

# **PERCEPTION**

## **Prison Poems**

By

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# **Biography**

I have been writing poem for years, way before I even came to prison. I never took it seriously or really thought of it as a way to express myself. I simply felt like writing, so I did. I told no one about my poems.

I had a whole briefcase full of poems. I couldn't even give you an estimate of how many poems I had. I was living in East L.A. in a house I was renting and I had left that briefcase in the garage. One day it rained and all of the poems I had written were water damaged. I never wrote again.

Well that is until I came to prison. I wrote poems because women loved poems and I already knew how to. A lot of people in prison are lazy or not willing to make the effort. I even found writing could make me a little extra money. I still did not take my writing seriously.

20 years into my prison sentence a poetry class came up. I joined only to keep myself busy positively and to receive a chrono for my participation. Some of the poems you will be reading were homework assignments. For example, any cursing, I do not curse. In order to graduate from this poetry class we (the whole class) had to do a whole concert for our yard and recite 2 poems each.

I found myself really enjoying the poetry class and was looking forward to the second phase of the class that would make my self a facilitator. Then I would be able to run my own poetry class in the prison. Unfortunately, the second class never came to be. Disappointed but didn't think twice about it.

One day I saw an advertisement in a prison package catalog for prisoners to submit poems, which I did. Months had passed with no word and I merely forgot about it. That is until someone had asked me if I had any poems published and I said, "No." He asked if I was sure. "No, I would know if it was published." He walked away and returned a few minutes later with the new prison package catalog.

There was my name and CDC number. I was (my poem) featured on an audio disk. How amazing is that?! I'm famous and didn't know it. I started to write poems with a whole different outlook of poetry. I was now dedicated to writing, not only poetry but all sorts of other things, a children's book, a cookbook, book of short stories, etc.

Now I have the opportunity to place my books on this great website for free. I only hope that when anyone reads anything I've written that I inspire them to write. You have a voice to share with the world and carve a small piece of history for yourself.

Thank you.

LOUIS D. VILLEGAS

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## **BUILDS & GROWS**

Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil...What are your true intentions, your true will. So you strive to plague, maim, & destroy..? So that it gives you pleasure, it's your way, your ploy. You know not of what you do...Real evil will not make you laugh but devour you. It will infest deep down in your soul...Vile taste in your mouth & pain you can't control.

You do not know what it truly is...For there is no return, I guarantee this. Soon you lust for the flow of blood...More & more each day until thoughts of murder start to bud. It does not just stop there...Now you're so brutal, off with his head, in his eyes you stare. Do you see the lost soul in those eyes..? As his family wonders, "What happened & and then start to cry."

You're on the run, they know who you are...Your picture in the paper & T.V., you're a star! They get closer & closer each passing day...For all your distorted doings & mayhem, you must pay. Locked up & all you hear is death penalty...All of a sudden you come back to your senses, snap back to reality. Now you wonder if there's a God in heaven above...For now you're sorry & you only want to love. Too little too late, as they strap you in...Electrifying is this chain to pay for your sin. Is there a hell to make you suffer..? Yell & scream all you want because nobody can hear you down here.

## **DEDICATED**

When I first saw you, it was love at first sight... You were as warm as the sun & just as bright. How can anyone not love something so beautiful...It's a crime against nature, purely pitiful. You never shed a tear as you looked into my eyes...Even though so fragile & helpless because of your size. I was there for you then as I'm going to be today...An unspoken bound, creed, without words to say.

Why do I feel this way, I can't answer that question...It's how I feel, my heart beats for your dedication. You don't have to feel the same way...Just know how much I care, those feelings won't stray. Heartache has passed you, with a false blood-hood... Yet, it doesn't define you & never should. Loyalty of true love is before you through me...To unlock the mysteries, here is my key.

## **DEMONS WITHIN**

Which direction do I turn, where do I point my soul...My heart pounds, as my mother cries, who I cannot console. Never would I believe this could ever happen to me...But yet, here we are, with no destiny. With much time I start to hate & grow so vicious...No remorse now, for it's in my blood, & highly contagious. Lights blink red, as they rapidly went away...Lost humanity, no more for today or any other day. With a grin but you could see it in my eyes...Every time I experience this feeling, inside a little of me dies.

The brass ring so close, almost within my grasp...To many of those who are damned, I still wear a mask. Little by little, the more I understand...You've got to step up, distance yourself, be your own man. How is this, when you can perish as well...Their occult teachings are hypnotic, paralyzing from the spell...Time is key on the journey of this chaotic road...Not fresh or green anymore, I'm much, much too old.

Also the green wall, so high, tries to shut you down. To the place of darkness, loneliness, frustration, you are bound. Isn't your collective to change my views...Yet, you snicker & giggle as the blackness of your heart ensues. He the devil, comes in so many forms...Can I save myself from this thunderous storm? Does the tea spill from the Mad Hatter's kettle...The destruction of my mind within, imploding from its own battle.

I'm failing, I'm drowning, the air I must breathe...Spinning in this whirlpool, I still cannot concede. I only seek that light of life, just a spark...So that I do not have to walk in the coldness of the dark. Could simplicity be the path, can you see...I'm the one with the challenging struggles, they're only inside of me.

## **FRIENDSHIP**

I truly did not know what to expect when we met... When I realized who you are & I simply felt content. A young beautiful woman, with a smile like the sun... Bright, warm, alluring, I had no choice but to succumb. The pleasure is all mine, to know someone like you... As time goes by our friendship will shine through & true. We will define the laws of friendship, most important... For as you're my friend, secret keeper, I'm confidant. Headaches, love, sadness, will pass through time... I'll still be here deaf, dumb, cripple, or blind... So know what's in this heart that beats... The moon or stars with you, couldn't compete.



## **HEALING THROUGH EXPRESSION**

Healing through expression, means to me...It helps me to soar like an eagle, to be free. It's not about being tough or even strong...I can be heard, whether I'm right or wrong. My inner most thoughts of my fears...No one can take away, it's always right here. We find we are just people in the end...So with words we can finally help to mend. The heart we try to protect so much...Our outer exterior, we can just punch. Guess the pen is mightier than the sword...Build up or take down with just a simple word. So hear my words, so strong I speak...Never take it for granted, it's never ever weak.

## **I AM THE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**I am the 5<sup>th</sup>, all four corners of the world...All the ventricles of your heart that beats accord. The wind that blows over the mountain peaks...The dirt in your long travels beneath your feet. I am the flowing river & the ocean blue...the flame of truth that holds so true.**

**I am the 5<sup>th</sup>, the end & where it begins...The center of the universe, the point of origin. The unanswered riddles of life's little questions...The problem solver, the actual solution. I'm love, kindness, & all things good...The one that will show you, absolutely you could.**

**I am the 5<sup>th</sup>, fear me not, I am no danger...A mere humble beginning of gift giver. To guide you through the travels of life...Family, son, daughter, husband, or wife. You seek only the happiness of your existence...I will help you to find the zenith of patience.**

**I am the 5<sup>th</sup>, blind are you, all due to your views...Open your eyes, the start of a revolution code. Focus on what I say to you & and gain from it...Because I can only facilitate, not create it. With my guidance of these words for you...For without guidance, your life is false, untrue.**

**I am the 5<sup>th</sup>, all the elements of Mother Earth...The soothsayer, all the riches & all it's worth. The air you breathe & store into your lungs...Stunning beauty, the notes on a scale of a song sung. Open your mind & experience all that's around... For life can not be enjoyed from six feet underground.**

# **I MISS YOU**

More than 3 years has come & gone...Yet, I still think of you, it really stung. Losing you so early in this life...Weeping are the tears of your children & also your wife. We did not have much time, you & me...But I'm glad to have known you, no matter how it came to be. We rode like true homies, strong together...But in reality I felt, you were more like a brother. I hope in heaven you're happy with bliss...Because you know down here, you're thought of & missed. I miss you little homie, I can't lie...One day we'll be together again in that big blue sky.

Rest in Peace – George “Midget” Echevierria

## **I'M TALKING TO YOU**

**I don't always like you, sometimes even hate you...You've embarrassed me & disrespected me too. I refuse to give up on you no matter what...For I am not a quitter, this door will never shut. You have to understand me though...Don't promise me anything, let your actions show. Word's only float in one ear & tend to fade...But love is unconditional, no money to be paid. Know yourself & who you truly are...Grow up, learn from your mistakes, reach for the stars.**

**Show people that you're much more than a statistic...You're a man of pride, honor, & never claimed to be perfect. Shout out loud, scream from the rooftops...You're worth it & don't you ever stop. Be a student, be a teacher, & be a leader...Make the world see the truth of life, make it a lot clearer. You can honestly change the world if you try...Don't wait, start now, & don't be shy. Really look at yourself, you can be a mentor...So why are you only yelling at yourself in this mirror!**

## **JUDGMENT DAY**

Why must you judge, you know nothing about...Having negative suspicions, your mind full of doubt. Are we not both men & bleed as such...My only message to you, is your soul, I will touch. Man was created in his image, not of him...Knowledge & friendship, I extend like a tree's limb. Your envy does not soothe, your dense cluttered mind...Spinning toward the sun, so bright that it blinds. The end of man so near, no need to push it forward...With such lewd thoughts, piercing with this killing sword. Enjoy the life for now, for it is too short...Misery is painful & your humanity, it will extort.

Eat from the trees, its fruits are for you...Compassion, tolerance, patience, love, all ring true. What is it, that makes you feel this way...The creature within you, so strong, pushes to play. You yourself are, your own worst enemy...Don't be dragged into your own hell, tortured to be. Fight back, be better, & be all you can...For hourglass time, pouring out is its sand.

## **KEEP IT REAL**

Attention, attention, all you stupid bitches & hoes...Now that I have your attention, this is how the story goes. You love to run your mouth, as well as the streets...But let's keep it real, you gave it up in someone's backseat. Yet, you call me a pig, saying what a dog I am...When it's you, you swear it was nothing more than a scam.

Bitch, who do you think that you're fooling...My dick don't itch but I know your pussy is pulsing. Scream & yell all you want...It's your fault, all the dicks you had, you lost count. Now you wonder why I won't marry you...You're a nasty ass hoe with no clue.

Let me break it all down for you stupid cunt...The laughter you hear from me isn't that blunt. I would respect you more if you brought me some money...Look in the mirror tramp, stupid as well as ugly. You will never play me, you only played yourself...So do yourself a favor, close your legs as well as your fucking mouth.

# **LOVE**

**Sentimental emotions that come from the heart...It hits you like a lighting bolt straight from the start. A glimmer in her eyes that meets yours...No understanding, no explanation, all you know is you want more. Nothing or no one can change the way you feel...Something within your soul you can't deny or appeal. Why does it hurt so much within...This battle you never can tame or even win.**

**You could cry or even bleed for...Because this love is nothing you've felt before. Pain that makes you hold so tight...You'll do anything possible to hold with all your might. Is love supposed to feel this way...What is this strange power that makes you want to stay. I'd rather have loved & lost...Then never have loved at all, at any cost.**

**I would destroy the world three times...To know this love, the only thing to ease my tortured mind. Love is not pain but actually happiness ...We only do not know how to absorb it, only have willingness.**

## **NO ONE AT ALL**

**They call me by many different names...Been beat up, stabbed, & have had many pains. We tend to believe we know it all...We don't really know shit until we actually fall. Once I was young, ready, & able...Now I'm getting older but fight 'cause I'm still capable. Do I really know who I truly am..? Or do I fight only to make a last stand. To only realize, I am no one at all...I am now only tortured by these concrete walls.**



## **NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE**

You weren't supposed to love me, why feel that way...No matter of my warnings & how much I pushed away. You refused to give up on me, to get what you wanted...Even with the powers to be, I was simply against it. I am the poison or venom from the serpent's strike...No good can come of this, different worlds, nothing alike. Love did not conquer, for my mind was already set...How could I drag you into hell & say I have respect.

It took a tragedy to pull us back together once again...You made me see a new light, your love you'd defend. Your will fought for us to succeed...How could I have been so wrong, it's you I truly need. I needed all your strength, to energize my own...I must apologize for my sins, I atone. You were & are the true love of my life...Yet, you refused crushing me so, not to be my wife.

Anger filled my heart, mind, & depths of my soul...Why love me this way, my heart, "damn," you stole. Why do I have to feel this agonizing pain...For an emotion of love, I no longer want to maintain. Make these blood stained tears ache no more...Now I know why, love I've always denied before. I still love you, even if we're not together...I'm better now, thank you for making me a lot stronger.

## **OH HOW I'VE LEARNED**

I've loved you then as I love you now...And will love you forever or until time will allow. I don't know if I truly understood before...What love really meant or if I could endure. Time has healed my pain & opened anew. All I know is life would not exist without you. I respect you more now, all of your ways...Because I've grown through the nights & days. In my eyes, you're not perfect, but who is...We're human beings, hopefully each other, we do not miss. We have to learn to appreciate the little things...Like our love, togetherness, & a lot of sharing.

## **RAISE YOUR VOICE**

The world is a very cruel place...Racism, hatred, violence, what a waste. We strive to do the best we can...Yet, the world gets worse, I don't understand. Now I'm in a prison, a menace to society...Convicted of murder, a criminal, a threat to my community. You say you don't want me to be this way...Yet, you put me in a place where criminals come & play. Now it's clear & what to do...We were chosen to show all of you. The true meaning of life & see what you can loose...It's not so black & white, you can choose.

Many think money makes the world go around...It's like a tree that falls, no one around, does it make a sound? Black or white, more like 50 shades of gray...Change your way of thinking because if not, this is where you'll stay. You have a voice & you can achieve. The goals in life, put yourself out there & believe. You are not a savage, heathen, thug, or abomination...You are the future if only you had the realization. Step up & be a real man...Raise your voice, change what you don't like, do all you can. If you don't like something to better life, something positive...Stay here, smile, & be happy to be a captive.

## **“ROSE NIETO (HEART SYMBOL)”**

**R**-eal love comes when you least suspect it....

**O**-f course, karma comes around often, so show respect.

**S**-ewn together as one with the treads of life...

**E**-ven 'til death do us part, when you became my wife.

**N**-o man can separate, ~~what~~ we have together...

**I**- am blessed, to God I pray, how much I love her.

**E**-ven when we don't agree, I still think of you...

**T**-rying to figure out, if you're also thinking of me too.

**O**-h my love, plain words cannot describe...

(HEART SYMBOL) My eternal love I have for you, deep down inside.

## **SOLDIER OF THE APOCALYPSE**

I was young and blind, nothing but a child...Full of energy, ready to prove myself, & be wild. Thought I'd run around, show off my hands, & take a stance...Little did I know this was the end of my innocence. I've been created to be the monster you fear most...It's my humanity now that I have really lost. I'm a foot soldier, a true frontrunner...I'm a savage, animal, fearless, the original sinner. The rules were set in place...I'm coming, it's your blood I want to taste. Years of many battles, lost souls, & death. You never truly recover from seeing someone take his last breath.

Wait, there's a new light at the end of the tunnel...I was wrong, it's not done or the final. New time, new people, a whole new breed...I'm loyal, I'm here for you, whatever you need. You're too aggressive, you're too much...what do I hear, maybe it's you who needs to be touched. You don't want me around & you don't like me...I really don't give a fuck, any man can see. You built the creature to be just that...A destroyer of lives & those rats. Now you brush me to the side...every time you see me, you run, & hide. Now you're the enemy & I want you... You're a punk, a bitch, what-cha want to do?

You snivel to those others that I don't like...The gauntlet has been tossed, it's time to strike. You don't want problems, I need to calm down...Shut your mouth, walk away, & don't make a sound. Slowly I start to see no one cares for me...This is what you made me out to be. "Soldier of the Apocalypse," is who I am...You bitches better pick up your panties & act like a man.

## **STORY TALE**

**This tale begins where we see no light...The weather is cold whether you know left from right. I will tell you that your rights are gone & your soul is for sale...Write your last words, for this is on a much greater scale. Where is this place with no sun...I tell you, safe are my two daughters & and my son. I can hear the cries of others here...It's wet, cold, fungus my body wears. I'm on the tier, in a cell...Let me go, my soul I will sell. I'm changing some & even growing some & even growing a tail...What magic is this, please only be a tale. Which witch or warlock keeps me here...From my eye falls a single tear. Sail away, I want to do...Poor me, help me, I'm screaming too. Pouring wet liquid on me to make me suffer...Hell starts now, can I even recover. The sum of evil is not here, nor there...It's in your own mind, a mere nightmare.**

## **“THE RON”**

To the man I never met in person, only a brief note...An introduction of myself, sending my greetings, with an antidote. When I received a response back, my mind was blown away...The recipient had such a ferocious vocabulary, I wanted to play. Assumptions are so distasteful of a new friend to be...His dictation was perplexing, educational, he's only twenty-three. Toltec wisdom, I should of listened to the teachings...Stumbling by accident, this new found land, so intriguing. You have enchanted me with curiosity, eager to vivify...Salivating for a mental challenge, my wit's I must apply. We will be friends of the heart & foes of the mind...Bravo to you, first move played, you get me aligned.

First blood, flaying my skin, like a crack of a whip...Yet, claiming we are not rivals, merely the passing of two ships. Second strike is mine, with a shuttle play on the word. Rivalry is not just to challenge, equals, this lion roared. I end my move, with my humble blessing, done...Hand over my heart, I feel it beat, & now we are one. You reverberate my own words & impugn my being...I tip my hat to your sir, your words, I am anticipating. You do not engage the thought, challenging my actions...My heart is true, my soul is pure, wisdom with precision. I'm sorry to say, I must bid you now a farewell...For our minds have to concede & return back to the cell. Thank you for a short sweet, friendship bridge...Leaving with, don't remember me, remember this message. You are a gentleman of such grace & valor...I'll remember you dearly, as my student & my mentor.

## **THE ROSE**

A single rose stands alone on a hillside...Basking in the sun's warm glow, as it cried. Dew dripping off its petals, as if it were tears...Beautiful, so fine, your eyes burn, they sear. Nothing could go wrong or even harm...But here comes a strong wind from a storm. Harsh winds blowing in every direction...The little rose holds its ground with such conviction. For sure this lovely flower will be gone...There's no reason to hope or wish, it has to be done.

The next day we see the rose is still there...Petals as well as its leaves gone, totally bare. Strong is the will of this tiny thing...Even with no petals or leaves, beauty it will bring. Petals will bloom, leaves will grow...So do not fear, fret, or even feel woe. For such a long time this rose has flourished...Survival of the fittest, it has accomplished.



## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Why are we here, do we have a purpose...? Fighting, hating, blind, fornicating, even lust. Do you live life for yourself or for others..? Or are you more questions than answers...? You sure you're really even alive...No other instinct other than to survive. You think you're better because you do no wrong...Worst hypocrite of all, you're weak minded, not strong.**

**Good people help others, not just judge them...Roses do not have thorns, it's really their stems. Serve a purpose in life, don't just coast through it...Seek opportunities, don't just throw your trash in the pit. This starts first with me & you...Follow the truth before fate finds you. When it's too late there's nothing left to do...Except smile, & hope this nightmare is not true.**

## **WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE**

**Who do you think you are, always talking about others as if you're better than anybody else...Spewing venom from between those sour lips, a voice as soft as a mouse. Only so that vile creature that doubles as you can make out what the forked tongue flicks your ear lobe. Smile, smirk, giggle, you puppet of sin, your mind is being probed. Do you not see the error of this infestation to your very soul...For when that pit of hell summons your very being, you'll jump in, no one there to console. You could never see the light of salvation for any kind of future...It's such a shame for no attempt to tame the flawed detested creature. The abyss of lack of emotion of humanity...Where did you loose even that of what they call your sanity.**

**Do you feel any pain, at the very least your mind...Who do you think you are, if not a man, you simply decline. I'll shed a tear for you when those eyes do not pry...That your tortured soul does not suffer as it slowly kills you & then you die. Even those who do not truly believe will cry out in the mourning for the lost misguided child...Woe is he that could not find his way to any kind of bliss, your aura complied. You found only the pain & the hollowing feelings of emptiness...Slowly but surely it festers in your brain & grows into the madness. Who are you, if you've never felt anything other than that of nothing at all. Who are you, with not even a glimmer of hope in that thick skull. Try to be a little more than a simple suit of flesh...Who are you, no, what are you, what can you accomplish???**

## **WHO I AM**

**I am the thing that makes your heart beat so fast...The emotion you try to dismiss or even bypass. I am the thing that goes bump in the night...The thing that hides in the shadows & out of sight. I am the destroyer of bodies, as well as minds...The thing that holds so tight as it binds. I am the only thing you cannot cure...The thing that makes you weak & insecure. I am the one to bring you to your knees...The thing that makes you hide & then makes you flee. Who am I that makes you feel this way...I am the thing you fear & fear is always here to stay.**