



## **THE THEME OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE POEMS OF LUZVIMINDA GABATO RIVERA WITH REFERENCE TO SELECTED POEMS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Love and Friendship are among the themes which have always been expressed in the poetry of Luzviminda Rivera. The use of such words is effective on the psychological hygiene of the society and on the creation of a healthy and undisturbed life. The effect of optimism and hopefulness as essential and ideological qualities can be the basis for the removal of many obstacles and complexities particularly in the nowadays societies that are full of tensions and preoccupations. With respect to such important themes as love and friendship. The writer of the present article tries to show how Luzviminda Rivera verses reflect her thoughts in confrontation with despair, passivity and dishonor. The method of research in this study is the explication and analysis of poems of Luzviminda Rivera who despite all hardships and failures of her own, have directed her readers, though for a short time, to the merry flower-garden of love and friendship. The research aimed at investigating aesthetic elements such as emotion, love and friendship in Luzviminda Rivera's selected poems such as Beyond Words, Wind Beneath My Wings, Born To Love You and Missing Piece, searching and evaluating her words in her mental understanding.*

**Keywords:** Love, Friendship, Luzviminda Rivera



## INTRODUCTION

Emotion is an important part of poetry; the main aim of the poet is often to convey his emotions and feelings. Undoubtedly, the degree in which any poet is emotionally affected from the outside, its combination with his earlier experiences and re-production of a new image in his mind can be called his emotion. Emotion is the internal and the semantic context of a poem in accordance to the quality of the poet's encounter and contact with the outside and the events around him; thus, based on the type of emotion, the way of its expression and its impact on the audience, there are some major differences among poets. Since emotions and themes of a poem are the results of a poet's personal experiences, some ambiguous angles of the poet's mind and life can be clarified by the analysis of emotions and themes expressed in the poem.

A further point is that love is universally contrasted with lust; love is sometimes collated with friendship because of an interpersonal relationship with romantic connotations. Abstractly argued, an experiment in which one generally perceives for others can be attributed to love. As well as cross-cultural distinctions in comprehending love, it is possible to declare that reflections upon it have also been transformed tremendously over time. Evidences suggested that modern notion of romantic love has been dated back to courtly Europe during or after the Middle Ages as reported by some historians, although the foregone essence of romantic affections is testified by classical love poetry.

St. Thomas Aquinas, who was an Italian Dominican friar and priest and an immensely influential philosopher and theologian in the tradition of scholasticism, following Aristotle, defines love as a tendency to the benefit of another. Moreover Bertrand Russell, a British nobleman, philosopher and social critic describes love as a state of infinite worthiness, as contradicted to reciprocal value. In addition Philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Freiherr Von Leibniz claimed that love can be considered as a satisfaction caused by the joy of others.

Luzviminda Rivera is among the respectable poet as some of her memorable poems are still remembered by many worldwide. There are, however, not so many researches and analyses done on her life and poetry. In this article, using a descriptive approach, we have focused on the emotions and themes in her poetry and finally, from this point of view, we have examined her position as a poet in the contemporary poetry.

Love may very well be the most profound emotion we'll ever experience. Whether platonic or romantic, fleeting or lifelong, love has the power to nurture meaningful relationships, shatter our hearts, teach important lessons, and change lives forever. So it's no wonder that love is one of the most frequently delved-into themes in literature. It defies boundaries by appearing across all genres, age groups, and periods in history. And like in real life, the



presence of love can make a story acutely heartfelt and memorable, regardless of the outcome.

### **Beyond Words:**

Beyond Words, a poem, is another reflection on Christian teaching and the importance of leading a righteous life. Rivera is more straightforward in the poem about her belief in God and what a person should do. Beyond reflecting on how worth it is a person's pursuit of efforts in this world. It reflects on the longer passage from which the one in the analysis of The Brilliant Mind had been derived. The passage discusses what kind of life we must lead so as to overcome our weakness and show courage in fighting all the odds. Our life is a gift from the Almighty, who have brightened the dark nights.

As the title clearly states, it is about paying tribute apart from expressing in the form of the words, for thanking the almighty. An easy and pleasurable life could not lead one to happiness or heaven. The poem expresses thanks for the light shown in her dark life. Again, the poem has partly the theme of friendship. Luzviminda is obviously referring to the friendship in this case with the line "you guided me with your honest critique".

In comparison, the poem suggests that those who have suffered in this life may be better off than those who did not. In their sorrows and sufferings, they are able to find the way to God. The poem is not explicit about the author's belief in heaven and that it is the ultimate goal that people should pursue. It is merely implied in the reflection that a difficult life dedicated to doing good would lead to God. Thus, a hard life "builds ladders to be nearer God". "God" is a reference to the Christian God and a metaphor for heaven.

Luzviminda's belief in God and regrets for a darker life can be understood in better context when one reads her other poems.

### **Wind Beneath My Wings**

Wind Beneath My Wings is a short poem showcasing friendship. It is about how the sun has transformed her life and darkness has disappeared. It is something that an individual looks in his/her life. At the same time, it is a story about how balance and truth are not in good condition and the sunshine present near can make the struggle easier.

The sun without its brightness takes the stars and moon in its darkness. Due to the absence of the sunshine, the storms seem to be more dangerous than ever, which are not easy to avert. Life has lost all the cheer and charm which has decreased the motivation to stay alive. The terror rules the humans and it continues. The power fades away and departs to isolation.



In the darkness, in the absence of the sunlight, it is difficult to find the light and has to face lot of the challenges in facing the tussles of the life. The balance of the life and its reality are all in the debris, which makes that someone should be there so as to have the feel of having the presence of somebody nearby.

The desire to fly in the sky to greater heights has taken a setback due to the shattered arms for which wind is need to accomplish the journey of life.

## **Born to Love You**

Born to Love You is the exact of the opposite of Beyond Words. It is about love transforming one's life. At the introduction of poem, Luzviminda already sets herground. Because that only the lucky people can enjoy the pleasures and romance in life, they actually live by that belief even if it is not true. However, happiness could not be found in the absence of love in life. It is for those who sincerely seek it.

Like her other poems, Born to Love You is call to the love. Desting and luck can change anyone's life in a fraction of a second. Hence it is important to be prepared for the worst. There is regret of doing a farewell to love, which afterwards realised was the biggest mistake done ever in life. The world was full of darkness with no hope of happiness and prosperity. Once love comes in the life making it more shiny than before and transformed the life which lasted for a year. After that a vacuum is created of greater depth extensively forming a hole in life.

Every day begins with the wait for the love and the heart will always be there to beat and happily wait for the love of the life.

## **Missing Piece**

The theme of the poem is friendship. The poet share the meeting of a person who was known to her and the friendship lasted for years, even some stories were also written.

Friend has come as a light in the life and showed the way of living life at its optimum. Life is full of colors and now the strength of facing the problems of life has been doubled. Friendship will be forever till death and will be real.

The missing piece of the life is the friend which was missing, which is now found. The memories of this friendship will be always cherished and able to recollect them.



## CONCLUSION

In all the selected works, Luzviminda has clearly conveyed that the people's façade of good looks and life are merely a cover for a rotten internal life or soul. Life may be easy for them but not necessarily happy. While the person may be leading very difficult life, he could actually be happier with love and friendship in his life. However, others still have hope. They themselves can find happiness if they simply do well.

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