

# **Stones Seas and Memories**

a collection of writings by  
Yoni Schwartzman





A dedicated haiku:

To everyone who  
Encouraged me to follow  
My passions and dreams

# **Stones, Seas, and Memories**



By

Yoni Schwartzman

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was taken by the author)

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# Hope Against Hope

Energy erupting  
Flowing, emerging  
From a secret store to  
yell your roar for war

Courage inspiring  
Guiding, exploding  
A coup d'état lava  
Carving the way  
In a fiery blaze

Magma eruptions leave  
Innocents departed  
Yet fear is lifted  
Through a war  
It started

Dangerous to quell  
Destructive forces,  
Make no mistake:  
Still they swell

Suppressions  
Strengthen  
Reactions

Dim it, then watch it  
Return brighter  
Kill it, then watch it  
Return stronger



Let history be  
a guide to see  
That humanity  
always defied

Rulers, kings  
Monarchies fallen  
Romanoffs and  
Windsors  
Dictators  
turned to  
cinders

Beware suppressing  
Liberty's canon  
For the caged  
Bird fights,  
Beak and  
Talon

“For the caged bird  
sings of freedom,”  
When caged bird  
Cries she sings  
My anthem

When caged bird sings  
She sings of freedom





# To Defeat Deviations

Naught but help dealt  
Can stop our evocations  
Naught but love felt  
Can reform our foundations

My lips are tightly curled  
They yearn to utter creations,  
My lips are deftly heard  
They speak nothing but variations

For their words are coarse  
Their tone runs thin  
Like words of importance  
Yelled over the din

And through it all  
The games, the imitations  
Forgetfulness and deviations,  
I may still be able  
To defeat my provocations



## **Self-Discovery**

So many questions labor me:  
Where should I go? Who should I be?  
So many swirling all around  
edict-ed by society

Why can't I just be who I am?  
Why is the world so cruel?  
How can I find the path to take  
without wisdom as my tool?

Scarring, terrible memories burn  
deeply into my mind,  
they've warped it into something else  
that what was once divine

Who would I be if society  
had not infected me?  
How great I'd stand above my flaws  
stronger than fear's devilry

If only I could separate  
my true self from my conscious mind.  
When, at last, I find myself  
who knows what I will find?



# **The Kingswood**

See sounds of nature  
In which trees sing their song  
Let the leaves fall, then be still  
Let the silence make you strong

A monarch does not fly  
From north to south only to die  
It feeds and then returns  
With all its brethren in the sky

There's no green like the light  
Which shines through midday leaf  
They are a part of something greater  
That lives beyond toils and grief

To know nothing at all  
Yet to grow so very tall  
Beyond all recognition  
Of any selfish ambition

No line of great kings  
Is as royal as your seeds  
They are descendants of the first  
Breathing, Giving, Living trees

And the world  
is forever green  
Because of them



# Thoughts On A Balcony

Stand up and  
raise your eyes to  
cities and lies  
To shinning seas  
across the expanse  
curling in the distance

Why can't we friends  
ride tandem bikes?  
Bring two-man tents  
on future hikes?

But *we do*  
drive in carpools  
schmooze in cafes  
and share in our troubles

They may not seem  
like miraculous occurrences  
but we do get along  
despite our differences

It might not be  
with every human being  
but there are 7 billion of us  
so many you haven't seen

And every moment  
When you feel  
disconnected  
You blame yourself  
While your loves are  
neglected

Stand up!  
Look around you today  
Your people, your team  
Was never far away

Look out  
On the cities  
That you thought  
Were lies

But despite strife  
Under these shared skies  
We share our life  
For the rest of our lives

It's never  
perfect  
But together  
It's worth it





# *A Better Tomorrow*

Why can't we  
stop the rain of hatred  
that lands as rockets  
on the face of Israel?

Why can't the world  
be free of all the differences  
that we say are true  
but are really illusions?

Every nation on Earth  
is a part of one race  
started from one birth

Racism is insanity  
mankind's greatest vanity  
inflating all our egos  
destroying all of humanity

Making us think  
that we're better  
when in reality  
we're all the same



Let's finally knock down  
the Berlin Wall  
*for real* this time,  
So the Western Wall won't fall  
into ruin

Together be free  
of the faults you see  
and love everyone  
for the person they can be  
not for the person they've become

Live with every life  
beat with every heart,  
sing with every voice  
so that world peace can start

Find a connection, show true affection  
even if that person isn't a reflection  
of your beliefs

Understand every view  
Put yourself in every shoe,  
love every face  
Bring peace to the human race  
Bring peace on Earth.



## Love Lost

In grey Valley of Death  
Walked his brothers with their last breath  
Mocked by the grace of violins  
Played by their brothers in shallow skins

The horror of the German's sin  
Demeaned the meaning of *violin*  
Now reminding Opah of what had been  
Destroying his passion from within

In Frankfurt he reached high for the bow  
In the States his hand fell low  
Never Again did it play a melody  
His violin died with his family



# Blinded to Death

A clear tear drops off a high cliff  
poured forth from a man at his lowest point.

It fell past all the man accomplished;  
Every plateau he reached,  
every obstacle he overcame.  
Past the sunset, whose last rays set the tear ablaze  
with a flash of orange flame,  
until it finally hit the ocean's traitorous waters.

The man collapsed onto his knees despite all he achieved,  
crushed by the mountain that loomed before him.

In desperation he screamed  
"Why did I ever start climbing  
when all along this Everest was here to stop me?"

If only he looked down and saw all that he conquered  
which was impossible before he willed himself to try,  
such easy hills to him now  
that were once frightful mountains.

If only the man looked backed to see how strong he truly was  
instead of being ensnared by the menace ahead,  
defeated by fear.

Alas, the fear  
sent him following his tear  
and so he fell into the ocean  
into the greedy hands of Death.



# Secret's Knife

So many keys  
To unknown doors  
Keeping secrets  
Hiding yours

Those that you store  
In unfound places  
Where secrets fester  
In many cases

So many keys  
'round my keyring  
Each so different  
As one, they swing

All keys on a keyring, remained  
Kept my secrets closed, contained

But can our deepest  
Darkest truths  
Lay hidden long  
From the world's sleuths?



How come by thee  
These secrets of mine?  
How come you nigh  
To hidden shrine?

I stored my secrets  
Under mountains  
Beneath rocks  
Guised as fountains

But you knew all along  
Read between lines  
Of my life's song

I thought I stopped  
My secret's reigns  
'Twas I all along  
That suffered their chains

Each key shackles my limbs  
Every secret thwarts my whims  
Every weight holds a knife to my heart



# **Into The Maze**

I want to push away  
Against the grain

I'll confuse the lines  
And then look back

You'll see chaos  
I'll look deeper

You'll still see crazy  
When I see a maze

I'll find my way  
Through the crisscrossing paths  
of wooden grain

But all you'll see is chaos  
Because you're blind  
To all the possibilities



# Wood Lives On

Sunlight dims and colors darken  
Trees shake limbs and proud elk hearken  
Meandrous creek whispers on  
Oblivious to diving swan

Fireflies flash faint flashes  
Huntsman's fires turn to ashes  
Rabbits huddle in dug dens  
Nests are warmed by mother wrens

Silver studs speckle black skies  
wolf choirs meet them with long cries  
Flowers close when owls soar  
Moles' noses sniff when foxes snore

Would sun go down if it knew that  
When moon rises so does shy bat  
Wood lives on when it is gone  
To next day's light the wood lives on



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