF WISDOM

*When I see the light of wisdom  
Is not languishing in sorrow*

*When I see that every one has enough to eat*

*When I see there is no soul  
At the mercy of a vicious deed*

*When I see the lights of comfort  
Shining through the night*

*When I see there is no child hopeless  
With an injured mind  
Then I would think  
The glory of God still exists  
In mankind*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 10, 2014*

## TROUBLED STORM

*A flower needs care  
With the hands of kindness of her mother  
And the caring voice  
Of her father  
Who reads to her the song of patience and wisdom  
During starry nights*

*But when a storm arises  
And the storm hits the little garden of peace  
That flower dies  
The care dies  
And the voice of wisdom dies along within her*

*In a moment of chaos  
During a troubled storm  
From heart of angry sea*

*Shabla Latifi  
November 10, 2015*

## FARKHUNDA

*Farkhunda had a soul with layers of pain  
That covered her hopes and desires  
As a woman that she couldn't be*

*Her eyes glistening with tears  
Her heart shattered by despair  
For she knew that her life as an ill woman was not easy*

*She wanted a rescuer  
A guide, a helping hand to give her hope  
Comfort, and a friendly smile  
To assure her that everything will get better*

*But instead, on that cold day of spring  
Her dreams and hopes were shattered  
With stones of disbelief, betrayal  
And lies*

*Her body was taken out of her soul  
With undeserved cruelty  
And no respect for her life*

*I wonder how she felt in those moments  
Tortured to a painful death*

*Did she still believe in God?*

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*Was she calling to her mother from inside?  
Or did she know that the cruelty of human race  
Is above all her good wishes?*

*I wonder with the tears in my heart  
If she knew that compassion  
Is a seldom gift that humanity bestows*

*I wonder if we can ever be able to rebuild  
The broken compassion in our hearts  
And let humanity shine like a burning star*

*Shahla Latifi  
June 3, 2015*

## HARMONY

*Harmony, it matters  
Among all living souls  
In a household  
Where all the essence grows*

*Harmony, it matters  
At the end of a relation  
That spirals our thought with unjustified pain and anguish  
On a happy, bright Sunday morning  
When the love and happiness glow*

*Harmony, it matters  
At the start of a friendship  
That excites us with delight  
When the storm comes blowing  
On an icy cold night*

*Harmony, it matters  
And it's a gift that would shine  
In the darkness with no hope  
To bridge all of our wisdom  
For inner strength to grow*

*Shabla Latifi  
October 20, 2016*

## A SONNET OF LOVE

*If I were to have a lover  
I would desire him to be like warmth of sun on my skin  
When the world is frozen under my feet*

*If I were to have a lover  
In my time of need  
I would step in a garden full of lively flowers observing  
As they smile at me*

*If I were to have a lover  
His gifts would contain glorious feelings  
As soft as the feather of a dove for my treat*

*If I were to have a lover  
He would relax my mind with the sweet words of endearment  
As I travel into a sonnet of love, lavishly*

*If I were to have a lover  
A lover who could bring me joy  
I would frequently invite courage  
To the doorsteps of my mind*

*If I were to have a lover  
A lover so genuine  
A lover so compassionate  
I would look up at the sky with a passionate and content mind*



APPLE ORCHARD

*Ready to find my true destiny*

*Shabla Latifi*

*January 10, 2016*

## WHEN YOU ARE A MOTHER

*When you are a mother  
Your world exists around your children  
Your happiness is tied to their laughter  
Giggles  
Hopes  
Dreams*

*When you are a mother  
Your tears of joy fall on the footsteps of their gladness  
And the tears of worry follow the trace of their sadness  
Disappointments  
And heartbreaks*

*When you are a mother  
You'll find your true self in your child's eyes  
You will find comfort with their touch in your arms  
And you'll find treasure  
In the sweetness of their voice*

*When you are a mother  
You are dignified as a person  
And given a purpose of sharing your days and dreams  
With their laughter and more*

*When you are a mother  
Your needs are secondary*

APPLE ORCHARD

*But your love expands from ordinary  
To extraordinary  
Until you become whole*

*Shabla Latifi  
March 12, 2015*

## ENTIRETY OF LOVE

*I need you  
I need your attention  
The certainty of your love  
To seek out a new life with my presence at night  
I need your emotions to wrap me within itself*

*In the deepest layers of needs  
And my need has no greed*

*I assure you  
I need your passion to justify me as a woman  
As a dignified truce*

*I need you when the sense of darkness hovers over the depth of my soul  
I need you for me  
For my worrisome thoughts at night*

*I need you to take me to the height of your power  
I need you like the leaves that bloom on a tree under the sun  
Like the stream surrounding a new life  
With purity and the essence of love*

*I need your open arms  
At the peak of my illusion  
In the darkest moments of my day*

## APPLE ORCHARD

*I need you as the sun touches the moon for its transaction of light  
When the birds awaken  
In the sleepy meadow on the mountaintop*

*I need you like fresh air blows the power of love around nature  
I need you on my skin like clean blossoms with the touch of morning dew  
I need you  
As time moves from spring to autumn  
When wild geese are dancing in the icy lake next to a winter garden  
With a touch of an entirety of love*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 1, 2016*

## COBBLES OF HARDSHIP

*There was a time  
When I was attached to the strings of pain  
Inside a cocoon of loneliness*

*I felt  
Abandoned  
With no window to see outside  
With the feeling  
Of hopelessness in mind  
And fear in my heart*

*I started to lose the essence of my well being inside  
One foggy night  
With a clear thought  
And sickly body*

*I looked up at the small reflection of my soul in the cracked ceiling of the cocoon  
That lit up with the ray of the moon  
I saw my soul  
So frail  
Defeated  
And unhappy  
As an orphaned child*

*I felt that weakness conquered my motivation  
And I sensed that my self-worth was broken*

## APPLE ORCHARD

*On the cobbled stones of hardship  
Piece by piece*

*I also saw a fragment of a little girl  
Whom once was  
Driven  
Passionate  
And so alive  
But imprisoned in the cell of a broken cocoon  
With no fresh air to breathe  
No power to scream  
And no strength to go on*

*I started to cry  
And with a throbbing heart  
I felt this disconnection of myself  
From the pain that I've been feeling  
For so long*

*Suddenly  
I felt relieved  
And my courage was awakened  
And I felt the urge to recollect  
My strength  
And my wisdom  
As a torch of guidance  
To the passage to freedom  
From the cocoon*

*Shabla Latifi  
October 20, 2015*

## GLORY OF LIGHTS

*My heart flies with happiness  
Like the thoughts of a free bird  
That greets me on a foggy dawn*

*I smile with the happy bird  
As she settles on the warmth of my palm*

*With a stroke of a fingertip on the layers of her soft feathers  
She closes her eyes  
And lays her small head on the cushion of my hand*

*I kiss her softly  
She stirs  
And she opens her eyes  
With a loving demeanor  
To look at me*

*Suddenly  
She starts humming a beautiful melody of sunshine  
A melody that brings love to any cold feelings  
In a foggy dawn*

*A melody that makes the sun rise with a projection of peace  
And for the dawn to engage with glory  
Of prairie lights once again*

*Shabla Latifi  
March 2, 2016*



## SHORT POEMS-1

*My heart  
Cannot be settled in your arms  
When my body senses  
An untrustworthy aroma*

*And my mind is hungry and intrigued,  
Seeking the meaning of "love"  
In an enchanted journey  
Through the valley of pleasure or pain with trust*

\*\*\*\*

*If I was a hummingbird  
With my small feathers*

*That are wet from the rain  
I would fly up to you*

*I would sit on your shoulder  
Shaking off all the rain water  
Onto your heart*

*In your memories  
And in your mind  
With the equation of love in drops*

\*\*\*\*

*I have found treasure in nature  
The glory of life*

*And I have found the meaning of being alive  
With the deny flowers of dawn*

\*\*\*\*

*A ray  
Of good days  
Is a pathway  
To see a brighter tomorrow  
From a small opening  
Of despair*

*So  
With the keen eyes of enthusiasm  
Find that light  
To gain self awareness  
And to create your happiness  
With ambition  
Not fear*

*Shahla Latifi  
2015*

## SHORT POEMS-2

*There will be a day  
When light will shine  
Freedom will laugh  
And peace will settle on everybody's chest up high*

\*\*\*\*

*If I find the true essence of love  
In my fingertips  
Like a ray of sun  
That peeks from the windowsill*

*I will open all of my senses  
To a fascinating journey  
Around love and trust*

\*\*\*\*

*Anxiety  
Tiredness  
Depression  
Worries  
Despair  
And the feeling of abandonment  
Are the shadowy disguise of broken hopes*

\*\*\*\*

*Hold the moon in your thoughts  
Whenever you are alone  
In the darkness*

\*\*\*\*

*My lips were pursed as flower buds  
My eyes closed in a moment of sinking  
Into his eyes  
My skin felt warm with his touch  
When I saw myself lying next to him  
On a garden bench  
His hair on my face  
My hands on his shoulders  
His lips closed on mine  
And the intense rhythms of my heart  
So tender  
Suddenly  
I opened my eyes with a sparkle of virtue  
And suppressed all his greed into his soul  
That I am a "woman"  
A woman of her own rights  
A woman to be cherished and to be loved  
Not only to be kissed and fantasized*

*Shahla Latifi  
2015*

## SHORT POEMS-3

*I'll celebrate the new year with colors  
With colors of hopes and dreams  
Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness  
And with the colors of prosperity and peace In the world*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 29, 2015*

\*\*\*\*

*Cherish my heart  
So I can fly on the wings  
Of a dream*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 15, 2015*

\*\*\*\*

*My youth  
Was like the delicacy and strength of a ribbon  
That connected my body  
Mind  
And soul*

*Into an enchanted melody  
Of dreams*

*Shabla Latifi  
October 15, 2015*

\*\*\*\*

*I grew up in a village  
With fresh air around me  
Green grass under my feet  
The apple trees behind a silver street  
And they were all connecting my soul  
With a happy bumblebee  
That was dancing carefree  
On the top of a young branch  
In peace*

*Shabla Latifi  
September 29, 2015*

\*\*\*\*

*A woman  
She is not just a face  
She is a mind  
A flare of wisdom accompanies her thoughts*

*A woman is not just a face  
She is a reflection of light  
That strives  
For the search of the true meaning of happiness  
With a great wish of equality*

*Shabla Latifi  
November 18, 2015*

## SHORT POEMS-4

*Palm trees, the free umbrellas of nature  
A wave of peace to remember  
Layered with freedom  
Miraculously, a sense of liberty  
Binds the spirit of a palm tree and I together*

\*\*\*\*

*I remember the night  
The starry night  
When a sudden gust of forbidden love  
Danced around you and I*

*I remember the night  
The starry night  
When the vast horizon fell from the sky  
I was sitting in front of a small garden listening to the breeze  
The rhythmic sound of wind played melodically*

*I remember the night  
The starry night  
When you faced the sunset  
Your glistening eyes looking at me  
Nightingales were singing  
As the dusk turned into night*

\*\*\*\*

*Tulips, the free-spirited beauties  
Uneasy in the hands of stormy nights  
Lay softly in the arms of a majestic land  
In peace among the chaos  
Peaceful with the joy that rises at sunset  
Sways with the emotion of the breeze; divine*

*Shahla Latifi  
August 2016*



## SHORT POEMS-5

*When he touched her face with affection  
She trembled*

*When he smiled at her  
She blushed*

*When he glanced into her eyes  
The warmth of her heart awakened  
And the purity of her existence bloomed  
With the aroma of young love*

*Suddenly  
She smiled at the garden with the feeling of fulfillment  
With the urge to soar like a butterfly  
To spread her wings on the green garden of life  
Soaked with the energy of love*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 15, 2016*

\*\*\*\*

*On the shore of intimacy  
The sea breeze rises  
The sky looks down upon the sunrise*

SHAHLA LATIFI

*The thunder of love roars  
When two hearts come together  
And two bodies are joined as one  
By soaking up the waves of pleasure  
On a heavenly night on the sea*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 26, 2015*

## DEMANDS OF SANITY

*I cry when I am broken  
Unwanted and overwhelmed  
But there is no shame in crying*

*I cry  
Like an unhappy bird with an injured wing under a tree  
I cry like the roaring thunder in the midst of a spring day  
I cry like a child  
When a disaster takes his mother away  
I cry, and I cry  
I cry softly*

*At times, I cry soundly with no demands of sanity  
I cry in a moment of depression with an aura of gloominess  
To release me  
From the cold clutches of insanity  
And to cultivate my unconfident mind  
With a new smile  
And the exhilarating energy  
That revolves around me*

*Shabla Latifi  
June 19, 2016*

## THE HEART OF HUMANITY

*I believe the bliss of love can join  
The enthusiastic dance of peace for eternity*

*I believe in the goodness  
That still exists  
like the ray of redemption in a guilty heart  
That is remorseful, sad, and sorry*

*I believe the returning strength  
In the body of an abounded wall  
That has betrayed  
Beaten and broken  
By the hands of war and greed*

*I believe children can smile  
With no fear of hopelessness  
Once again  
They will cheerfully dance on the meadows  
They will read aloud with their hearts as open as the sun  
They will laugh at their wittiness*

*They will form friendships with colorful flowers  
And they will find their way to the moon  
Which will lighten their dreams  
With her soft and loving light of perfection*

## APPLE ORCHARD

*And to grab the inspiration from the moon  
To broaden their horizons beyond the sea*

*I believe the morality of life  
With the unbalanced force of imperfection*

*So perplexed  
Yet alive  
It's going to find its way  
To the heart of humanity  
Without boundary*

*Shabla Latifi  
June 25, 2016*

## MOZART

*On a sunny day  
In the bare prairie of my delusion  
I'm thinking of your music*

*With the unbounded spirit of soothing melody in my ears  
I'm thinking of you alive, Mozart*

*The rhythmic glory of the piano  
In the layers of "Piano Sonata No 11"  
So divine  
So immortal  
With a blissful imagination of unity  
Brings my heart close to you, Mozart*

*Shabla Latifi  
February 1, 2017*

## PEACE

*Peace*

*The most valuable commodity of life is missing  
In the layers of a world filled with bitterness  
Under the clouds of animosity  
In the hearts of war-damaged victims  
In the eyes of humanity's greed and cruelty*

*Peace*

*The most valuable commodity of life is missing  
From our hearts  
In the dust of disbelief, that swirls around us  
With nothing but despair and agony*

*Peace*

*The most valuable commodity of life is missing  
The hands of prejudice and inequality drove it away*

*Let us find that precious commodity together  
Till its spirit gives us courage  
Till peace  
The most valuable commodity of life  
Returns triumphantly*

*Shabla Latifi  
June 25, 2016*

## TRANSPARENT

*I am as transparent as a crystal vase  
With stems of roses within its heart*

*That reflects the beauty of nature and the meaning of life  
Brilliant yet perplexed*

*I am transparent like the moonlight  
That shines through the darkness  
And connects with my thoughts*

*I am transparent like a child's giggle  
That buries an innocent lie into his heart*

*I am as transparent as a wish  
That grants the gift of sacrifice*

*My transparency is always bright  
Though my surroundings may change  
It always sees the untold truth within my heart*

*Shabla Latifi  
August 10, 2016*



## A REFUGEE CHILD

*Most of the Afghan refugees who fled the war in Afghanistan lived in refugee camps near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The situation inside the refugee camps was dire, and thousands of refugee children faced life-threatening conditions. This poem is dedicated to those children and any refugee children around the world.*

*I am a refugee child  
I am a flower that has been cut from the stem*

*I am a refugee child  
I am a child who is caught up in the middle of a frightful war*

*When the night covers the vile world with its dark coat  
When I am resting on the muddy ground next to an unlocked door  
I feel myself again  
I feel like a child that could smile in peace  
That could go to an enchanted dream*

*In daylight when I hear the roar of the crowd  
When I feel the sun's warmth on my skin  
When I listen to hungry babies' sad cry for help  
When an injured man moans in pain*

*When I look around the valley of abandoned dreams  
Full of anguish and astounding poverty  
As we are all cramped in a cell of depression  
With no hope and no fresh air to breathe*

SHAHLA LATIFI

*My soul becomes cold  
My heart gets lost in despair so deep*

*But when the nights fall softly upon us  
I sense the essence of hope that rushes joyfully in me  
Suddenly I feel like a child  
A child with a desire to be free*

*Shahla Latifi*

*September 1, 2016*

*Photo- «Faces of Afghanistan», Peshamar, Pakistan- Afghan refugee by Steve McCurry*

## CURRENTS OF UNFAIRNESS

*In the tender age of womanhood I heard  
I sensed  
I felt the pain*

*The unforgivable currents of unfairness and injustice  
That settled on the shore of my body and soul*

*In the tender age of womanhood  
I cried  
And keenly wished that tomorrow would be kinder to me*

*Behind the wall of broken dreams  
A tree of energy grew each day  
With that tree, I learned  
I explored my mind*

*From the crack of dawn to the layers of moonless cloudy nights  
To grow  
To love  
To laugh  
To give  
To hug  
To fall  
And to fly up like an eagle  
As sincere as the light of dawn upon a green meadow*

*Shabla Latifi  
July 15, 2016*

## A BRISK WALK

*A brisk walk on a fall day  
That awakens the love of nature in your heart  
Enlightens the new life with a sense of freedom in your mind  
Is a heavenly gift to remember*

*A brisk walk at night  
When the stars shine down on you  
And the moon illuminates your path  
Is a heavenly gift to remember*

*A brisk walk with your love  
On any breezy day  
On any bright afternoon  
On any rainy evening*

*On any long, sad day that you leave your worries behind  
Is a heavenly gift to remember*

*A brisk walk in the happy time  
When excitement covers the unsettled feelings of the melancholy past  
Is how to treat life*

*Shabla Latifi  
October 25, 2016*

## CAREFREE

*Touch me with your senses  
So I can fly on the wings of a dream  
In rapturous ecstasy*

*Laugh with me from your heart  
So I can run into the thickness of a dream  
As a nightingale sings at night, carefree*

*Hold me in your thoughts  
So I can sway in the arms of a dream  
Like a willow tree in spring, lazily*

*Sing for me  
So I can hear your whispers  
As sweet sensation of love melody*

*Kiss me with your eyes open  
So I can dance in the trembling hands of a passion  
As the moonlight gleams mysteriously*

*Eat with me  
So I can taste the aroma of a fresh apple  
From your lips romantically*

*Breathe with me  
Through the delicate layers of unknown happiness*

SHAHLA LATIFI

*In the thickest clouds of sadness  
With your love, patiently*

*Shabla Latifi  
January 4, 2007*

## AN IMAGINARY MAN

*When you are in love  
With an imaginary man  
Who smiles at you without hesitance  
Who looks at you in silence  
And who gives you  
Pleasure with unspoken words of affection  
You feel alive  
And you feel liberated from the anguish of abandonment*

*When you are in love with an imaginary man  
With a mind of gumption  
That excites you  
That grows your feelings  
In the days and the nights  
With the flow of sanctity into awakening desire  
He could devour you  
This is a beautiful sense of love*

*Shabla Latifi  
December 1, 2016*

## VICTIMS OF WAR

*While little Alan was sleeping in his mother's arms at dawn  
On a cramped boat on the Mediterranean Sea  
His mother was still  
She knew her path was going to be rough*

*Not smooth like the stream of light, pure and clear  
But as a warrior in her heart  
She was determined  
To carry her beloved children to safety*

*The ocean was alert and the waves were quivering  
And each wave danced in a circular motion above the sea*

*Fishes  
Big and small  
From the depth of the water held on the moving waves  
To greet the visitors with the waves' transmitting energy*

*Children were soundlessly asleep  
Men were nervous  
Women were preoccupied with motherly instinct and anxiety*

*Suddenly  
The boat unsettled  
Moved to one side  
And the unexpected sound of fear covered the sea*



## APPLE ORCHARD

*Water panicked  
Fishes jumped around the boat  
And spurted water with the sad news to each other  
That there was going to be another  
Grievous loss at the sea*

*Everything went silent  
And still  
Only the wavering sound of the sea  
That laid her trembling hand  
On her aching heart  
To pray for the victims of war*

*For the seekers of freedom who took bold chances  
To grab the sliver of a free land  
In their fingertips of hopes  
Willingly*

*Shabla Latifi  
September 5, 2015*

## BARREN HEART

*He abandoned me  
His hands  
His desire to embrace my body as the sun rises above the hilltop  
And his excitement abandoned me*

*Suddenly dark clouds of suspicion  
Lingered on the moon*

*And the stars left me*

*The warm hand of devotion  
That connected the thread of love had weakened*

*And happiness abandoned me*

*The aura of the night  
His barren heart  
The blossoms of my needs*

*And the shattered hope abandoned me*

*When dawn rose  
The glow of life shone through the window next to the sea  
With a soft smile*

*I whispered into his ear that you had abandoned me*

## APPLE ORCHARD

*The rain started to pour  
The room stirred up with a high breeze  
The light from within my heart glowed with hope*

*And the still of a gloomy night abandoned me*

*With a roar of strength  
From the depth of my ruin  
Alone  
I climbed the moon with highest dreams  
To capture my salvation once again*

*Shabla Latifi  
March 10, 2017*

## DANCE OF HAPPINESS

*The aroma of black tea  
Awakened my senses*

*The rain is pouring  
My smile is widening  
And my eyes are glittering with affection  
Looking at my black and white cat  
Who stares at me*

*The wind, with force and anger  
Emerged from the depths of the sky  
To find love  
To obtain acceptance  
And to taste joy with flowing rain*

*The rain is happy  
She leans on the firm shoulder of the wind*

*The wind lets off steam  
The rain laughs  
With tears of excitement streaming down her face*

*Their bodies joining  
And the echoing sound of pleasure can be heard from the distance*

*My cat, quite motionless*

APPLE ORCHARD

*Rests on the soft cushion as a soundless spring breeze*

*And I imagine*

*The swaying dance of happiness by the sea*

*Shabla Latifi*

*March 30, 2017*

## NIGHT BREEZE

*When the night breeze arises  
To remove all traces of light  
My heart sits deep in thought*

*When the moon covers the shallow end of my thoughts  
A trembling hand of despair  
Pulls me closer to the memory of lost love*

*On cloudy days when my worries are awake  
I prefer to sleep in the arms of a quiet night  
Calm and unafraid*

*In lonely moments of truth  
With his memory lingering over my heart  
My tremulous smile  
My happy wishes  
And the raw emotion that makes up the essence of my fruitful vine  
Want to cry*

*Shabla Latifi  
April 15, 2017*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shahla Latifi was born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan and now she lives and writes in Florida. Her first Farsi poetry selection (*Parastootah*) was published in 2013 and her second Farsi poetry collection (*Asal Wahshi*) was published in 2015. Now her books are available through the Library of Congress online catalog. Many of her poems deal with topics such as love, humanity, equality, and happiness.