



silent ripples

life's balance

Arya Dharod

overview



Phases of life

The teenage tussle
A deaf ear
A child's paradise
Joys of old age
Squished from all sides

15

Family

What is family?
Marriage
Mom
Little brother
Dad
Sons and daughters
Elder brother

22

Relationships

Family gatherings
A good neighbour
Times with friends
Man and dog
Love thy neighbour

42

Strange relations

Once you're gone
A broken heart
My best friend
Mom or dad?
An old friend

48

<i>Nostalgia</i>	54
Warm embrace	
The bucket list	
How far we've come	
Nostalgia	
Drunk	
Pain of the past	
<i>Our world</i>	61
Rules	
Religion	
Come back home	
Travel	
Medicine	
Phone call	
<i>Weird humans</i>	68
How we reach joy	
News	
Short forms	
The bottle	
Phone trap	
<i>Lifestyle</i>	74
Healthy living	
Sleep	
Exercise	
Habit	
The power of a shower	
<i>Image</i>	79
Name	
The cost of perfection	
Going bald	
Social media	
Don't judge a book by its cover	
<i>Sports</i>	87
Final whistle	
Volleyball	
Team game	
Chess	
Basketball	
The sounds of sports	
Adventure sport	

<i>Celebrations</i>	96
New year	
Holi	
Birthday	
The elephant God	
Miles to go before we sleep	
Christmas	
Fireworks	
<i>Entertainment</i>	107
The circus	
Board games	
The Indian Premier League	
Theme parks	
Movies	
Happy ending	
Magic	
Stories	
<i>Nation</i>	118
Your own backyard	
Nationalism	
An unconventional career	
Torture	
V for Victory!	
<i>War</i>	125
It's raining bullets	
Explosion	
The blind charge	
The battle of the mind	
The life of a soldier	
<i>Conflict</i>	132
War - The greatest irony	
Why fight war?	
Brothers in war	
Syrian civil war	
Oh, Fuhrer!	
The friend I lost	
<i>Marginalized people</i>	141
The farmer	
Refugees and immigrants	
So what if I am black?	
Able bodies but nothing else	
The un-noticed	
A beautiful deep sleep	

<i>Unsung heroes</i>	150
The homemaker	
The doctor	
The pleas of a child labourer	
Politicians	
Learn from the farmer	
Superheroes	
The builders	
<i>The other side</i>	160
The villain	
Inside others' heads	
Pandemic	
Monsters	
The hacker	
Time travel	
HAIKUS	169
<i>Modern life</i>	170
City life	
Addiction	
Endless work	
Routine	
Bored	
Celebrity	
Foreigner	
<i>Unpleasant</i>	171
Anticipation	
Self-accusation	
Crime scene	
Car accident	
Panic	
War zone	
Kidnap	
<i>Human connect</i>	172
Simple pleasures	
Sibling life	
Warm welcome	
Relief	
Dolphins	
Bitter anger	
First date	
<i>Joys</i>	173
Music	
Dance	
Party	
Chocolate	
Wind chimes	
Deep reading	
Diary writing	

A child's paradise

*We may be mischievous
naughty beyond control
a little ignorant and very silly
a teeny bit too emotional and fragile
but I still think of childhood
as paradise*

*We have big dreams
and bold ambitions
that haven't yet been crushed
by harsh comments and skeptical voices*

*We have clear minds
and pure hearts
that haven't yet been corrupted
by greed, scarcity
and the grief of the world*

*We'll eventually grow up
into sensible, mature, logical adults
just like you*

*We'll have our dreams crushed
hearts corrupted
and simple pleasures taken away*

*All we children ask of you
is to let us be free
be our innocent, childish selves
for the 18 years we are allowed to be*

*We plead
we request
we ask of you
don't force a child
to grow up too quickly!*

Religion

*If you really try to understand
the heart and soul of each religion
and what truly drove them apart
you realize something amazing*

*Each place of worship
is sacred, peaceful, calming
radiating with energy*

*Each God an ambassador
of spirituality and wisdom
of "think good, do good, feel good"*

*Every spiritual leader rose
to help humanity through
times of great struggle, confusion*

*Each festival is filled
with prayer, light, colour
food, fun and joyful energy*

*So, what is different
if the spirit and soul
of all faiths are the same?*

*Simply
the names
the rules
customs
and such nitty gritty?*

*Is this why
there is constant conflict
among all religions?*

*Aren't they all one at the core?
Streams that flow into the same ocean?*

Magic

*The secretive, mysterious magicians
dressed in their dark cloaks
black hats and white gloves
performing their wonderous, awe-inspiring tricks
that make us gasp, marvel, exclaim
shout out loud and cringe in fear*

*Making objects vanish into thin air
picking out just the right card from the deck
pulling long ropes out of their mouths
sawing themselves in half
pulling a bird out of their hat
and helping it fly high*

*If you get too busy analysing
judging, concluding, investigating
trying to logically decode the magic
you'll ruin all the fun*

*Maybe some magic
is never meant to be deciphered
to be understood by us
be it at a magic show
or in our own lives*

*Maybe all we're meant to do
is to sit back, relax
and just let the magic unfold*

The friend I lost

*The German soldier
peeking out
from behind the trench*

*He didn't look
so different from me
tall, skinny, pale
tired of the war
were we both*

*If not for his helmet and uniform
I'd even have thought
he might be British*

*Maybe I'd have shook his hand
introduced myself
and chatted with him a little*

*If only I'd done so
I would have come to learn
that he too had a younger sister
waiting desperately for his return
that he too loved horses
and kept a couple at his farm
that he too had a girlfriend
whom he hoped to marry
soon after the war had ended*

*But he wore the wrong uniform
the wrong helmet
and that made him the enemy!*

*And I had my orders from above
so I shot him down
my heart aching within
feeling immense guilt and regret
for the friend I'd lost*

The hacker

*I was bored
for hours upon endless hours
no one to talk to
nothing at all to do
everyone else
busy with their gadgets
24 / 7*

*I was mad, upset alright
and not in the best state of mind
so I did the only thing
that I was truly good at doing
I hacked*

*Hacked into all the software systems
all the servers, applications and games
all across the world*

*Deactivated everything
entertainment, news
education, shopping
anything that was online
and billions of screens
across the globe
instantly went black*

*Netflix, Disney, Apple, YouTube
Economist, CNN, The Guardian
Amazon, eBay, Taobao
Khan academy, Quora, Wikipedia
TVs, laptops, phones, iPads
everything shut down
everything went black*

*Alright
I get it
it probably wasn't
the best thing to do*

*The whole world would be bored
angry, jobless, disconnected
thanks to me*

*But it was the only answer
that came to my mind
the only thing
that I knew would work*

*My mom is 24 / 7 on social media
constantly busy with herself
and I had been asking her
for a heart-to-heart chat
since the last year*

*This was the only way I knew
to get her to look into her son's eyes
and truly listen to what I had to say*

*Who knows
maybe somewhere out there
thousands of miles away ...*

*A son and a father
played catch and then football
after a very long time*

*A couple enjoyed green tea
on their porch
as they watched a beautiful sunset*

*Another son had a heart-to-heart
with his busy mother
after what seemed like ages*

*And all thanks to me
the hacker*

Arya Dharod (age 16) loves to share his perspectives about the world we live in, through various creative expressions.

He has a natural flair for writing, having already published three books :

'*Clumsy Diaries*' - a fictional autobiography of an African wild dog

'2051 : *Gen-i*' - a sci-fi about a future where the lines between man and machine have blurred

'*Lost Ca(u)ses*' - a crime thriller about teenagers with a social relevance

Arya loves to watch movies across genres, is a proficient drummer and enjoys all sports as well as adventure endeavours.

We often exist at our own level of consciousness, intelligence and wisdom.

We are unwilling to stretch our mental faculties to dive further into higher depths and curiosity.

Never be satisfied with one side of the coin, for there is always another perspective to seek.

Where there is an answer, behind it lurk a million more questions!

Keep challenging everything you think you know about the world.

Probably there aren't any black and white answers.

It's all a blur ... shades of grey!

In the process, you will begin to appreciate the harmony and order of our magnificent universe.

You will begin to understand "*Life's Balance*"!

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