

## The Song of a Caged Bird

By Anthony Mondal

A bright yellow canary bird  
With traces of blue and beak pink;  
Captive she was, her conditions bleak,  
Running around in her cage iron black  
Searching for escape, that's a fact,  
A great song bird she was, in her days wild  
No sooner thrust in cage, her songs declined,  
Now barely able to flap her wings  
How unfair of us, expecting her to sing!  
Numerous times, she appealed for freedom  
But to no avail, was given attention seldom,  
Like a circus clown, we wanted her to perform  
Entertain us, when she would rather in sorrows drown,  
Then one bright morning, as we gathered round the cage  
To our great dismay found  
Her prayers have been granted  
The song bird forever has left the cage.

## Images Chosen At Random From A Millennium Night

By Anthony Mondal

Cold cold Night  
Howling Winds  
The wailing cats  
The bitter chills  
The restless Poet  
Sleepless Artist,  
Wide Awake and Alive  
With their failures and their frights.  
The Homeless Weeps  
A mother wakes up for the morning chores  
The Birth of Dawn  
And the dark night flees  
Faint rays of light  
Greet the city streets  
Purified Hope on the Horizon  
Rinse away all the city poisons  
Another Morning  
Another Beginning.

## Ode to a River

By Anthony Mondal

As I sit in solitude by her side  
The morning rays of sunshine sets the river alive  
The heavenly clouds from above they peer  
Softly into hear ears the wind whisper

And she replies gently with a murmur  
Life a youthful maiden, shy yet brave  
With eyes open wide in curious delight  
She continues her voyage with courage and might

Like an adorned princess so complete in grace  
In path unforeseen, she offers herself again and again.  
In her sweet genteel playful moods  
She blesses everything by her touch  
And in occasional angrier times  
She outbursts her emotions, in ravage and destruction much  
But only to forgive and be forgotten soon enough.

As I watch her flow by in spellbound captivity  
Lo, behold , I never come across such a beauty  
Slowly as the vision fades away,  
Imperfect thoughts hovering in mind  
I try to trace her origins  
But from whence she comes nobody knows.

## A Modern Poem

By Anthony Mondal

The city heat  
Crowded platforms;  
Humming of machines,  
And the telephone rings  
Leave a message after the beep.....  
Music from the cafe  
The curling smoke  
From a burning cigarette  
Cobbled streets  
Whispering of friends  
Soft Laughters  
A woman in high heels  
The speeding highway  
Sirens wailing  
The last heart beats of a dying patient  
A barking dog  
A car comes to a screeching halt  
Jolted to awareness.  
The dryer on its spinning cycle  
Endless Repetitions  
Over  
And  
Over  
&  
Over again.

## I would Rather

By Anthony Mondal

I would rather watch the storm clouds gather in a distant corner of the sky  
Rather than  
Sit in a cubicle wasting my life away.

I would rather play soccer bare feet, feeling the cool dewy grass  
Rather than  
Sit in an office with no window- staring away at the computer screen.

I would rather walk alone thru the city streets, soaked wet by spring rain  
Rather than  
Listen to my boss and their silly rules and policies (Jargon)

I would rather pickup a profound lyrical book of Poems by a famous dead Author  
And sit reading underneath the shade of a tree  
Rather than  
Type nonsensical claims and letters filled with numbers, corporate rules, underneath the  
fluorescent tube lights  
These are the things I would rather do than lock my inner child in a forced prison, for the sake  
of money.  
But they don't heed his tears of sorrow  
Nor do they pay any attention to his Wants and needs.

When can we "See" diamonds in rough and Appreciate

**Anthony Mondal bio:** Anthony Mondal is a poet and actor. He considers himself simply as an artist beyond the narrow confines of nationality and religion. His most recent book of poems was titled A Burst of Sunshine which is his second published book. He lived in New York City for almost ten years pursuing writing, acting and song writing. Now he resides in Michigan, USA. As an actor he has appeared in the film "Sabrina" and the TV show "Strangers with Candy" (2000). He received his BA from Calvin College in geology in 1995. He worked in World Trade Centre, Building One in 2001 and has survived. Currently he is working on an existential novel tentatively named "In Search Of"...and other writing projects