

INK & IMPACT

THE POWER OF WRITING: A COLLECTION OF VOICES

#CHALLENGE

Curated by
Global
Writers
Project



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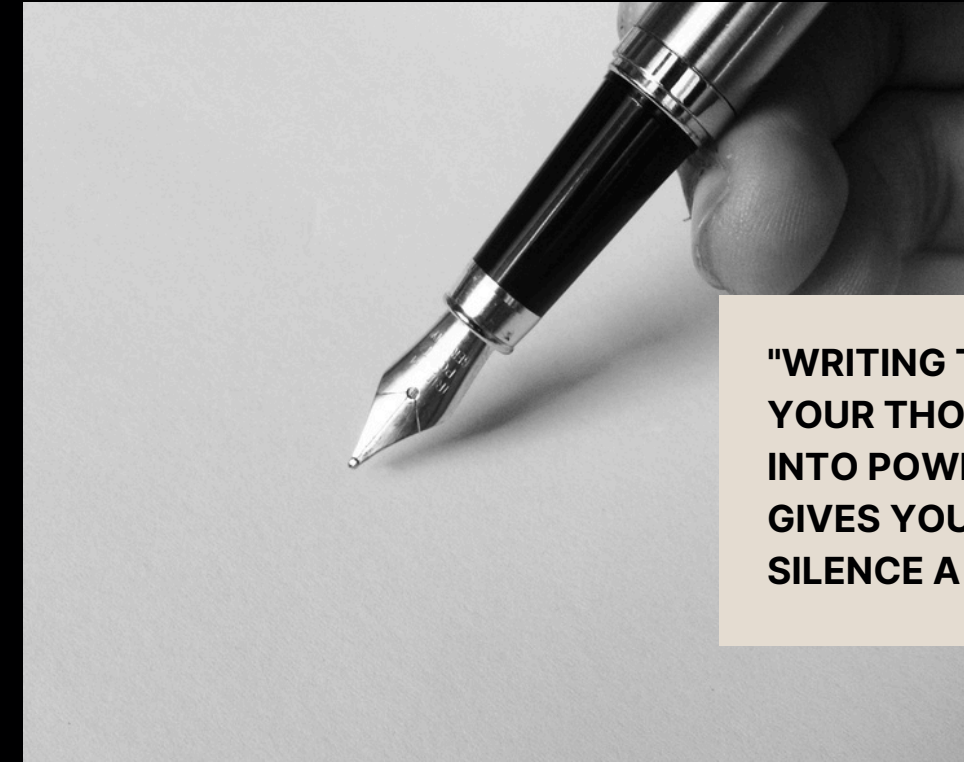
Debora

About Us

The Global Writers Project is committed to empowering writers worldwide to share their voices and stories. Through challenges, advocacy, and education, we aim to inspire change and foster a global community of impactful storytellers.

To learn more or participate in our future projects, visit us at <https://linktr.ee/globalwritersproject>

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**"WRITING TURNS
YOUR THOUGHTS
INTO POWER AND
GIVES YOUR
SILENCE A VOICE."**

Message from the Editor

As we present "The Power of Writing: A Collection of Voices," I am truly humbled to be part of this extraordinary journey of words. Each submission is a testament to the incredible strength writing holds, not only as an art form but as a powerful tool for self-expression, healing, and social change.

I admire how each of you has used the written word to channel emotion, convey truth, and inspire change. Writing, at its core, is a reflection of the world inside us and around us, and this publication is a celebration of that power.

Thank you all for sharing your voices and for being part of this incredible project. Writing is not just an act of creation but an act of connection, and through this chapbook, we have all connected in powerful ways.

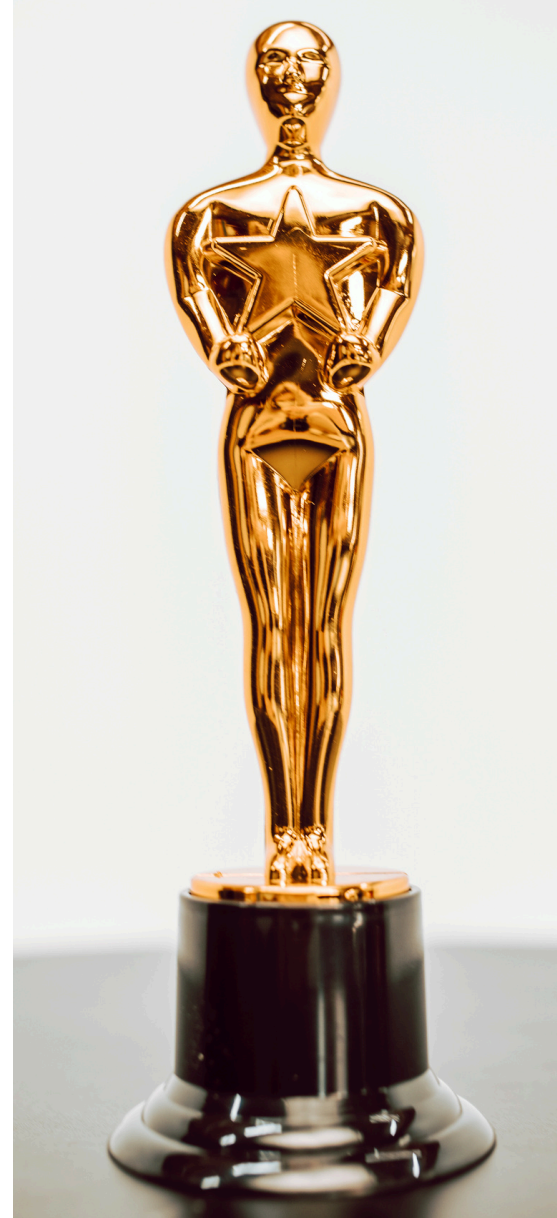
Rasika Sittamparam

Editor-in-Chief

Honorable Mention

Congratulations to Debora

We are thrilled to recognize Debora's submission as the Honorable Mention for The Power of Writing Challenge 2024. Her heartfelt storytelling and profound reflections on writing as a tool for healing, empowerment, and connection deeply inspired us.



Thank you, Debora, for sharing your powerful voice!

I LOVE TO WRITE DAY

John Riddle



Founder of I Love To Write Day.

In the spring of 2002, I was driving from my home in Delaware to the Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writer's conference in Asheville, North Carolina, where I was scheduled to speak. My oldest daughter, Bonnie, was in the car with me; she was a college student at the time and interested in attending some of the workshops. Even though she was already a published writer, she knew the value of learning more about the craft of writing.

As I was passing through the Richmond, Virginia, area, I was thinking about a magazine interview I had to do the following week. Normally I am the one interviewing someone and then writing an article, but this time I was going to be the subject of the article. Writer's Digest magazine wanted to do a profile of me, highlighting my success in writing for so many Websites over the past few months.

When I worked in the fundraising field a number of years ago, I loved planning big special events. One time I tried to set the Guinness Book of World Records by having the largest number of people dance the "Twist" in one location. I even got Chubby Checker to tape some Public Service Announcements to help promote the event. As a writer and author, I knew I needed a website, and I came up with the name, I Love To Write Day. It wasn't long before the idea of holding the 'world's largest party for writers' came about.

I told Bonnie to "remember this moment," because I "officially declared" November 15 to be I Love To Write Day, and I knew that I Love To Write Day would be a success.

However, never in my wildest dreams did I believe how successful it would become! About two weeks after the conference was over, I established the I Love To Write Day Website and began sending out press releases to media outlets all across the United States. I also sent information to schools, bookstores and libraries.

About ten days later I started getting numerous media requests for interviews and more info about I Love To Write Day.

And the response from schools was absolutely overwhelming. By the time November 15 rolled around, over 11,000 schools all across the country had signed up to hold special ILTWD events and activities. Bookstores, libraries, churches, community centers and even a few malls joined in the fun. When USA Today published an interview with me on the first ILTWD, my phone didn't stop ringing, and I lost track of how many e-mails I was receiving.

The Governors of 9 states have officially proclaimed November 15 as I Love To Write Day in their states, and urge all of their residents to find time to write and celebrate the day.

I Love to Write Day was entered into the Congressional Record on November 19, 2008.

A Word of Encouragement

Spend some time writing something today. You don't have to set a goal of writing a novel (unless you have wanted to write one for a long time); just write something that is short, and meaningful to you.

Writing can be fun, but also challenging. People need to be challenged, and writing is but one of many creative ways to express yourself.

I am very excited because more I Love To Write Day activities are being planned all across the United States. For many people, that will be the beginning of their writing career. I Love To Write Day has the potential to launch the career of the next John Grisham, Mary Higgins Clark, Stephen King or Toni Morrison.

When people become stronger writers, they become better communicators...and everyone wins!

BLEEDING WORDS

Lisa Eritan

When emotions bundle up to the point they seem to burst out at the slightest shaking, my head fills up with thoughts, ideas, and consultations.

Loss. Anxiety. Hurt. Pain. Uncertainty.

I need a way to empty them and free myself from suffering and utter confusion.

How?

How?

Show me a way. Tell me the secret.

9 years old, sitting under that bed, time ticked by.

Humanity continued with living, but at 9 years old, it was otherwise.

If I say it out loud, I become an outcast.

Tell your mum you are a disturbance.

To our teachers, a piece of temporary responsibility.

Where then? Who shall thou turn to?

Unattractive, unimportant.

A blank sheet.

Abandoned like I.

A common predicate we share.

What would happen if I told you my story?

Well, it won't hurt to try.

I write and write. I bleed upon the pages. Lost in the spectrum called time. What is time?

When I am alone with my thoughts, but not alone anymore; but with an avenue to express it all, to have the words come together to form something beautiful, ugly, real, expressive.

Art.





Yes, I am creating art. Bringing together words that, if read, invoke emotions, delivering message after message. Hitting its target, the next harder than the last. Discovering the flow, the rhythm. How my ideas come to life on this sheet of paper.

Dancing around? Yes, I can see it all dancing around, and boy, is it beautiful. Oops, the pen ink went out. Not to worry, you can manifest this newfound power in any shape or form you choose.

Testimony – I remember early this year, I had a little difficulty praying. Mostly concentrating. I tried different means, but something just felt bland.

One evening as I sat on my bedside table, lost in thought, a spark ignited in me to put pen to paper and talk to God through my words—not the ones from my mouth, but the words from my heart painted onto the notebook with the pen in my hand. It was amazing.

I seamlessly communicated differently, and I had that assurance that my God heard me. The power of writing is honestly astonishing.

"I WRITE AND WRITE. I BLEED UPON THE PAGES, LOST IN THE SPECTRUM CALLED TIME. WHEN I AM ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS, BUT NOT ALONE ANYMORE; I AM WITH AN AVENUE TO EXPRESS IT ALL."



THE POWER OF WORDS

Ama the Poet

As the famous saying goes, “Words are things.”

The power of our words is mind-blowing. You cannot fathom the fact that our beautiful universe manifested through words. Words are written, spoken, thought of, taught, learned, and spelled. Above all other things, mankind can do nothing without them. They are powerful as the “Word of God,” a double-edged sword—not above God but a demi-god.

From the beginning to the end, heaven, earth, clouds, thunder, sun, moon, stars, etc., scream: We are God’s Creation. A wonder and beauty to behold.

Words are played by any artist to unleash their talent and creativity. Have you heard of names like Ama Ataa-Aidoo, William Shakespeare, Jared Angira, Ola Rotimi, Kobina Sakyi, George Bernard Shaw, John Donne, Kaakyire Nyantakyi Akosomo, Kofi Awoonor Williams, Lade Wosornu, Chinua Achebe, etc., but to mention a few?

Their works pun words and take people on journeys one can’t embark on in reality—travelling to Treasure Island with Alice in Wonderland. They came, saw, and conquered like Julius Caesar and made the world a stage play with acts, scenes, synopses, props, and artists.

Works of words aggravate the conscious, subconscious, and unconscious minds. Your words were enticing to our senses—even the sixth sense.

Standing ovation and sounding applause to you, our literary heroes and heroines. Crochet, quaver, semi-quaver voices, instruments, and keys are bamboozled into words as music for the soul.

Words are songs that tickle our emotions and memories. They take you out of the blues, not forgetting their rhythms. Wise sayers, sages, and philosophers trigger our thoughts, and thereby, words are the subjects taught. Academicians are bombarded with theories and lesson notes.

“Knowledge is power,” and in the power are words.

Words! The creator’s magic wand.



"WORDS ARE THE CREATORS' MAGIC WAND, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHAPE THE WORLD, HEAL THE SOUL, AND IGNITE THE SPIRIT."

WRITTEN WORDS

Charity Birla

As my pen kisses paper, my
heartstrings start to unravel
secrets.

Hidden pains within, silence's
weight lifted and raised high,
Like morning dew as words flow
forth and emotions soar.

With every stroke, a burden sheds
the weight of the thought.

That toiled in my head. Like autumn
leaves, they rustle-free,

In their place of serenity, the page
is a canvas for my soul;
A refuge from my life's chaotic role.

Tears and laughter merge, and
stories unfold. Through writing's
healing,

I confront fears and soothe the
heart. The ink is a balm that heals.

The past, and in its flow, my spirit
finds the cast.





With each written line, I reclaim my
voice, truth, and inner frame.
The power of words now sets me free
from the shackles of my
Suppressed despair. My emotions,
once locked and confined,

Now dance, upon the page aligned in
harmony.
I embrace serenity and find my best as
I confront my hidden battles,
And motivate the self-imprisoned,
scattering the shelves of "okay not to
blossom."

As the ballpoint pours refined rhythm
of overflow in confidence,
My voice grew strong, my soul did
keep the scars but no hurt.



WRITING FREEDOM

Neequaye Tarwiah

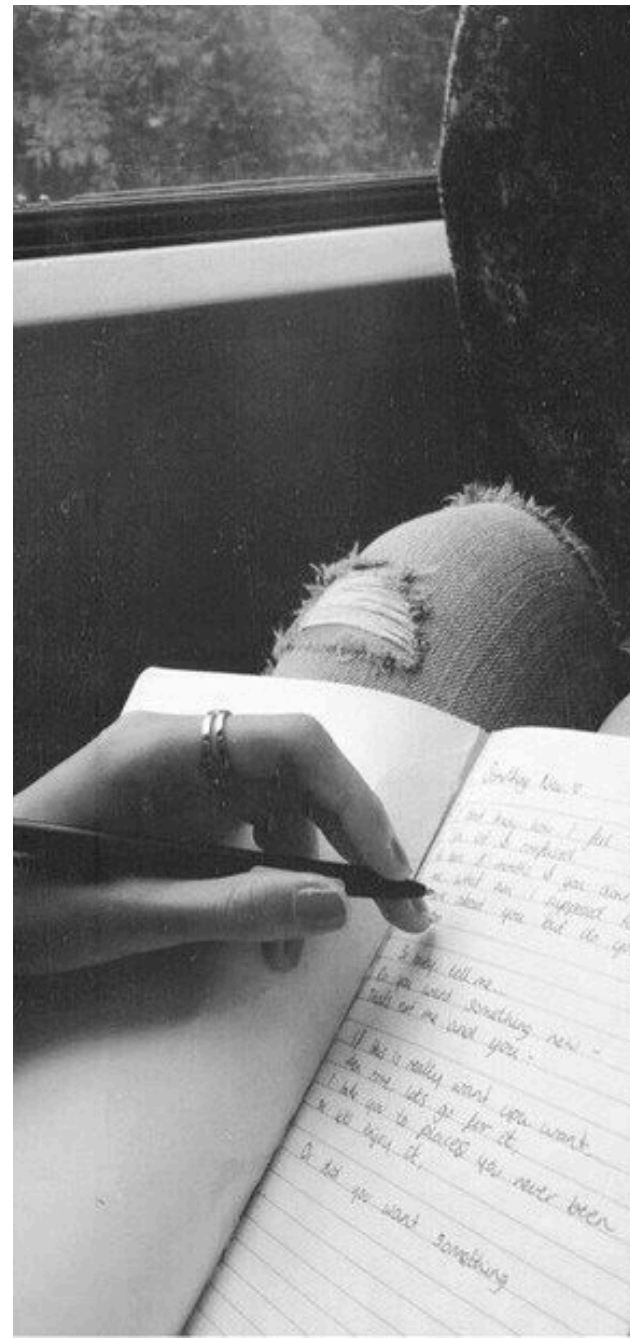
It's just me here,
with nothing but fear,
and me lost in tears.

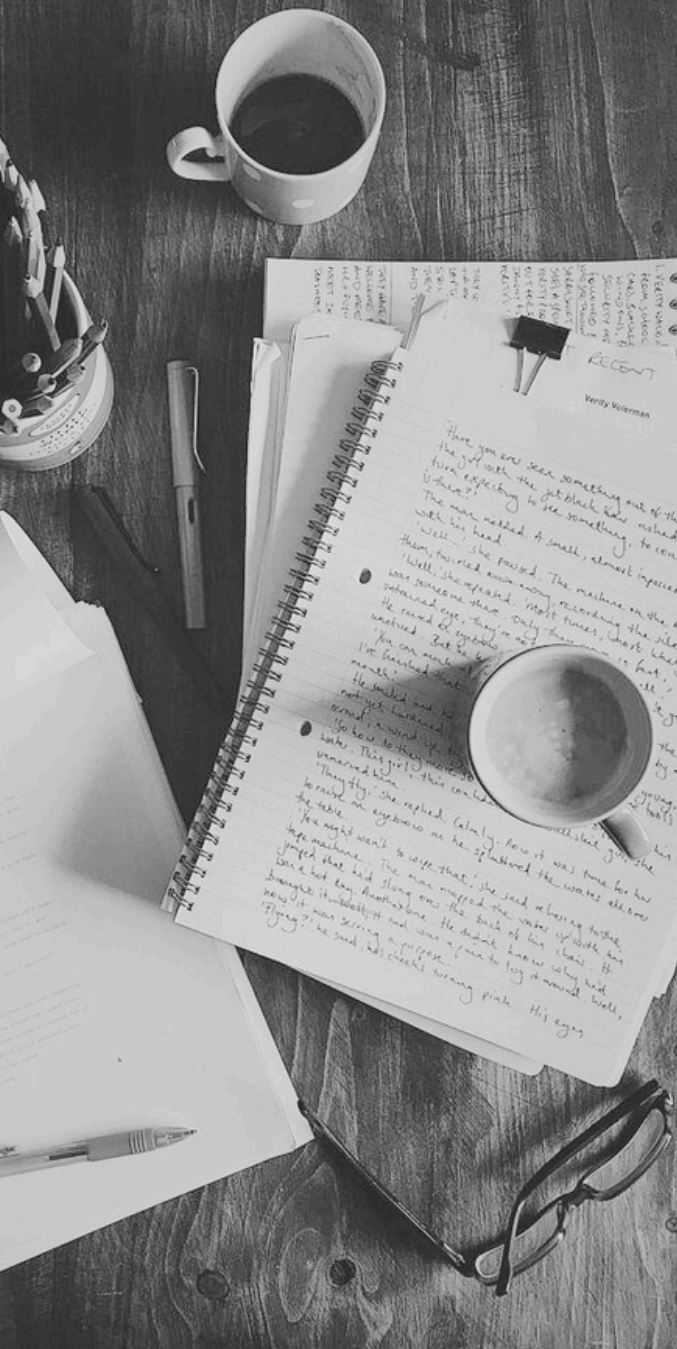
A gift shining bright in the eyes of the needy—
That's how I felt when we met separately,
Then as a quire and quill.
I only needed to merge you into one message body.
Never did I know it would break the bars surrounding my
human body.

I still remember how it felt to let out those stagnant,
motionless emotions that bred fear within.
Yes, writing gave me something not
Possible of being in this world filled with filth and foe.
I never asked for it; it did it for free.
Writing gave me freedom.

Able to untie those knotted emotions,
With just ink and paper,
Felt my soul a new endeavor.
Writing, silencing both internal and external foes,
You are able.

What would the world of food do without you on their
label?
Education would be feeble.
Without you, it's a dead end where everything is a
meaningless bubble.





As humanity, surviving without you is impossible.
Many assume that you're full of fables,
But despite your capabilities, I say you're a worker of
heavenly miracles.

To write is to fight all fright,
To write is to bring light to those denied of their right.
Through treaties and bonds,
You help end wars and troubles.
Writing, you're a soldier noble.

In the wilderness, a place hopeless,
Disconnected from family and loved ones,
A chance you gave me to hear from them,
Without me hearing their voice.

You have no limbs to combat in battle,
But you fought your way into the heart
Of my loved ones and souls lost.
Knowledge, they say, is power;
Nonetheless, its power will be faded into memory without
you.

Writing, you brought into existence life without magic.
Indeed, power lies in you.

**"WRITING GAVE ME FREEDOM—ABLE TO UNTIE THOSE KNOTTED
EMOTIONS WITH JUST INK AND PAPER, FEELING MY SOUL EMBARK ON A
NEW ENDEAVOR."**



THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF WRITING

*Priscilla
Nyamadi*

In a world where most people pay rapt attention to reading content—be it social media, newsletters, or journals—one cannot rule out the importance of writing. Writing helps share one's views on issues.

On a cold Saturday morning, as I sat at a deserted bar, spitting out the seed of a baobab fruit, I had many thoughts running through my mind. What I do is put my thoughts into writing because this helps me express myself. Why this?

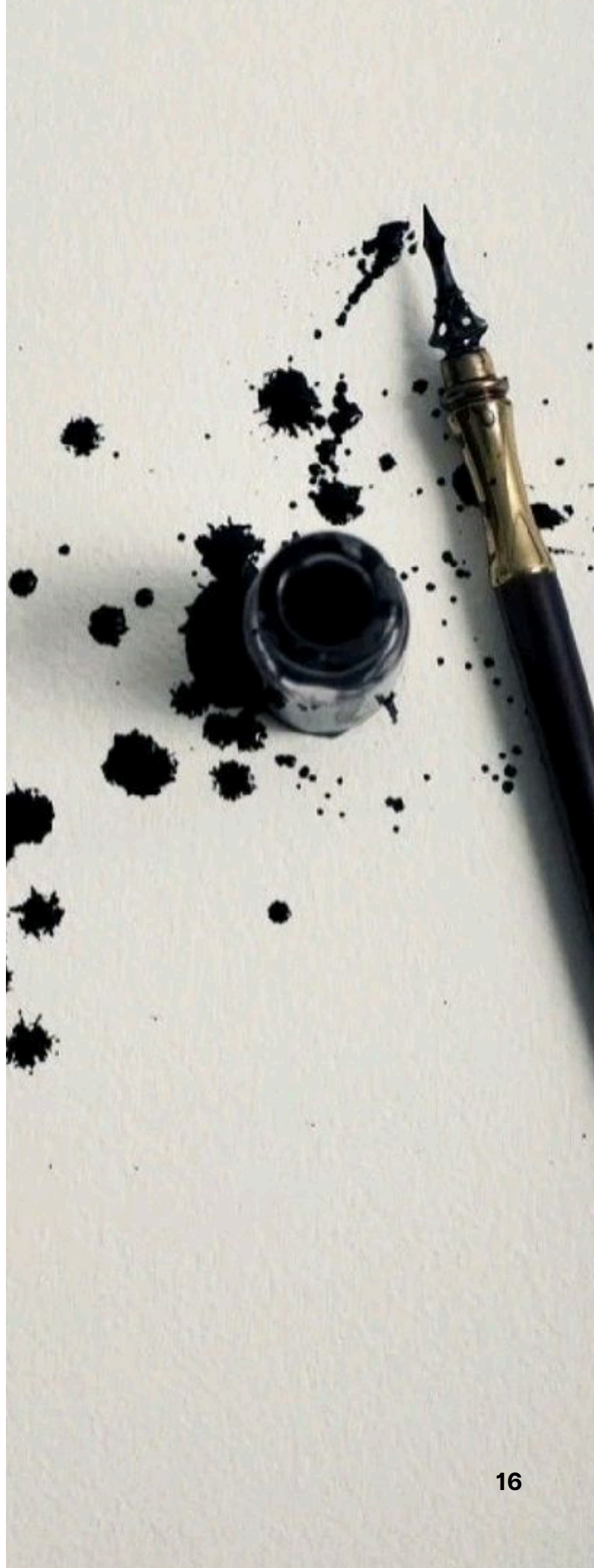
To set the ball rolling, writing can quickly connect you with a larger audience. When one writes, one is able to share ideas and emotions. The impact of writing is profound, as it can not only put ideas out there but also inspire people looking for solutions to their problems by informing the public about topics that will encourage them.

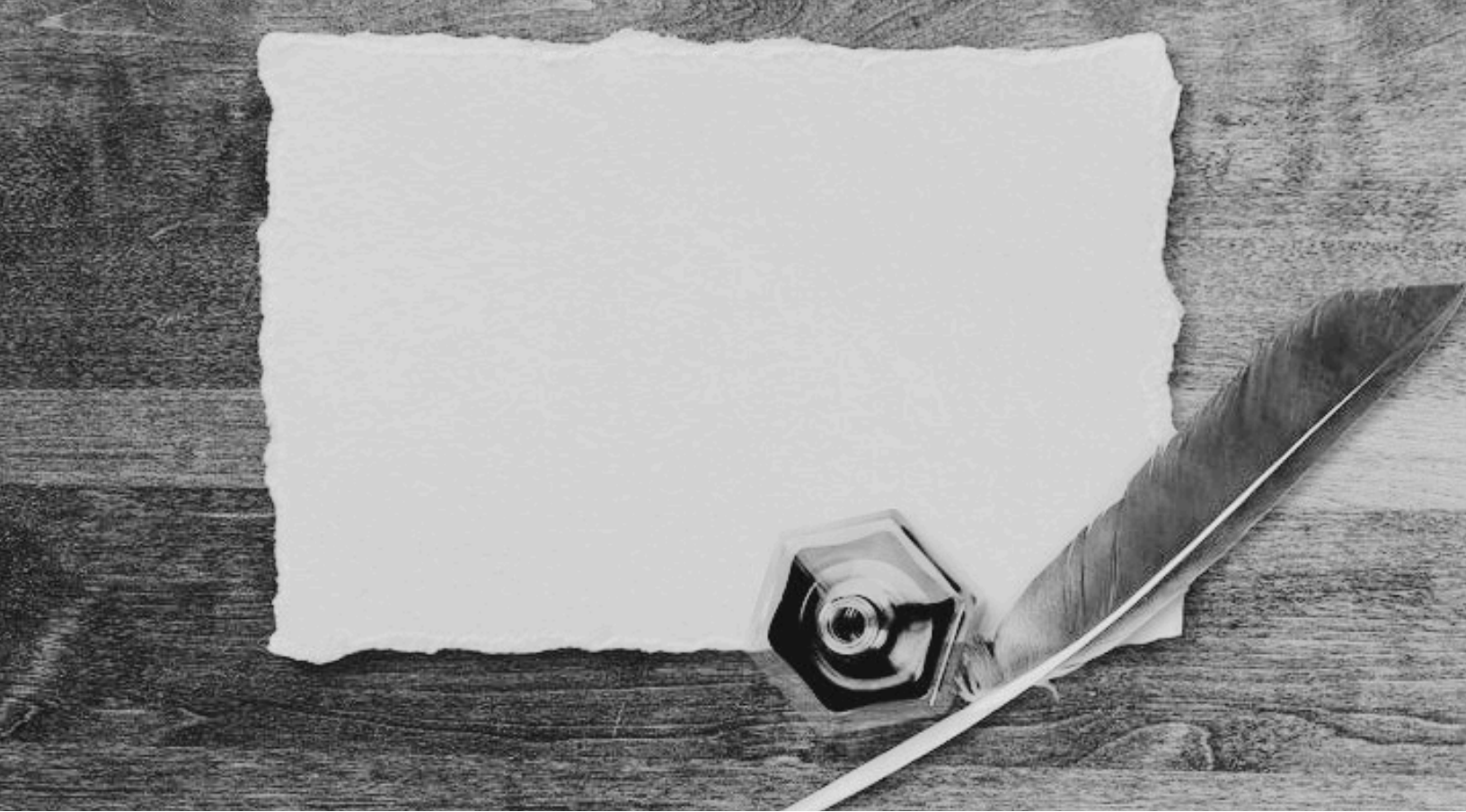
Writing brings income when you share your ideas in writing. People are actively looking for solutions and are willing to pay for it, only if you can present what they need with confidence in writing.

Writing allows the expression of ideas, as it can be used as a means of communication and reflection, enhancing learning and personal development.

Writing is therapeutic, helping one relax and feel better about events. Keeping a regular journal to write about situations and events you encounter—whether they bring sorrow, anger, anxiety, or joy—helps you feel better about such things as you reflect on them. This, in turn, aids in greater confidence, concentration, and self-esteem.

Writing plays an important role in social change, serving as a medium for advocacy and activism. It influences societies and shapes identities. In a nutshell, it empowers individuals to voice their concerns, creating awareness, advocating for justice, and calling for action.





A VOICE FOUND IN SILENCE

*Joseph
Naandam*

Words have always been my lifeblood. Ever since I penned my first sentence, I've felt an unstoppable urge to express myself. Born into a culture that valued a child's silence, I found my voice in the written word.

People may say, "When words fail me..." but for me, words have always been my salvation. My mind is a ceaseless storm of ideas, yearning to shape a better world. My pen, a trusted confidant, captures these thoughts and dreams.

As an introvert with a speech impediment, writing is my sanctuary, my means of connection.

There was a time when the words dried up, and the silence grew deafening. I felt enslaved, for I am a writer, a dreamer, and a thinker. Who would I be without my craft?

The power of the written word has transformed my life. It has given me a voice, a platform, and a purpose. I will always choose the written word.

THE VOICE OF WRITING

M. Ali Ibrahim

Isn't it obvious,
Or are you just intentionally oblivious,
Of the writings of old,
Of the hieroglyphics fold,
That tell you of what is past,
Of those traditions passed
To you, me, and us,
And all those choosing to behave like an
ass?

Of the knowledge
That acknowledges
The existence of the One True,
Of the time that has passed through.
The folds in the Bible
That narrate the works of those able.
The content of the Quran
That advocates for life and
The female power.





What of the Torah
That confirms the man Abraham?
A voice of all religions to not harm
But to live together in peace,
For they are from the voice of one at
ease,

Accepting that there is only One True.
Through His Omniscience,
He created all, even the one without
religion,
Who must be treated with love and
patience.

That is the power of writing.
It must be a source of peace,
Not to tear society into pieces.
A voice of healing
That cures every ill feeling.
The tones that keep babies and
everyone at ease,
The power behind every source of
peace.

The power of writing should be
Shalom.
The power of writing should be Salam.
The power of writing should be Shanti.
Peace be on you all!

THE POWER OF WRITING

DEBORA

I've been asked this many times before now: "What is the true essence of writing and the power it possesses?" My answer will always be the same. Writing isn't just about putting ink on a book; it's about channeling feelings through a story, and that is power.

With writing, I have felt powerful countless times—maybe even like a superhero. Writing is a muscle; it carries the weight of storytelling. Stories the mouth cannot tell.

Like the story of the day my mother left three-year-old me in the school playground and never returned. Through writing, I can tell this story—not because I want to, but because I believe it's a path to healing. Writing conceives healing, and of course, healing is power.

It's a gift many writers have yet to experience—a greatness to be testified. Writing controls the author; the author doesn't control writing. Whether it is a personal journal, a novel, an essay, or a simple letter, this control comes along with the power of inspiration.

Writing is the voice of the voiceless, the powerless, and the dumb. In times when they fail to be heard, they can write. An amazing power without a cost.

I call writing a strength because every piece of writing will always be heard, no matter the genre. In each literary piece lies the power to attract readers. This makes writing a bridge between the one who wrote and the one who will read—a power that connects both in a realm of art.

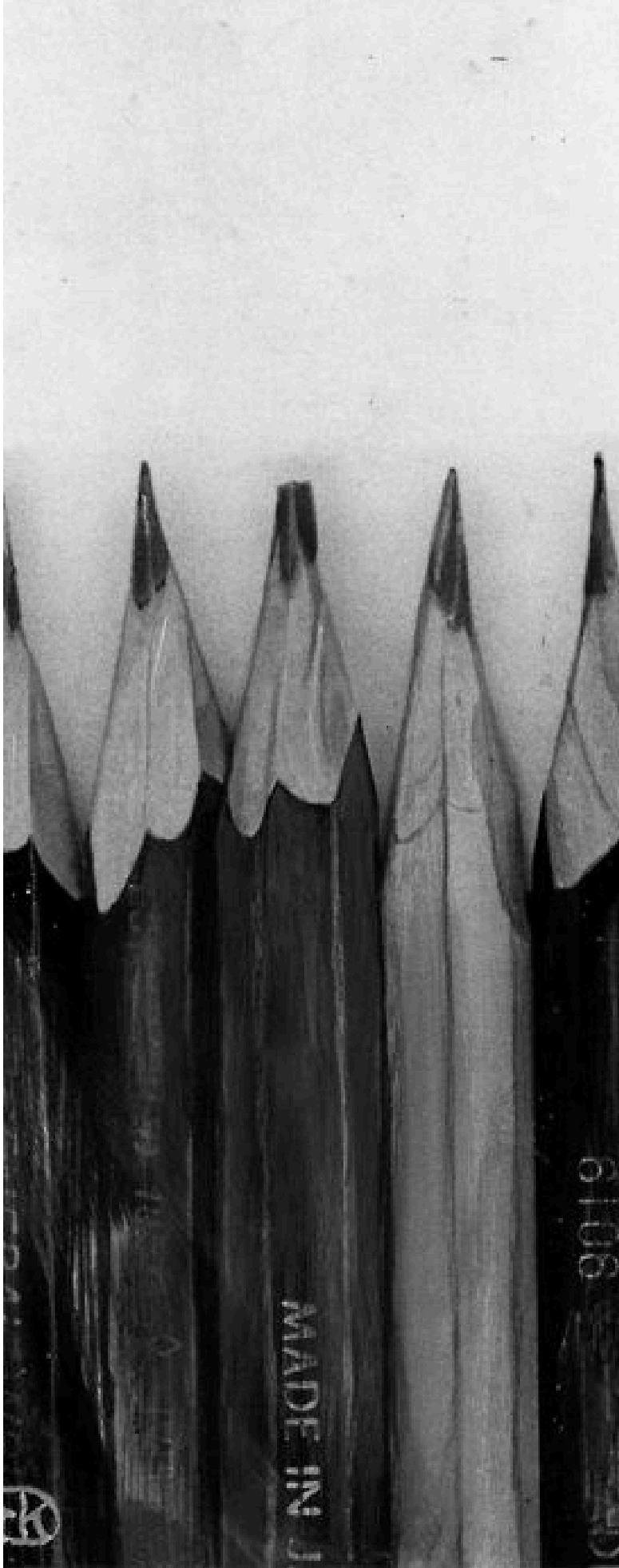
Writing is my weapon; I do not need to fight to prove it. Automatically, it shapes my thoughts, my emotions, and those of my characters.

Writing is a legacy that inspires future generations and greatly transforms lives. Writing lies in experiences; it is a powerful tool that kills pain.

Writing is my power of identity—the identity of a wounded soldier. Through each word, solace is found.



HONORABLE MENTION



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants of The Power of Writing Challenge 2024. Your contributions have showcased the incredible potential of writing to transform lives and inspire others.

Special thanks to Christen Amoah and Rasika Sittamparam for their support and dedication in making this challenge a success.

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