

Poetry Series

**Memories And Hope**  
**- poems -**

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# Memories And Hope()

# Actor (A Poem In Hindi)

&#2358; &#2366; &#2350; &#2325; &#2379; &#2341; &#2325; &#2325;  
&#2352;  
&#2328; &#2352; &#2354; &#2380; &#2335; &#2344; &#2375; &#2325;  
&#2366; &#2360; &#2350; &#2351;  
&#2357; &#2361; &#2360; &#2350; &#2351; &#2332; &#2348; &#2348;  
&#2360; &#2309; &#2325; &#2375; &#2354; &#2375;  
&#2349; &#2368; &#2337; &#2364; &#2360; &#2375; &#2342; &#2370;  
&#2352; &#2348; &#2360; &#2309; &#2325; &#2375; &#2354; &#2375;  
&#2350; &#2375; &#2306; &#2332; &#2368; &#2340; &#2366; &#2361;  
&#2370; &#2305;

&#2325; &#2366; &#2350; &#2325; &#2366; &#2346; &#2381; &#2352;  
&#2361; &#2366; &#2352;  
&#2332; &#2348; &#2326; &#2364; &#2340; &#2381; &#2350; &#2361;  
&#2379; &#2332; &#2366; &#2340; &#2366; &#2361; &#2376;  
&#2328; &#2352; &#2325; &#2368; &#2346; &#2352; &#2375; &#2358;  
&#2366; &#2344; &#2368;  
&#2309; &#2349; &#2368; &#2342; &#2370; &#2352; &#2361; &#2379;  
&#2340; &#2368; &#2361; &#2376;

&#2342; &#2379; &#2344; &#2379; &#2306; &#2325; &#2375; &#2348;  
&#2368; &#2330;  
&#2325; &#2369; &#2331; &#2346; &#2354; &#2379; &#2306; &#2325;  
&#2368; &#2395; &#2367; &#2306; &#2342; &#2327; &#2368;

&#2319; &#2325; '&#2352; &#2379; &#2354; ' &#2360; &#2375; &#2342;  
&#2370; &#2360; &#2352; &#2366; '&#2352; &#2379; &#2354; '  
&#2326; &#2375; &#2354; &#2326; &#2375; &#2354; &#2325; &#2352;  
&#2332; &#2368; &#2340; &#2366; &#2361; &#2370; &#2306;  
&#2325; &#2349; &#2368; &#2360; &#2379; &#2330; &#2366; &#2344;  
&#2341; &#2366;  
&#2320; &#2325; &#2381; &#2335; &#2352; &#2348; &#2344; &#2332;  
&#2366; &#2314; &#2305; &#2327; &#2366;

&#2354; &#2375; &#2325; &#2367; &#2344; &#2309; &#2348;  
&#2311; &#2340; &#2344; &#2366; &#2309; &#2330; &#2381; &#2331;  
&#2366; &#2320; &#2325; &#2381; &#2335; &#2352; &#2348; &#2344;  
&#2327; &#2351; &#2366; &#2361; &#2370; &#2306;

&#2310; &#2311; &#2344; &#2375; &#2325; &#2375; &#2360; &#2366;  
&#2350; &#2344; &#2375;  
&#2309; &#2325; &#2381; &#2360; &#2349; &#2368; &#2344; &#2361;  
&#2368; &#2306; &#2346; &#2361; &#2330; &#2366; &#2344; &#2340;  
&#2366; &#2361; &#2370; &#2306;  
&#2351; &#2361; &#2325; &#2380; &#2344; &#2361; &#2376;  
&#2310; &#2332; &#2325; &#2381; &#2351; &#2366; &#2352; &#2379;  
&#2354; &#2326; &#2375; &#2354; &#2352; &#2361; &#2366; &#2361;  
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&#2351; &#2361; &#2350; &#2376; &#2306; &#2361; &#2370; &#2306;  
&#2351; &#2366; &#2325; &#2379; &#2312; &#2320; &#2325; &#2381;  
&#2335; &#2352;  
&#2310; &#2332; &#2350; &#2369; &#2333; &#2375; &#2326; &#2375;  
&#2354; &#2352; &#2361; &#2366; &#2361; &#2376; ?

Memories And Hope

## Alone (A Haiku)

Tears leave me alone,  
Memories have abandoned me,  
The rosebud brings hope.

Memories And Hope

# Another Day Alone

The body quakes  
Aches with pains unknown,  
even my tears are dry  
my misery leaves me forlorn.

Her gentle words  
that would soothe with their touch,  
are today dry like the khamsin  
what did i do do to deserve so little, so much?

She lives with laughter  
her eyes always alit with a smile,  
the world does not see my pain  
what she has made go thru for a while

so today i am back  
as i was always, alone  
but i am harder now  
you wont hear me cry, nor moan.

Memories And Hope

# Bereft

The lines of fate  
play cruel games  
they have led me to a point  
where even the saqui\*  
serves me not wine  
but poison  
i lie bereft.

I guess even lightening  
doesnt know its own impact  
Somewhere it lights lives  
somewhere else it burns a home  
I am now bereft.

Fate has played the cruellest card  
even my own shadow is now  
someone elses  
i am bereft.

And all this  
when i have forgotten  
All but you.  
I remain bereft.  
Forever.

\* saqui: the lady who serves you wine in a bar

Memories And Hope

# Catharsis

Last night, I cried.  
I washed away the pain,  
then your memories,  
then the bits of my soul  
that still had sobs left;

Then i scrubbed myself clean,  
cleansed of all feelings  
of smell, touch, your taste.

The knives cut easily,  
excising every inch  
that had any memory of you,  
the blood washing you away  
finally.

Even the inner membrane  
of my eyelid felt liberated.

Then the aortal veins flared  
one last time.  
And then there was silence.  
Sleep. At last.

Memories And Hope



## Cut Both Ways (Haiku)

Angry words hurt me,  
But silence cuts soul deeper,  
I moan either way.

Memories And Hope

# Don'T

Don't speak,  
Let me rest  
Your words create images  
And I cannot see  
Nor breathe

Exhale!

Don't stand  
so close to me  
Your fragrance  
Distracts me  
from the stench around  
I forget where i am  
and have to start  
all over again.

Inhale!

Don't laugh,  
the sound echoes  
and in each echo  
a faint moan  
I hear

Breathe!

Don't be in silence,  
your silence is different  
it sucks the other  
silences into itself  
and all that remains  
is you  
and your unsaid words.

Be!

Don't walk away,  
the soft feet

leave marks  
that i will have to stare  
for eons  
to erase them.

Scream!

Don't,  
just don't  
let  
me  
be  
me  
by myself

take away  
your memories  
yourself  
your breath  
your being  
your smell  
your laughs  
your silences

Live!

Memories And Hope

# Hope Again

Where there was but pain  
and shadows of memories past  
forming anew  
there is something here atlast

and while the future is too far  
hazy and not yet born  
i can at least face without fear  
tomorrows breaking dawn

For years i was lost  
trying to find and in darkness grope  
but now with you  
i finally see a single ray of hope.

So whatever happens now  
abandonment or birth or death  
i will still smile  
for i shared with you a moments breath.

Memories And Hope

# Hurt

You know why it hurts?  
Because there was no time,  
No space at all  
Even for tears.

You know why it hurts?  
I didnt see hot tears stream,  
Dissolving me into putty  
Shrivelled in the corner.

You know why it hurts?  
The shirt we brought together,  
Tore at its seams that night  
As i screamed in pain.

You know why it hurts?  
Because there was no hope,  
but in the futility  
I had expected miracles.

You know why it hurts?  
Silence mocks me today,  
the poetry stream is dry  
you took away more than you know.

I know why it hurts.  
In the vestiges of my past,  
I had seen a dream  
And i had dreamt of you.

Memories And Hope

# Just Another Day

I enter the restaurant  
Sit at our favourite place,  
will these strangers know  
why the tears stream down my face?

I can still see  
your lips on the bottle of wine,  
was it all so long ago  
or is the hollowness just mine?

Sitting in the car i realise,  
even melodies bring tears,  
every song here echoes  
your presence, my fears.

The speed dial number is still there  
i see it nearly with pain,  
hope may have died  
but memories still remain.

The path is the one  
we tred on just the same,  
alone i walk thinking  
just who is really to blame?  
(and does it matter? Its just another day....)

Memories And Hope

# Just Pain

There are days  
when the dawn doesn't bring  
no rays of sunshine  
just darkness within.

The clouds are white  
thin and spread afar  
their edges are tinged  
dark and foreboding.

Lightening appears  
from the virgin sky  
piercing pain  
that has no cause.

The earth trembles  
fearing what may be  
no rain, just lightening  
no succour, just pain.

Memories And Hope

# Life...Between Words

People write poetry  
read poetry  
in words.

But for me  
its the little squiggles  
the dots and dashes  
that speak eloquently

The, it speaks softly  
A lull between moments  
A pause between what has been said and the yet unsaid  
The past and the future

The; confuses  
Cramming too much into its life  
two thoughts joined  
a silence misused often

The ' ' elate me  
I see someones soul  
touch a person  
feel their being

The? makes me laugh  
why yet another  
in a world full of questions  
full of the unknown

The @ reeks of today  
of mindless net-working  
of addresses in the void  
people with masks

The! excites  
something amazing  
breaking the monotony  
of a humdrum page.



The: -) type smiles  
remind me of children  
their simplicity  
not their innocence.

The. frightens  
It is the end  
of thought and being  
it is Death

.

Memories And Hope

## Lovers In Arms (Haiku)

Bodies turn  
Concentric arcs,  
No space between  
Even for sighs.

Memories And Hope

# Nature And My Beloved

Moonlight

caresses your cheeks

Seawind

flirts with your tresses

Sand

brushes against your thighs

Salt

mingles with the air and touches your lips

Nature

embraces my beloved

and

leaves me bereft.

Memories And Hope

## New Year (Haiku)

This year's last sunset,  
Love bloomed and you i found,  
What can New Year bring?

Memories And Hope

## Rain (A Haiku)

The smiles remain fake,  
the tears dont give bit of hope,  
We all wait for rain.

Memories And Hope

# Sahra Ka Jaise, Badalon Ko Dekh (Urdu/Hindustani)

Sahra ka jaise, badalon ko dekh  
phir dil tootata hai  
Pani ki boondon ka waham  
phir hota hai

Paani ka jaise, beech samundar  
phir dil bhar aata hai  
kahan hai zameen,  
kahan thoda aasra hai

Waisa hi tha main  
pyaar se dar  
kahin moon phiraye  
thittur ke baitha rehta tha

Lekin khuda bhi insaaniiyat kabhi dikha deta hai  
kabhi kabhi dil uska bhi pighalta hai,  
meri muraad puri kar hi di  
meri chaah tham di gayi  
tum zindagi mein aaye  
sahra mein jaise phool khil uthe  
dil mein jaise jaan aa gayi.

Memories And Hope

# She Was 43

Her line said  
'I am 43 too'  
the smile flickered on my lips  
they had waited for a long time.

her poems  
echoed my thoughts  
shared experiences  
across 7,000 miles?

Sitting under the summer sky  
the stars dropping  
I wondered  
is pain the universal glue?

Has she felt  
a ghost in her own body,  
been haunted  
by her own eyes?

Have tears streamed down her cheeks  
their hot path  
a fervent prayer,  
silently quenched?

Has a melody  
made her bereft  
each note a memory,  
a nail in the soul?

Has her skin felt  
parched  
awaiting  
the khamseen of love?

Have her days too  
mingled with nights,  
a continuum  
of alone-ness?

Has she rubbed  
her hands against a coarse wall  
reminding herself  
that she still breathes?

Has she  
like me  
lived an eon in a moment,  
a second in a year?

Is she.  
me.  
us.  
glued by pain?

Memories And Hope



# Sights Of A Bombay Morning

The dog skips the puddle  
Nose quivering for a cuddle,  
The leash quivers under the strain  
His eyes moist with pain.

The girl holds the books tight  
Trying to hide from their sight,  
Eyes search anxiously for the late bus,  
Why did I wear this mini, so much fuss.

Taxis dart like a strange ant strain  
Chaos multiplied by the incessant rain,  
Passengers read the daily papers  
Tracking the politicians capers.

The child's school bag is like a trunk  
Under its weight he is totally sunk,  
The drivers smile at his load  
No one helps him cross the road.

My cigarette smoke hurts my eye  
I will get to work, bye and bye,  
My laptop battery, tired tries to blink  
I ain't stopping till I finish this poem, what does it think!

Memories And Hope

# The Outsider

Nights never end,  
the sun has forgotten me,  
the breeze that blew from the sea,  
now avoids my house.

The parrots that cavorted  
on the thin wire outside,  
seem to have found  
a new friend.

Everyday,  
The person 3 inches way from me,  
Crushed against my body in the local,  
Avoids my gaze.

The networking sites  
Refuse my registrations  
Error (477)  
Blinks and scalds my retina.

I stare night and day  
At the blank face of my mobile  
It remains forever  
Out of Network Coverage.

The milkman  
Skips my doorstep  
Black tea  
Is my fate.

The waves  
The endless bits of sand,  
No longer  
Mark my passage.

I no longer exist for others  
Cant be seen  
Or heard  
Only read. Perhaps.

Memories And Hope

# Why?

She always smiled  
told me that love never dies,  
her clothes lying in the cupboard,  
Why did she lie?

You are the angry one  
control the fire within,  
as if echoes in chorus  
Why do they blame me?

Ambitions written off  
energy no more,  
even fate seems slow  
Why has He abandoned me?

Long walks by the sea  
Waves and wind cooling,  
my tears scald within  
Why me?

Memories And Hope

# You Haunt Me

The leather sofa  
weatherbeaten still stands,  
your impression even now persists  
You haunt me.

The toothbrush stand  
still holds yours,  
the half used soap in its dish  
You haunt me.

Your favourite glass  
even your half drunk bottle,  
are still waiting for you  
You haunt me.

The book by the bed,  
is dog eared by you,  
it waits to be read  
You haunt me.

Between the sheets  
Your smell lingers,  
The creases remain  
You haunt me.

In every room,  
I can feel your presence,  
as real as life itself  
You haunt me.

As i bow  
before the icons of Gods,  
I can feel you at my shoulder  
You haunt me.

The vase is empty  
flowers have a short life,  
soft hands are remembered  
You haunt me.

The watch remains stuck  
you had broken it in anger,  
it ticks without moving  
You haunt me.

My breath mingles  
with yours of years gone by,  
the tears dropp slowly  
You haunt me.

Memories And Hope