

POETIC ASPIRATIONS

LIFE'S JOURNEY

*I stand on the sea shore and visualize sights across the sea.
I look into the celestial heavens and view the vast immensity.
I enter life's journey not knowing where it will take me,
But I know life is filled with promise and a great mystery
And I possess an insatiable appetite to fulfill my destiny.*

By Max B. Asbell

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This book is dedicated
to my wife, Barbara, and my daughter, Elaine, who
have contributed much help,
support and inspiration to make
it possible.

MY POETRY IS A MESSAGE

My poetry speaks to the average woman and man
In a language most anyone can understand.
My poetry describes the world as I perceive.
It reflects my thoughts and what I believe.

Although we may live a world apart
I have tried to share what was in my heart.
My poetry is a part of me that is expected to give
Long after I have departed and cease to live.

I trust that you will continue to open the door
To my poetry after I am here no more
And that my poetry will continue to chime
Long after I have lived my moment in time.

My poetry is a message I send to people I will never see
And to times and places that I will never be.
If you should read my poetry in some far distant time
My hope is that it touches your life as it has touched mine.

We may have lived in a different time and place,
But my poetry will transcend time and space.
Although you did not know me before ---
I am no stranger to you any more.

ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement not only requires aptitude,
But more importantly, it requires attitude.

ACQUISITION OF BEAUTY

The acquisition of beauty can be a counterfeit joy,
But it is the one we frequently seek to employ.

ADOLESCENCE

Adolescence is that time of life no one should have to go through,
Since you wonder if it is harder for the child or harder for you.

ADVERSITY

Do not allow adversity to distress you, my friend ---
Kites fly higher when they oppose the wind.

AGE

Age is a reality my body appears to advertise
And each day it becomes harder to disguise.

ANGELIC EYES

There is something about the angelic beauty in her eyes
That captures the beauty of the celestial heavens and personifies.

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ANGER

Anger is reason unrefined, unconfined and undermined
That temporarily blows out the lamp of the human mind.

ANIMAL IN MAN

A pig can be a hog all day.
A monkey can be a monkey any way,
But man can be both everyday.

ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries are when the wife should wear her most regal gown.
Each anniversary represents precious jewels in the marriage crown
And it presents another good reason to keep each other around.

THE ANSWER

The answer to any trial or test
Is simply to strive to do our best.

APPARENT BEAUTY

Apparent beauty can deliver a great surprise
When one fails to examine the merchandise
And finds counterfeit beauty in disguise.

ARGUMENT

When we employ diplomacy we can expect gain,
But when we argue it produces nothing but pain.

ARTIST

Many may strike the piano keys with equal art,
But the pauses between the notes set the artist apart.

ASPIRATION

High aspiration is Heavenly sublime
While low expectation should be a crime.

ATOMIC POWER

The terrible threat atomic power can truly boast ---
Is to turn our beautiful world into virtual toast.

AUTUMN

Autumn is when all things begin to wilt and fall
And senior citizens know the feeling best of all.

AVOIDING REGRET

If we do our best each day we will not have to confide in our kin ---
The great things we could have done and what we might have been.

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BEAUTY

The subject of beauty can breed an erroneous conclusion ---
The belief that beauty is always goodness is a common delusion.

BEAUTY WITHOUT GRACE

Beauty without grace is difficult to appreciate
Since it is much like fishing without bait.

BEST DRESSED

The best dressed usually wear a bright smile
That frequently compliments a neat hair style.

BOOKS

Many books are sought that must be read
By unquenchable appetites that desire to be fed.

BOOMERANG

The Australian bought a new boomerang yesterday
And he spent all his available time today
Trying to throw his old boomerang away.

BROKEN PROMISE

When we break a promise we have missed an opportunity
To strengthen our integrity in humanity's community
And it should never go unnoticed with any immunity.

CELEBRITY

Many fail to appreciate and see their own creativity
But find it abundant in others they crown celebrity.

CHANCE

Before the turtle can meander about ---
He must be willing to stick his neck out.

CHANGING YOUR MAN

If you are intent on changing your man, sweet lady,
You should have met him when he was a baby.

CHARACTER

It is our image that follows us wherever we go,
But our true self and character is one only we know.

CHASING WOMEN

Running after a woman never hurt a man ---
It is catching one that gets him in the frying pan.

CLEAR VISION

It has always seemed abundantly clear to me
That our heart sees clearly what our eyes fail to see.

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CLEVER MAN

Man has always been ingenious and clever ---
He made fire by rubbing two stick together.

COLLEGE EDUCATION

A college education may be expensive indeed,
But it pales in comparison with ignorance to feed.

COMMON SENSE

Common sense often appears to me ---
Is not nearly as common as it should be.

COMPASSION

Look at the less fortunate with sense of compassionate attitude,
For an open heart can greatly enhance our own sense of gratitude.

COMPENSATE

If one is lacking in great ability and intelligence ---
He can compensate by employing more effort and diligence.

CONDUCT

Conduct should not be controlled by bodily desires,
But should be decided on what our conscience requires.

CONFIDENCE

Confidence supplies a determined attitude to genuinely believe
That we can conquer most any task our minds can conceive.

CONSTANT HAPPINESS

If there is one fact I am positive and sure ---
If happiness were constant --- we would seek a cure,
For constant happiness would be difficult to endure.

CONTENT

When we languish content too long in the shade
We get out of step with the changes in life's parade.

COURTSHIP

Courtship is when lovers write each other letters
And the female is deciding if she can do better.

COURAGE

Courage is confronting danger
And making fear an unwelcome stranger.

CRIME

When we look at the high rate of crime today
It reflects many parents who failed to lead the way.

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CRITICAL REVIEW

If it agrees with our opinion, it's a critical review,
But if it criticizes --- it is only one person's view.

DAD

I had good reason to call my father "Dad" ---
Simply because he is the best anyone ever had.

DECISIONS

In our quest to make the proper decision
We must remember to vividly envision.

DESTINY

Our desired destiny will quickly unfold ---
Once we realize that all is in our control.

DIFFERENCE

If we ever expect our efforts in life to make a difference,
We must demand that preparation employs great resistance
Against pleasure which is tugging at us with great insistence.

DIFFICULT TASK

The magnitude of the endeavor will be quickly unmasked
When we remember confidence can solve the difficult task.

DIPLOMACY

If we aspire for the world to be our dominion ---
Then we must seek the world's favored opinion.

DISAGREEMENT

The best way for a disagreement to end
Is to convert the adversary into a friend.

DISSATISFACTION

Dissatisfaction breeds the demand for action,
But very little is ever produced by satisfaction.

DOUBT

Doing a task with uncertainty and doubt
Is like rowing a boat with the anchor out.

EDUCATION

Education allows us to discern, learn and doubt
And opens doors that are closed to those without.

EMPATHIZE

We should compassionately stop to show we care
To the less fortunate who did not get their fair share.

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ENTHUSIASM

The enthusiasm of some youth is unpredictable and unstable---
Like erratic restless balls flying around on a billiard table.

EQUAL ABILITIES?

It is easy to discover with our curiosity ---
Fate was not equal with its generosity.

ETERNITY

Eternity is an endless eternal scene
Where we live a brief moment in between.

EVASIVE ANSWERS

Evasive answers that are spoken to deceive
Are merely disguised lies they wish us to believe.

EXAGGERATION

Man in his great aspiration and desire for glory
Many times confuses reality with a wonderful story.

EXAMPLE

Example makes a great preacher,
But it is contagious as a teacher.

EXCESS

We are the direct product of what we consume
And we should not consume in excessive volume.

EXCUSES

We should never allow excuses to derail our will to pursue,
Since excuses fill our mind with reasons we should not do.

EXPECTATION

If we do not travel life's journey with great expectation
How can we expect joy to greet us at the destination?

FACTS

It is futile to argue with facts ---
They are so precise and exact.

FALL

Fall always gives nature lovers a mental rush,
For it is a Rembrandt painted by nature's brush.

FAME

Fame happens when opportunity meets those endowed,
But the negative appears in the jealous heart in the crowd.

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FAMILY TREE

So many love to refer to their family tree
In an attempt to prove their great pedigree.

FANATICISM

When we view fanaticism we are sure to find ---
One possessed by an ignorant or closed mind.

FAT

It is not the minutes at the table that made us fat ---
It's all those seconds that we ate while we sat.

FEAR & DOUBT

Fear and doubt make us tear and cry
And forbids us even to attempt to try.

FEDERAL TAX CODE

Every member of Congress should be required to learn
How to prepare his or her own Federal Tax Return.

FIRST IMPRESSION

In meeting new people we should use very wise discretion
Since we never get a second chance to make a first impression.

FLATTERY

Flattery to a beautiful woman without a doubt
Will convince her you know what you are talking about.

FLEETING LIFE

We are so busy getting to the destination
That we fail to see the wonder of habitation.

FOOD

Since eating is what the man did best ---
He looked for a wife at the cooking contest.

FREE

One should never really feel confident and secure
When he reads "FREE" on the advertiser's brochure lure.

FREE VERSE POETRY

When reading free verse "poetry" it seems to me ----
It is like playing music without a melody.

FRIEND

Chance makes our kin,
But choice makes a friend.

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FRIVOLOUS PRAYER

Many pray at the first sight of danger
As if God is their own safety arranger.

FROWN

It takes fewer muscles to smile than to frown ---
So why frown when there is always a smile around
Since a smile is a frown turned upside down?

FUN AND GAMES

Those who dwell on fun and games
Seldom leave any immortal names.

GENES

What we inherit from ancestors with very fine genes
Cannot be duplicated with effort and financial means.

GIFTS

Give a calendar to the man who has everything new
So he will know when his monthly payments are due.

GOALS

Goals are not destinations, but merely stops along the way
As we search for new adventures in our journey day by day.

GOLDEN RULE

One would have to be dumber than the dumbest mule
Not to recognize the obvious value of the Golden Rule.

GOOD DEEDS

Our good deeds reveal someone concerned.
The receipt of appreciation is love returned.

GRASS IS GREENER

Thinking the grass is greener on the other side of the fence
Has caused many heartaches and much suspense.

GRATITUDE

Every day I am eternally grateful for things I enjoy
That were beyond my dreams when I was a young boy.

GRAY HAIR

Gray hair is much harder to endure
When we realize it's not premature.

GREAT POTENTIAL

The road to success is cluttered with failures who had great potential,
But failed to realize that great effort and determination are essential.

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GREED

There is nothing comparable with human greed ---
It lingers long after one has fulfilled the need.

GRIEF

Grief is when our heart is torn and breaking
And only the medicine of time will relieve the aching.

GROWTH

Those who achieve high expectations and lofty dreams fully know--
That no matter how much they achieve there is room to grow.

HABITS

We should be highly selective in the habits we desire
Since they are more difficult to discard than to acquire.

HAPPINESS

Some think that happiness is a position
When in fact it is only one's disposition.

HAPPINESS PURSUITS

The search for happiness results in counterfeit joys
That many think can be achieved with expensive toys.