

***FLASH IN THE SPAN***

**By Mark Antony**

What is flash fiction but a creative admission that attention problems are epic in the new world order. The traditional short story was deemed lengthy by a generation nursing on the breast of video. Henceforth the flash piece is constructed on the premise of first person narration of a singular theme or expression.

Characterization for this format is nonexistent and for good reason: the only character is the narrator driving home a short burst of unsettling activity. There is no warm-up involved. No filler to be found. The heart of the matter is open and rushing like a river wild. The journey a jaded jamboree dancing along your rib cage. If brevity is the central thesis of poetry the core of flash remains concise concentration of narrative at hand.

The establishment while including flash into the fold hasn't fully accepted its presence in the known literary spectrum. There are few awards or contests celebrating flash. No real studies or conferences delving into its history or impact on modern literature. It's fair to say flash remains an adopted child in a family that preaches tolerance but barely practices it.

Regardless of this sad state of affairs flash fiction inspires the writing community to tap into the current reality that often demands fresh vehicles to deliver its special cargo. While the short story deserves to be revered it's not the logical or practical to expect a 19th century technique to hold the attention of 21st century readers. Shakespeare might still be all the rave in academia but if we are honest with ourselves no one outside of a college dorm is downloading it to their eBook readers.

**THE PRINCIPLE OF APPLIED POETICS**

Poetry in order to be vital needs to be immediate in the moment. If the muse is lost in language the art is forfeit to modern media. We live in a visual era capable of superseding our lucid dreams.

The poet is warrior wielding a mighty word. The poet is priest committed to confession and absolution. The poet is provocateur in a sleepy province. The poet is proverbial nanny to an immature landscape.

The principle of applied poetics is actually a calling brought to reality by restless writers heeding the spirit of creative interaction. For there is no learning without the death of ignorance. And there can be no peace until we attend its funeral.

The poet of the people must preside over the graves of failure if we are to find a better future.

There is inspiration in history if we are careful not to repeat it. There is poetry in memory if we strong enough to remain apart. There is meaning in verse every instance we speak truth to a world tilting astray.

**Bio**

**Mark Antony** Rossi's poetry, criticism, fiction, creative nonfiction and photography have appeared in The Antigonish Review, Anak Sastra, Bareback Magazine, Black Heart Review, Brain of Forgetting, Deep Water Literary Journal, Dirty Chai, Enclave, Expound, Farther Stars Than, Flash Fiction, Gravel, Indian Periodical, Japanophile, Journal of Microliterature, Kulchur Creative Journal, Mad Swirl, On The Rusk, Purple Patch, Scrivener Creative Review, Sentiment Literary Journal, Snapdragon, Syzygy Poetry Journal, The Sacrificial, Toad Suck Review, Transnational, Vine Leaves Literary Journal, Wild Quarterly and Yellow Chair Review. <http://ethical-stranger.webnode.com/>