

## POETRY

### *OPPOSITE OF MARS*

**Eliso Khatridze**

Dry to all, he masks his soul.  
Fire burns, but he is cold.  
Boldness runs in his genes,  
But his heart is shy, so sweet,  
Full of love but incomplete.

When people come near,  
He drifts away into a dream,  
A dream so complete but unreachable to him.

Everyone considers him a king,  
But in reality, he is weak.  
Behind the mask, a silent cry for help,  
For someone to understand, to see.  
A castle built with pride and pain  
Shelters him from the falling rain.

Yet in the dark of night,  
The desire for warmth, for light.  
A hug, comfort, a gentle hand,  
To lead him from this empty land.

For in his heart, a light glows,  
A hope that one day, he might set free  
The softness hidden deep inside,  
No longer the need to hide.

### Author's Note



**Eliso Khatridze** lives with her parents and a younger brother in Tbilisi, although the family is originally from Kutaisi. She enjoys writing poetry, short stories, and in her diary. Eliso has also written and directed an original play which was performed by the Gori Drama Club and Actor's Studio at Gori State University last spring. At age 15, Eliso has become the youngest contributor to our *Journal*. We are proud of her creativity and hope it will inspire other young people to write in English.