

Days of Gold, Nights of Silver

Poems, Paintings &
Prayers of Transformation

Dianne A. Fanti & friends



Featuring:

- A 114-page inspirational coffee-table style art book that's designed to lift your spirits with over 65 full-color pages
- Multiple local artists with poems that range from playful to soulful; paintings from modern and surrealistic to mythical and whimsical; and prayers and blessings from around the world
- A portion of the proceeds benefit Friends of the Homeless National Resource Center
- Includes links to online videos designed to enhance the book by involving you in facets of its creation.
- Appendices include: spiritual practices common to multiple religions and articles on the causes of addiction, some long-term health challenges, and other factors that can increase vulnerability to homelessness.

5-Star Reviews on Amazon!

“Really beautiful compilation of art, poems and thought provoking messages...thank you for putting something so meaningful out to the world!”

“An inspiring beautiful collection of unique art and soul nourishing poetry.”

“Such beautiful works of art and poetry. Such a great gift for myself and others!!”

Introduction

“Poetry at its height is the Sun speaking. Language when it mingles with spirit does a tremendous service to the world: it empowers and changes lives; it awakens love, valor, wonder and reveals the Dance...” ~ Daniel Ladinsky, “The Subject Tonight Is Love”

Within this book, you’ll find an eclectic assortment of poems, paintings and prayers—with poems ranging from playful to soulful; paintings ranging from modern and surrealistic, to mythical and whimsical; and prayers and blessings from different spiritual traditions. The poems and paintings are original and have been contributed by supporters of our non-profit project: Friends of the Homeless National Resource Center. Our mission is to connect those who are marginalized and experiencing homelessness with local community resource support and to offer our transformational educational programs that help to change lives. You can find out more at: www.friends-of-the-homeless.com.

One of the most beautiful things about art is how we’re limited only by our imagination, so art can be a great equalizer. You can find many talented artists—from musicians to those who like to doodle or write with an artist’s hand—in temporary shelters and centers. You might be surprised at the creativity, ingenuity and talent of temporary shelter guests. Similarly, many of us who don’t make our living through art-making are talented hobbyists and artists, and so a collection like this from those in our community of supporters seemed like a great way to support community and connection. This is Volume I: Poems, Paintings and Prayers for Transformation. Volume II is in being completed now and includes artwork, poems and stories from those we work with.

The prayers included are intended as a sampling. It is my hope that within these pages you may find some comfort and joy—whether this is through a poem, painting, prayer, or a combination of these. Take what you like and leave the rest. If something works for you, wonderful, and if not, simply set it aside and focus on what does work for you or pass it along to someone else who might enjoy it. The intention of this book is to bring a sense of inspiration and the possibility for transformation. It is my hope that it achieves this aim and speaks to you in ways that are

meaningful.

In her poem, *Human Family*, Maya Angelou expressed that, "*We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.*" My hope for all of us is that through our apparent differences of belief and experience, that we might come to see an underlying unity and synthesis, as the great souls who've gone before us have. Martin Luther King Jr., an American Christian minister, was inspired by Gandhi, an Indian Hindu lawyer. Both shared a commitment to their own faith, while at the same time adopting universal principles that can be found in many of the world's religions to affect social justice.

Great souls like Mother Teresa and Gennai, who were both Christian missionaries, drew people to them through their example of being a loving presence, not by imposing their beliefs or insisting on the adoption of them. They were religiously inclusive and accepting. And today we have religious leaders like Pope Francis calling for *interfaith unity* and the Dalai Lama sharing, "*My religion is loving-kindness.*"

The dream of America has been that of a great melting pot, where people from different cultural backgrounds can come together and live and work side by side and learn from each another. It is my hope that this little book supports this great dream in some small way, the dream of harmony and unification. May it bring some joy and peace to our lives.

Lastly, in our Addendum you will find materials that compliment this book. Part I includes spiritual practices from different traditions. Part II introduces new research which shines a light on the underlying causes of addiction and some long-term illnesses which are common in the homeless community. Part III features an article on the changes in the societal structure that increase vulnerability to homelessness. And Part IV includes the artist's biographies.

Your purchase of this book raises funds for our nonprofit project Friends of the Homeless National Resource Center, with a portion of the proceeds going directly to our organization. Your support contributes to our mission, thank you for your purchase! Our vision is to create a network of care in the community so that people no longer fall through the cracks and receive the support, care and skill development that contributes to their growth and well-being. Join us at: friends-of-the-homeless.com.



The Place of Angels

*She came alive an angel
Soft as white and warm as light
She radiated from her soul
The dawn of a new day
The breath of life
The transformation of a soul
She breathed new life
With every new breath
And danced the story to be told
And she sang with the wind
The pale moving wind
And the chill reminded her of home ~
The place of angels
Of heaven on earth
And the wind it carried her Home
~ Dianne A. Fanti*



Gene Gregorio



Aika Romulo

Love has a hemm to her garment
That reaches the very dust,
It sweeps the stains from the streets and lanes
And because it can, it must.

~ Mother Teresa



May the road rise to meet you
May the wind always be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hands.

~ Irish Blessing