

A sample of Flamur Vehapi's poetry

From *The Alchemy of the Mind*:

### **Just Another Pilgrim**

Waking up in the morning  
Realizing that I am alive,  
I gratefully start the day  
Like a bee from its hive.

Jumping flower to flower  
In search of truth and light  
Meekly seeking knowledge  
Morning, noon and night.

Hoping to live this life  
As humbly as I can  
Knowing that in this world  
Nothing but a pilgrim I am.

### **Prisoners of the Self**

O prisoners,  
Self-imprisoned,  
Open the iron gates  
That you have built  
Around you  
And free yourselves  
From your own prisons,  
Be free, and run freely,  
Run until you reach  
True freedom of mind.

### **Universal Integrity**

Even the brainless planets,  
Particles in this galaxy,  
Circle around humbly  
In a slow and quiet motion  
Floating in the universe  
And never colliding With one another.

Each time they pass by one another  
They spin around, and smile,  
And when they leave they weep

For their spinning lovers.

This should be a great example  
For the clashing humanity  
As a way of moving together  
Towards the Great Universal Integrity.

### **Can't We All Live Together?!**

Scions of Adam,  
Sons and daughters of Eve,  
Raised in the same cradle  
And fed from the same dish  
Took different paths.

After ages of separation  
Today they came together,  
And in hope of celebration  
I see nothing more than devastation.

Stunned by the fratricide  
And heartbroken in horror  
I remind myself of advice  
That once a learned said:  
"We must learn to live together  
As brothers or perish together as fools."

From *A Cup with Rumi*:

### **I Know You**

You have never seen me,  
Nor have I seen you,  
Never in my life,  
But we are no strangers.

We have met each other  
A long time ago,  
At a time when even the earth  
Was not in place.

We have met each other  
At a time before the universe was created;  
Yes, we have met each other  
The time we were together  
As atoms in a dusty cloud

Before the big explosion  
Ordered by our Beloved.

I know you,  
I even remember you,  
Yet, I have never seen you.

Remember?  
We are no strangers!

### **Conquering This World?**

They have tried  
To conquer this world  
By swords and arrows,  
Cannons and bullets,  
Hate and fire,  
But none survived  
The blows of time.

The only way  
To achieve this goal  
Is not by force  
But by love.

For love is the only battle  
That turns bullets into roses.