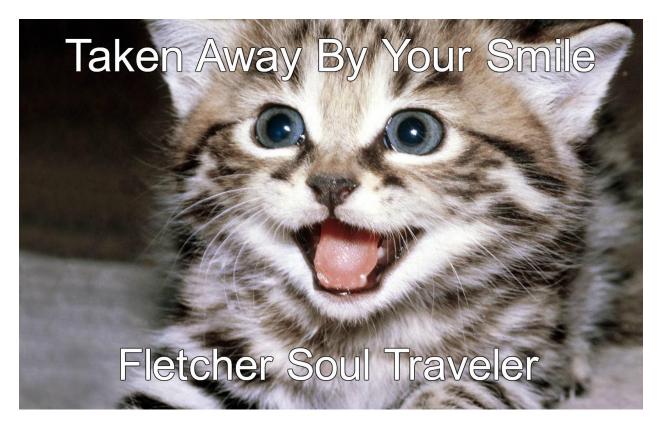
These poems are meant to be pondered over. There is a message contained in each one. There is a riddle to be solved. I hope they may contain meanings for your life.



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Still Alive

Isn't it amazing that humanity is still alive? When I was born the cold war just got started. During the Cuban missile crisis, we had nuclear drills where you had to hide underneath your desk. Wow, what would that have accomplished? You would have been completely turned to dust if you were near the center of the blast. Yet by grace alone, this incident passed. In the sixties, millions of Christians talked about Armageddon. The end of the world. Yet people have talked about this for good thousands of years. People were saying that when we reached 2000 the world would end with the Y2k crash. Companies and governments spent millions of dollars. Yet the year 2000 came and went without any serious consequences. Still, people thought that 2012 would be the end of the world. They looked at the incredible Mayan calendars for proof. One of their calendars had a 24,000-year cycle. People grab on to that and proclaimed this would be the end of man. Movies and books were made. Money was made to scare people and terrify them. The Mayans laughed. They said when the calendar ends you put a new calendar on the wall. This is not the end of the world. It's a beginning of a new cycle. Does God really want humanity to blow itself up? I hight doubt that. Yet we have free will. Personally, I believe in humanity. I have travels the world and fell in love with each different country and culture. We all want the same thing. We want to raise our families with dignity. We want health care for all. We want our children to be educated. We want them to grow up in a great environment. Personally, I think that peace will prevail. You are a piece of the puzzle of life. Ponder this over. We are still alive.

Stripped Of Everything

Did you know that when you die you are stripped of everything? You can't take your job if you are a work alcoholic. You can't take your house and car. You can't take any precious possession. Basically, you are stripped of everything. The only thing you can take is the fruit you have harvested in your life. Kindness, compassion, patience, and tolerance. These are the fruits that return to the universe and God. All of your negative baggage such as anger and hate are left behind. You came from God. You return to God. All raindrops return to the ocean of life. The wise men of the past have said you can know the ocean while you are alive. That's why they were called mystics. In my eyes, they were modern-day scientists. Look at the ancient Mayans. They developed many sophisticated calendars. Our present-day calendar is a one-year cycle. The Mayans have one of their calendars on a 24,000-year cycle. Wow. This calendar ended in 2012. Many people thought it was going to be the end of the world. Movies and books were made. They prophesize the end of the world. The Mayans just smiled. They said, "why the fear"? When the end of your calendar ends do you freak out? No, you just put another calendar on the wall. It's a beginning of a new year. We do the same as a brand new year has come. The truly wise man day by day strips himself of negative emotions. He pulls the internal weeds. He takes care of his garden. He toils on the soil of life. Day by day the great mysteries of life are being revealed. He knows the preciousness of being alive. Words can not describe this state of awareness. It's a blessing that all humanity can have.

The journey starts inside your heart. Ponder this over. You can solve this puzzle. This is your true nature. You are the universe. You just don't know it.

Sweet Dreams

Sweet Dreams to all May the children of the world have sweet dreams? May the children dream of a better tomorrow. May the earth provide food for all. The earth is abundant. Man must learn to care for all. The times are changing. May we have sweet dreams. Can you imagine if mankind didn't have any nightmares? Imagine no more war. Imagine the US not spending half of its budget on defense. Imagine not spending anything at all. We could use that money wisely. I feel it's a birthright for all children to go to bed safely and have sweet dreams. It's our duty as human beings to help each other out. We are still living in such odd times. Millions of people are being displaced. Families are being ripped apart. We even have drastic measures in the states not to allow these refugees into the states. Mankind must be a kind man. The universe is kind. God is kind. Man must be kind. In order to solve the world's problems, we must first be kind. Man has fought for thousands of years. Look at what that has brought. More wars. We have been in Afghanistan for over sixteen years with no end in sight. Is this the hundred-year war? I truly think that humanity must change. We must end all wars. We must learn that we are all gifts from God. We have created a mess on earth and we must clean it up. God sits on the sideline coaching and inspiring us on the way. He will not do the work for us. Humanity must change on its own accord. We have free will.

It's up to us to change for the better. Sweet dreams for all. Peace will come on earth. Mark my words the majority of mankind wants peace, not war. Only a few people on earth want war. Ponder this over. You are a piece of this puzzle.

Sweet Times

Cherish your sweet times. Life may become sour. Many moons ago I saw a sign at Buffalo University. It said if life is a bowl of cherries. Why are we living in the pits? Can we control our happiness? Is happiness something external? Is happiness like a leaf blowing in the wind? One moment we are happy and the next moment we are sad. Is this human nature? Life will always throw us curve balls. Life is an adventure. At times the road in life will be bumpy. That's why life is a journey. You can never totally read the road in life. You will never know what's around the corner. It might be a dead end. Yet sweet times come and go. The wise master of the past has said there is a sweet spot inside that you can hold on to. This is your true nature. How about that? Yes, I've been harping on this point for ever so long. Many moons have passed and I still talk like this. Yet, it's the truth. The most incredible jewel lies inside your heart. I'm not trying to convince you. I'm not trying to convert you. This is nothing to convert to. I'm saying that discovering the jewel inside is probably the most practical thing you can do. I'm not saying all your problems will be solved. But you can find a solution to your problems. You can learn to be aware of the actions you take. By slowing down and not reacting you can learn how to control yourself and your mind. Most people simply react without truly thinking about it.

Just ask our current President. Tweeting at 3:00 in the morning. Yes, life is sweet. Ponder this over. These are not just some mumbo-jumbo words. They can truly affect your life.

Take It To The Next Level

If you enjoy playing video games you might like this. Now I'm not a gamer. I never got into it. Yet many of my friends are. They love to master the game and go to higher levels in the game. There are also cheat sheets people use to learn how to master each level. That is probably a whole other conversation we could have. Video gamers love adventure. They love to learn wisdom from the game. Some even become experts. They become famous within the circles of the game. Wow, Did you see Mr. so and so? My life is full now. Yet have you ever thought that life is just like a video game? All the great masters in the past were great experts. They played the same game yet at different times in history. They invited humanity to join them. These great masters offered great advice and hope. The object of this game was to discover your true nature. In each and every moment, we are playing this game whether we like it or not. Some people are stuck at a certain level. The goal is to go from one level to another level. In essence, at each level, you are discovering more of your true nature. At first, you stumble and fall. At each level, you stumble and fall. Yet you are refining yourself. Stumbling and falling make you humble. The entire universe stumbles and falls. Look it took billions of years for the earth to support man. Many trials and errors were made. Yet finally the earth could support life. Now I'm sure Mother Earth didn't get pissed off and complain. Dear God I can't do this. I'm not worthy. You see this video game of life was set up by God. We have free will. We can stay at one level for the rest of our life and be blind to this precious game. God will not play the game for us.

Ponder this over. You are playing the video game of life. Do you want to learn how to go to the next levels?

Taken Away

Taken away. The wise man likes to take out his inner trash. Who wants to live with trash in the living room of life. Each and every day he cleans up his inner house. He mops the floors, takes out the trash, and dusts the furniture. Day by day anger, greed, war, and intolerance goes out the door. He enjoys this housekeeping. His house soon is sparkling. People like to be around him. They don't know why. He simply smiles at life. He has nothing to convince. He just simply is. Yes, obstacles come his way. Remember this is a journey. But he has great shock absorbers on his car. He hits the same bumps as before but the shock is different now. He has learned how to drive consciously in life. He looks at the road and tried to avoid the bumps in life. He knows how to hold onto his words if it will put gasoline on the fire. This takes daily practice. This is why I say the Spiritual path is the most practical path. In each and every moment we must be aware. A signpost of god is all around us. Most of us can't see them. A wise constantly refines himself to see God in our lives. We are never alone. The wise man understands that and experiences that. He takes his time in life and cherishes each and every moment. Life is meant to be cherished. Life is meant to have gratitude. Life is meant to laugh in the wind. Life is meant to love each and every moment. It's amazing that by slowing down our vision changes over time. We can begin to hear the silent whispers in the wind. We can marvel at the flowers growing in the ghetto lot. I've said this many times before. You are the universe.

You just don't know it. Ponder this over. You can solves the great mysteries of life.

Taken Away By Love

I've been taken away by love. What can I see? Many moons ago this adventure started. I was quite young. I'm young at heart but I'm in my sixties. This is an incredible journey of life. It has many adventures. In the beginning, I try to meditate on God. I would spend hours trying to connect to God. Many moons later I feel at times God is meditating on me. I know that sounds ridiculous. Yet I'm being taken away by love. Day after day love is truly taking over. Words can't describe that experience. But I see the world through different eyes. In the past ducks and geese never captured my eye. Yet today I am fixating on watching them fly in the sky. Wow, such beauty in motion. I love staring at a pond and noticing the beauty of nature. Nature has a sweet language of silence and love. If you are open it can communicate with you. The essence of love is like perfume. It pervades throughout the universe. This is our true nature. No wonder all the great masters talk about it. No wonder why Rumi is still loved by millions today. His poetry inspires us and teaches us. Rumi was a perfect example of someone taken away by love. All the great masters were in the same boat. Slowly throughout their life, they were taken over by love. This adventure lies inside of you. They say you can open the door and walk through. Recently I heard another ingenious way. Why not dissolve the inner walls of your own house? By doing this no walls will exist between you and God. Maybe the rules have changed since 2012. Maybe, at last, the light is becoming stronger than ever before. Maybe just maybe this is a new dawning for mankind.

Peace will come to this earth. Mark my words. This adventure goes on. We are all returning to the source. Yet this time man will be aware of the universe while he is alive. Ponder this over.

Taken Away By Your Smile

Taken Away By Your Smile. I've been married to Barbara for many moons. I'm taken away by your smile. A smile is a picture describing in words how you feel. You can try to fake a smile and it's so easy to see. It's fake. It has an aura around it. Yet a true smile is like perfume. It pervades everywhere. The universe smiles. God smiles. The Angels smile. A smile reveals our inner contentment. A smile says I love life. You may be experiencing bumps in the road yet a smile says everything will be all right. I may not know the answer now, but the answer will come. My wife has a smile of tenderness, love, and compassion. It is written all over her face. It's like a fingerprint yet it's a faceprint. I feel her smile gets more beautiful day by day. It's like wine that's been aged properly. Day by day we grow and learn in life. The smile of life grows. It does not remain stagnant. A smile constantly changes. You can never hold on to it, just like life. For me, a smile represents a gift from God. Just look at the innocence of a newborn baby. That first smile lights up the room. Everyone feels it and sees it. It is like fireworks in the sky. Yet it's so pure and innocent. Can you remember when you had that feeling inside of yourself? That's your true nature. You can recapture that feeling. Your true nature never changes but we do. Ponder this over. You can discover your inner smile.

Tell Me

Tell Me. Please tell me the truth. Do you at times feel all alone? Do you feel nobody truly cares about me? Do you bully people because deep down inside you are truly insincere? Why do you take advantage of others? You have your team of lawyers who will do whatever you say. Have you walked so far from the truth that your heart is running on empty? Your riches will someday go away. They will be stripped away. You can't take anything physical with you. That has always been the eternal law. Even Alexender the Great learned that. Upon his death he said you come into this world empty-handed. You leave this world empty-handed. Did you know you have the opportunity to totally change the world for the better? Yet in order for that to happen you must change your ways. You must discover yourself once again in your heart. You see without that you can't make wise decisions. King Solomon was an example of someone who ruled with his heart and was wise at the same time. There is a difference between being wise and being intelligent. A wise man combines intelligence and love. The intelligent man uses just his mind. Man has been doing that for thousands of years. Where has that taken us? War, war, and war. We must get out of the box. You can do it. Love is always there. You are simply not paying attention to it. Love is the most powerful force in the universe. You may think is not strong. But love is the glue that ties the entire universe together. Anger and putting people down is almost the lowest you can go ruling the people. May you be blessed with the ones who support you. You have many Christians despite your actions supporting your actions. What would Christ say?

He would probably say to look within for your answers. You can change. The kingdom of heaven lies inside. It's just waiting to be discovered.

Temple Of God

Where is the temple of God? Man searches near and far. We think the true temple exists outside of ourselves. Billions of dollars have been spent over time building external places of worship. Yes, they are great ways for communities to come together. But where does God reside? God resides everywhere. God resides in this universe and beyond. There is not a single space in the universe where God does not exist. Yet man at times is looking in the wrong place. The great masters of old said that the great temple lies in your heart. Is that a paradox? Man has spent his entire life searching for God and the whole time the answer lies within. I see some irony in this picture. Yet we have been told many different stories. Some of them were true and some of them were made up. Some of them were meant to control you and make you feel bad. But the journey of the heart begins when you realize that God exists inside of you. This is your true place of worship. Now I'm not saying change your religion. God, in essence, is no religion. Keep your religion. You will see the true beauty of your religion. When you discover God within you will see the unity of all religions. There is a thread of love tying us all together. This is our true state. God wants us to discover our true nature. When mankind does this peace will be on earth. War is obsolete. The universe does not fight itself. God does not fight itself. Only man fights. This is an old way of thinking. Humanity can change. The temple of God lies inside. You can discover it. Moment by moment your awareness can be on God.

Ponder this over. A great awakening is taking place. You have a piece of this puzzle.

That Ultimate Feeling

What is the ultimate feeling? Where does it reside? You may be a surfer and ride a hundred-foot wave and survive. The surfer would say nothing can match that. A snowboarder might say how about snowboarding down a virgin mountain with only you and your gang. A race car driver would say "how about driving a car at 220 miles per hour? Now, that's a rush. A climber might say climbing Mt. Everest without any oxygen. Each of these had an incredible feeling of being alive. Yet these feelings were sparked from the outside. We only think the ultimate feeling comes from outside of ourselves. No wonder we get hooked. We need something outside of ourselves to feel complete. Unfortunately today there is a major opioid epidemic. Thousands of people are dying a month. They are trying to find the ultimate feeling and are dying in the process. How sad! The great masters of the past have said that ultimate feeling exists inside of you. You are the universe. You just don't know it. How about that? The jewel of life exists inside of you. This jewel is meant to be discovered. You have free will. Nobody is trying to convince you. There is no organization to belong to. Nobody is trying to convert you. The truth needs no converting. The simple fact is that God lies inside of you. You can open the door within. Better yet you can dissolve the walls between you and God. Your true nature is eternal. You exist beyond time and space. It's funny we think we are so limited while in fact, we are infinite. We hold the keys to the universe yet we don't unlock the door. Now that's kinda sad. Are we so stubborn?

If our attitude doesn't tell me what to do. Ponder this over. You can solve this riddle.

The Best Is Yet To Come

The Best Is Yet To Come This is one of my favorite motos. The best is yet to come. On this journey of life, we learn to love every step. Our life is ever so precious. Day by day, year after year life carries us downstream. At times we may feel we are swimming upstream with constant struggles. Yet the stream is slowly taking us downstream. One of my challenges in life is to let go. Don't worry about the future. Do your best and then let the rest take over. Many times I see that what you want you don't need. What you need you don't want. My current job came in a way out of the left field. I had to wait for a synchronicity of events to occur. Granted it took time but the universe did arrange events to occur so I got this job. I think personally the more I understand the universe and myself life seems to work efficiently. Yes, the best is yet to come. When we begin to be conscious we can see more visible the signpost of God everywhere. Recently I heard a great phrase and I loved it. It said that God is biased in love. If you have love in your heart and direct it toward God. Then God is biased towards you. You are using your free will and God responds. There is something to that statement. It's like the winds are blowing behind you. They are gently blowing your ship back home, The amazing thing is that you are aware of it. That's another way the best is yet to come. I'm reaching retirement age but my outlook on life is young. I'm more aware of nature than ever before. When I was young my parents took me to Yosemite. Truthfully I didn't have a good time. I wanted to be on the ocean. A few days ago I told this story to my daughter and we both cracked up. Here I was visiting the most beautiful place on earth and I was miserable.

Why? My mind wanted to be somewhere else. I now live in Kansa. Thousands of miles from the ocean. Yet the ocean of life exists inside of me. I'm surfing the wave of life. Ponder this over. The best has yet to come.