

*THE CREAKING DOOR*

By Frank Jousen

My love for you is  
an old creaking door.  
Sometimes it's a blow in the face  
- unexpected, vigorous -  
to open up my eyes again.  
Sometimes it's an open invitation  
to a surreal world  
of rotten dreams  
and mildewed speculations.  
Sometimes, yes, sometimes  
it's a breeze  
- once fresh, always gentle -  
on the face,  
and in the marrow  
of my soul.

*SHIPS AND TRAINS AND THOUGHTS*

Everything looks so deserted  
in that big bathroom we've got;  
guess you took a shower there this morning  
but I decide I'd rather not.

I'm too tired from the journey  
though a girl sent me a song;  
did you enjoy the company of strangers  
or am I, as you say, as usually wrong.

Do we always miss each other  
like two trains just rushing by,  
two ships seen from a far distance  
where the water meets the sky.

Letters and bills upon our table  
which you've piled up there for me;

I add books to them I've brought you

but I forgot the perfume while at sea.

You've left for readings on Australia

which equals happiness for you,

said we made up for good over there –

how I wish that it were true.

Will we always miss each other

like two trains just rushing by,

two ships seen from a far distance

where the water meets the sky.

***STUCK IN THE MIDDLE***

stuck in the middle?

middle-aged, middle class

still committed to making

the world a better place somehow

but mostly steering for

the middle ground

middle-aged, middle-class  
reading middlebrow books,  
staring bleary-eyed,  
no longer big eyed  
into the middle distance

but I'm not  
stuck in the middle with you  
everywhere, every day  
our love still  
goes all the way

**Bio**

Frank Jousen is a German teacher and member of one-world and peace groups. He has had numerous publications, e.g.: In North America in anthologies published by *Poet Works Press*; *Big Pond Rumours*, *Poets Against War*, *Poets Against the War Canada*, *The Gazette*, *Writer's Lifeline*, *Raving Dove*, *New Verse News*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Kota Press*, *Raven Poetry*. In G.B. in: *Poetry Kit Magazine*, *Caught in the Net*, *Pulsar*, *Poetry Scotland*, *Poetic Hour*, *The Measure and Memories*, a book with twelve "cancer stories" and 144 paintings; in Ireland in: *Boyne Berries*; in Australia in: *New England Review*, *Ulitarra*, *Imago*, *Southern Review*, *Eureka Street*; in India in: *Poet*, *Poetry Today*, *Metverse Muse*, *Muse India*, *Poets International*, *Canopy*, *Triveni*, *World Poetry*, *Creative Saplings*, *Literary Ruminations* and various anthologies, e.g. "Railonama", "Celebrating India", "The Second Genesis" etc.

His first collection, "Building Bridges", was published by I.D.E.A.S. in Andhra Pradesh in 2008. He also edited a short anthology containing the poetry of three Indian authors plus his own work, again in India, in 2011, and co-edited an international anthology "Family Matters" with Canadian writer Christina Cowling and Indian publisher Nivedita in 2014. He is currently translating and editing an international family anthology in German with contributions of authors from twenty different cultures.

A number of his poems have been translated into German, Hindu, Chinese and Romanian, partly included in the twin selection “The Faces of Love” by Ana Cicio and “Shades of Love” by Frank Joussen, edited by Dr. Olimpia Iacob (Romania).