

## About Us:

GS Poetry is one of the most active poetry communities on the web. Whether you're a seasoned wordsmith or a newcomer to the land of meters and rhymes, here you'll find a place to publish your own poems, read the work of others, and listen to live performances; to inspire, and to be inspired. With unique tools designed specifically to help members showcase their art and engage in constructive exchanges, our site offers anything and everything a poet can ever need or desire.

We've come a long way since the early days back in 2000, when our founder first thought of a platform where virtually anybody could have a voice (**read our story here**)—our members evolved, and so have we—but the core of GS remains unchanged: to put poets in control of their means to self-expression, while fostering an active community of traders; merchants in words and ideas.

So why not dive in and see for yourself whether or not we've lived up to it?

## Our Story:

Like many great things in life, this one started small. A poem. It was the summer of 2000 and I had just undergone the nasty breakup of a long relationship; the new millennium found me staring at a bitter end. I felt sad, angry, hurt... Somewhere in that darkness I took pen to paper—and a few lines of verse came out. At the time, this was just the outburst of my raw emotions; my hand screaming on paper with no other end in mind. But, unbeknownst even to me, something else had erupted that night together with that poem; a new beginning...

The process was so gradual that I had scarcely noticed it at first. I created a small website and posted my poem on the web, simply to share it with family and friends. To my surprise, people soon began emailing me with poems of their own asking if I wouldn't mind posting them as well. As I read, one submission after another, I began to realize there was a wealth of talented individuals out there pouring their hearts out on a page, but whose voices remain unheard. I thought all they needed was a platform, and so I started adding their verses to my small corner of the web.

Before long, word got around there was a cool new website where people can publish and read poetry.

The site grew steadily over the next few years and in 2006 I finally transformed it into a full-fledged social community. This gave members the freedom to create their own profiles, publish and edit poems, exchange feedback, and engage in the promotion of their craft. My goal was to introduce a more autonomous experience and to really put the individual poet in control of their means to self-expression; though over the years the site has been through many changes, this one core essence remains unchanged.

Today, GS Poetry provides a comprehensive platform for both amateur and professional poets. Members can publish and read poetry, collaborate with one another, and showcase their work using a variety of tools we have developed specifically for this purpose (**read more about our features here**). We have also gone a step further to encourage participation by introducing a unique points-system that helps balance the individual's strive for recognition with an attentive ear towards the work of others, fostering an environment rife with productive give-and-take.

But the beating heart of GS Poetry—the living soul of Ghetto Soul—was and remains its community. I've set the stage, but it is you who, day by day, populate it with life. By engaging in constructive exchanges; by encouraging and mentoring new poets; by untiringly searching for that perfect cluster of words to string together a brilliant thought, you routinely inspire us—and I'm reminded time and again why poetry always was and remains such an essential form of human art...

Great things come from small ones, and if a single poem I wrote over a decade ago managed to touch a few people to somehow pave the way towards this online community—how many more people are touched daily by all the poems you have been contributing since, and how many more great things are yet to come?

Inspire and be inspired. You are GS Poetry.

I hope you will continue to support this website and what it stands for.