

*Shabbir Banoobhai***today i hugged you in a dream**

today i hugged you in a dream

it felt so real

although you are as far away

as you have ever been

and i have no means

of being closer

no means of skimming the seas

or threading the stars to form

a bridge – so that i may

stand beside you once again

and find you where i know

i would like you to be

today i hugged you in a dream

it felt so real

but then we walked

deferentially

as if afraid to test

if the warmth was real

is it ever real – this love we feel

and for whom and what we feel it?

is it not a dream we always hug

embracing the earth as we do

in days that are as long as nights

when we find ourselves wanting?

When it's Done

When it's Done

You will Know

Mountains – as Clouds

Fire – as Snow!

Cosmos on Cosmos

Of Light upon Light

To where your Love

Has taken Flight!

Silence – as Music

Stillness – as Flow

Presence Alone

Wherever you Go!

when you come to visit us

when you come to visit us
as rain, a myriad flowers
come out to greet you

when you visit us
as pain, seeking refuge from
some loneliness or loss

all doors are closed to you
and you have to sneak in
as if you are a thief

as love, you are welcome
as love-in-waiting, not
it is difficult for us to imagine

that everywhere new life
is being born – and in seed and stone
in failing flesh and ailing bone

it is you who are calling out
in love – wanting to be closer to us
than – as yet – we are prepared to be

Shipwreck

Your Praise is Home, Refuge, Shore
Your Love, the Riches of the Poor
Ever in need of the Alms of Grace!

Now is not the time to Bargain
But to revel in a Loss that is the Key
To unravelling an Eternal Mystery!

Do not fear the Shipwreck, You say
When you are already upon the Sea
There is nowhere to go but to Me!

Shabbir Banoobhai is a Chartered Accountant. He is also a well-known South African writer, his work studied at South African schools and universities. He has read his poetry at several international poetry festivals. His published writings (eighteen books in total) may be found on his website: www.veilsoflight.com. Included in his writings are spiritual and philosophical reflections, essays and letters, a novel, and most recently, a defining book on leadership titled: *Leadership as Healing*. Douglas Livingstone, the renowned South African poet, had this to say about his first book: 'An obsessive and talented poet, a precocious master of the Word and a fine lyricist to boot, almost every line of the work was subliminally ignited by the ancient great Islamic poets. Knowing Shabbir Banoobhai, the man through his work, can illuminate something of the unknown. Here, then, is a further asset to and aspect of, South Africa's uncommon humanity.'