

POETRY

The Pain of Death

Konstantine Ergemlidze

And Death kneeled in sorrow
With tears that would fill the bottomless
Pitt of Hell and extinguish its flames.

He kneeled in front of Life
And cried out to it, Why must this happen?
Everything you create I have to destroy.
Everything that experiences the joy of life
Lives in fear of me.
They think I am a monster, a Being whose only purpose
Is to destroy life.

What is the point of all of this? Why do I exist?
I was created before life itself.
I was the first to experience life and death.
I experienced life, and I was the one to take it away.
I will be the one who will watch as the last Human takes a final breath and withers away.
And I will be the one to close the gates of Heaven and Hell behind me.

Life smiled and said, Death, listen...

NO! You still don't understand.

Have you heard how they beg for forgiveness?
How they beg for time they never appreciated?
How they beg for life,
How they beg for you.

Oh, you should have heard them!
How they beg for something they do not deserve.

Why must this happen?
Tell me, Life!

Life stood in silence, for He
Has no answer for Death.

Mad Poet

Author's Note



Konstantine Ergemlidze is 17 years old and a native of Tskhinvali who lives with his family in Gori. He graduated from high school in Nikozi and plans to study Computer Science at Kutaisi International University. His inspiration for this poem was a quotation from a novel by Marcus Zusak called *The Book Thief*: “It kills me sometimes how people die.” It personified Death and made him think about how Death might also have emotions. Konstantine began writing poetry as a means of coping with the stress of sleeping problems and it has been a calming influence on his life.