

# Smile

*Smile—*

*The many hours of life are but rose flowers;  
Every single day is a blossom that withers.  
But it's hard to understand the certainty of death,  
Even though his cold hands are ever-present.  
Life is short but looks long.  
Life is too short to sluggishly live on.*

*Yes, smile—*

*For every rising sun begins in God's might.  
And do not remember your sorrows,  
But borrow those experiences for tomorrow.  
Register the lessons of the mistakes,  
And then open every letter in hope, not fear.*

*Please, smile—*

*'Cause if we consider the past,  
The bitterness, and offenses,  
We will never live for a better task,  
As the sun will never set on our profound sense.  
The best thing to do, my dear, is to forge ahead.*

*Now, smile—*

*There's nothing as easy to carry as a light heart,  
For troubles and problems are a part of every life,  
And what makes a man is his courage in spite  
To pick every good part and emerge standing.  
So, come on, smile—it's never ever hard.*

# Words of Wisdom

*Never marry for Love,  
Marry for friendship.  
Never sleep a night,  
Heart heavy with malice;  
It's a complete waste of emotion.*

*Never make Love  
Just because you can,  
Make love for the bond it brings.*

*You can count the friends you've missed,  
But reminisce more on the good times you've shared—  
Somehow, you will always find them  
In this life or the next.*

*Dwelling in your past  
Is like holding on to a map  
That only sets you back on your path  
But can't guide you toward your future.*

*If you're to hold on to your past,  
Let it guide your future.  
Unavoidable situations are unfortunate,  
So we believe.*

*To have perfect control of one's future  
Can be more destructive.  
Fate is an element to believe in  
And a good excuse not to have ambition.*



*I hate to admit it,  
But it's true:  
No man would triumph,  
Without the sacrifice of another.  
The philosophy of good only comes from bad,  
Success from failure,  
And a cathedral from crumbs of destruction.*

## Chapter 15

SAN DIEGO, CA: September 2011  
*What Will Be, Will Be*

### *I've Come to Realize*

*I've come to realize  
That hastening can be childlike.  
Patience has become a rare virtue.  
Excellence is the purest beauty.*

*I've come to realize that  
The beginning of a man's future  
Starts from the moment  
He understands the need to be part of the world  
And strives to make the best out of it.*

*I've come to realize that  
In my destiny,  
Lies my fate and the earth's hereafter.  
And in my journey  
Across the deserts and the seas,  
I overcame the tides, storms, and whirlwinds  
'Cause my faith could move the massif.*

A decorative border with intricate, symmetrical scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of repeating motifs that create a frame around the central content.

*I've come to realize that,  
Not only could destiny be discerned,  
It could also be a bright and beautiful reflection  
Of your muse and dreams.*

*The words you say and what you believe,  
Each step you take, and the path you tread  
Will make who you become.*

*Even though it may not be  
On the near side of your knowing,  
Your faith can see you through if you let it.*

## Chapter 16

SAN DIEGO, CA: November 2013  
*A Dying Tree at My Door*

### Numb

*I lie awake on a Saturday morning,  
Completely numb.  
I can't tell how far I've gone this time.  
I feel like a bag of sorrow,  
Seeking a heart to spill.  
I feel like a bunch of floating cloud,  
Tied up,  
And I can't tell if heaven is listening anymore.*

*Something is eating me up,  
Bit by bit;  
I can only feel the pain in my heart,  
But I can't tell where it's coming from.  
The desire to break away  
Aches badly in my soul.*

*A voice says, "Suicide's a perfect way out,"  
But I don't even want to think of a way out,  
'Cause I'm scared that if I leave,  
I might end up someplace worse.*

## *I Believe*

*I believe in the originality of man,  
The vision of a far desert covering the sky,  
The mystery of where the source of the ocean might be.  
I can spend the rest of my life trying to understand nature.*

*I believe in preference,  
Not by choice,  
But by a force that could never be explained;  
To choose to open a door  
Rather than the other in a silent room.*

*I believe in the spirit,  
And things it could probably wish for after death.  
I believe in the discontentment of man,  
'Cause, that's why we are so damn good at our gifts.  
I believe in moderation,  
'Cause the greatest sorrow comes from  
Things we desire the most.*

*I believe in things we cannot change,  
Even when we're closest to the edge of the sky.  
The need to understand—  
There is a greater force we will never comprehend!  
My life can't explain itself,  
But I have my dreams to hold on to.*

*There will never be such a thing as  
"The greatest writer of all time."  
Like we are not the same,  
Words don't come out the same.*

*I don't believe in body language readers,  
It's like trying to understand the heart  
And the mind of all men at the same time.  
Still, a gift is a gift.*

*There's no such thing as perfect Love,  
But you can live your life for Love.  
Children will continue to be innocent,  
And more than always,  
Will grow up to make good or bad examples.*

*I believe in technology;  
It's changing the world.  
Merely the users,  
Seem like mini-gods.*

*I believe in traveling the world,  
What could be a better way to express  
The freedom of our mind,  
And see with your eyes  
How much of nature is at our disposal?*

# The Lagos-Island Beauty

*I can hear the cockcrow and see  
Streams of gold running past the blinds.  
It's time for my friends to fly out of their nests.  
The Beautiful City of Lagos,  
Friends, and roses,  
But you seem to be my first thought.  
Grandma, Grandma,  
The Island Beauty.*

*It's more beautiful in the woods  
When autumn leaves.  
Red flowers?  
It's anthocyanin!  
Christmas illusions?  
Grandma, Grandma,  
Your beauty stretches farther than the eye can see.*

*Grandma,  
Did I mention how old you are now?  
I want you to know:  
My heart reaches out to you always.  
Though I'm so far away,  
It will always be with you.  
I'll never leave you to frailty,  
My Island Beauty.*

## Dear Dad

*Dearly beloved father,  
It's been eight years today  
Since you've been gone.  
I held your flowers by your grave,  
Your words still engraved in my heart.*

*Like it happened only yesterday,  
I stared at the smile traces  
Left on your departed face.  
You left my arms, My hands,  
And I am standing six feet  
From the edge of your new home.*

*I can't imagine how lonely  
You have been for eight years.  
Eight years I have missed you,  
Eight years more I have lived,  
'Cause you're gone!*