

Life is cyclical. One must appreciate all that life offers.

ABYSS OF THE SOUL: A Life Seen Through Poem

by Aloysius M. Rienzo

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Preface

“Cycles”

*Shadows dance upon the floor, the trees perturbed by breezes.
As the Sun reclines upon the Earth, I watch as water freezes.
Warmth retreats to the South as Chicago fades to grey.
Winter in the Midwest feels like a long, long, trying day.*

*The Sun still shines but offers no warmth, ground is hard as rock.
Light returns at seven thirty and leaves near three o'clock.
Diurnal creatures lose their way as the world belongs to night.
Nocturnal beasts are in their element, like alley cats in fight.*

*We wait indoors to feel the Sun, like flowers underground.
The birds have left, their songs are gone, we long to hear their sound.
The promise of a warmer day is the thing that keeps us going.
I think about the lasting cold and relish days spent mowing.*

*It's been a long cold winter, with weather tough as steel.
Nostrils frozen with brittle hairs, hands you cannot feel.
Impatience grows, days get longer, time marches on.
You pray to see the end of this, another winter gone.*

*And as it warms and crocus pop, you feel an air of Spring.
Although the cold persists for weeks, the Soul begins to sing.
Soon we'll feel the Sun's generous warmth as flowers scent the air.
Rejoicing in the temporal beauty of weather sent so fair.*

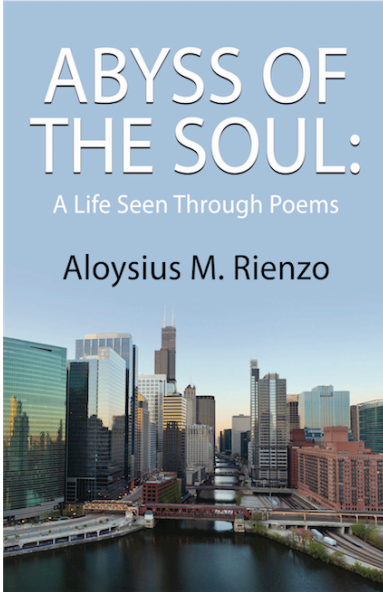
Longing is a lonesome task. Needing hope; refuge; love or understanding is a place far from joy. I have been in that place, I have been in that place for most of my life. I thank God for my family.

Those of us without family need to know that they are not alone. People are better than we are given credit. Understanding is only a question away, but if at first you don't find that understanding, don't

give up! Someone out there is looking for YOU. You will meet if you keep hope alive.

I struggled for almost fifty years with secrets I felt I could not share. I was burdened with guilt, shame and self loathing. Then one day I decided it was time to open my soul to my family and let them in. They were a tremendous help.

I want to do the same for others, maybe those who feel they are alone, but no one is alone as long understanding people want to help.



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