



# A Tribute to the Year 2016

By Katharine McLennan  
(Note: my name and branding footer would NOT appear on your poem)

Afraid of Americans, David Bowie crooned  
God Bless this man who sung of our world doomed  
Becoming his starman before November results grind  
He waits in the stars not to blow our mind

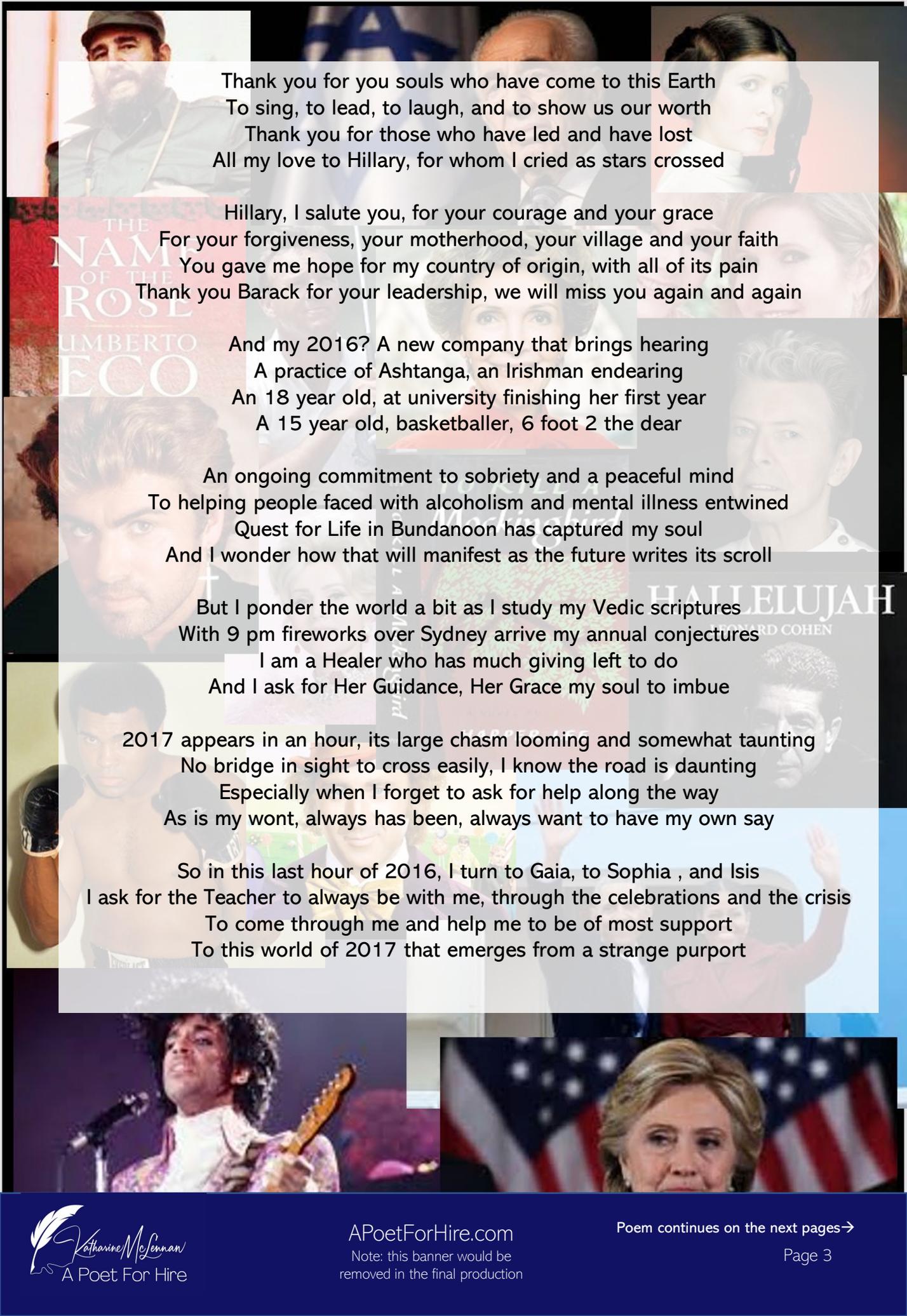
Harper Lee, a mockingbird to kill  
"You never really know a person until  
you climb in his skin and walk around in it...  
"twas a sin to kill, the song's death forbidden.

Umberto Eco, The Name of the Rose,  
Nancy Reagan, most famous for "Just Say No."  
Princethe magician, with doves still crying  
For a talent now gone, a purple rain still sighing

Never quit, but you did, Muhammed Ali,  
Floating like a butterfly but stinging like a bee  
Vale Gene Wilder, who brought us Willy Wonka's  
Vale Arnold Palmer one of our great golfers

Shimon Peres the essence of Israel  
Leonard Cohen Hallelujah sung at his burial  
And goodbye Castro as Cuba opens its portal  
Zsa Zsa Gabor 99, I still hear Mr. Ed chortle

George Michael now allow the sun to go around  
Richard Adams too with Watership Down  
Carrie Fisher, your truth and sobriety  
Debbie Reynolds, her mother, shining through society



Thank you for you souls who have come to this Earth  
To sing, to lead, to laugh, and to show us our worth  
Thank you for those who have led and have lost  
All my love to Hillary, for whom I cried as stars crossed

Hillary, I salute you, for your courage and your grace  
For your forgiveness, your motherhood, your village and your faith  
You gave me hope for my country of origin, with all of its pain  
Thank you Barack for your leadership, we will miss you again and again

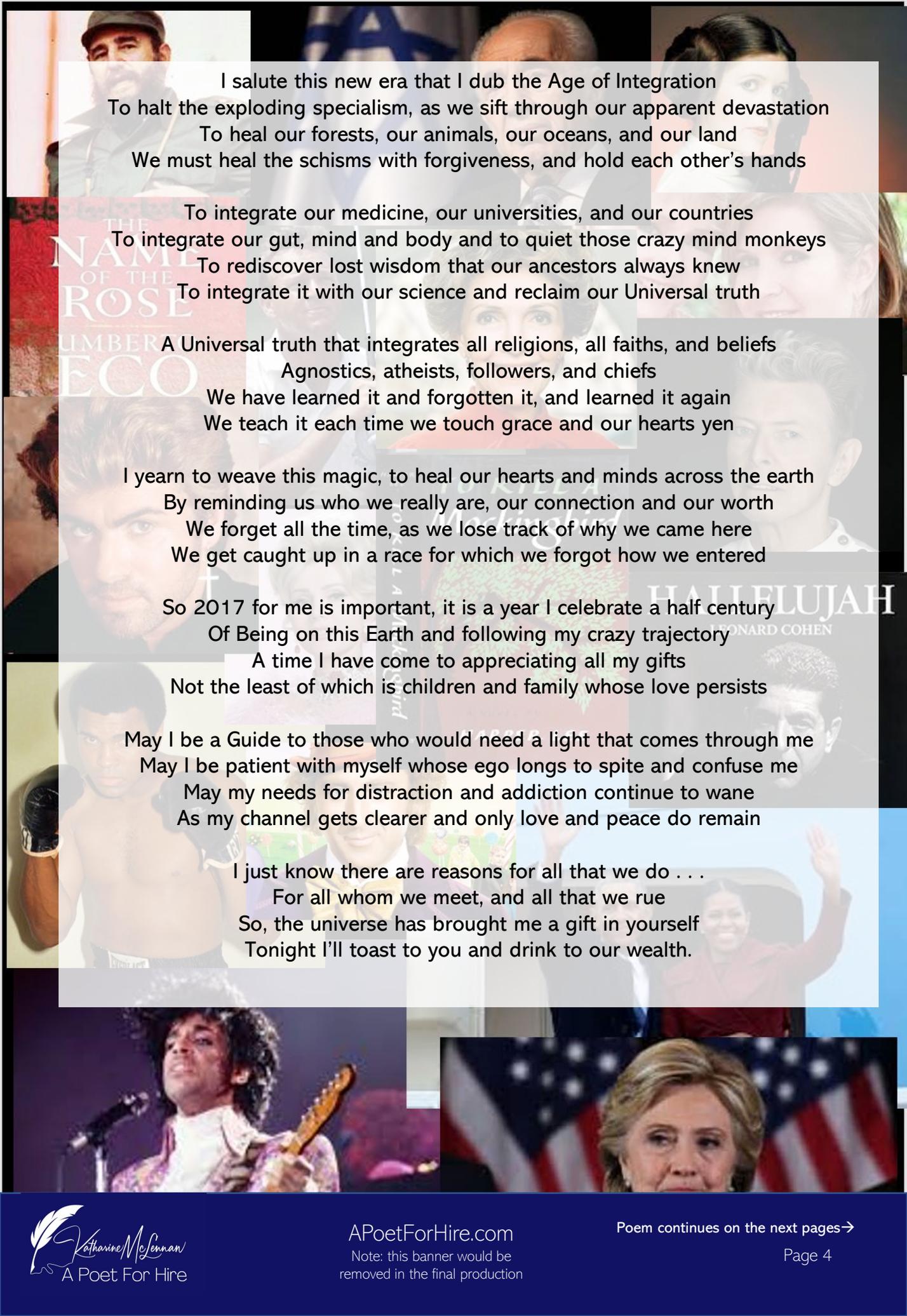
And my 2016? A new company that brings hearing  
A practice of Ashtanga, an Irishman endearing  
An 18 year old, at university finishing her first year  
A 15 year old, basketballer, 6 foot 2 the dear

An ongoing commitment to sobriety and a peaceful mind  
To helping people faced with alcoholism and mental illness entwined  
Quest for Life in Bundanoon has captured my soul  
And I wonder how that will manifest as the future writes its scroll

But I ponder the world a bit as I study my Vedic scriptures  
With 9 pm fireworks over Sydney arrive my annual conjectures  
I am a Healer who has much giving left to do  
And I ask for Her Guidance, Her Grace my soul to imbue

2017 appears in an hour, its large chasm looming and somewhat taunting  
No bridge in sight to cross easily, I know the road is daunting  
Especially when I forget to ask for help along the way  
As is my wont, always has been, always want to have my own say

So in this last hour of 2016, I turn to Gaia, to Sophia , and Isis  
I ask for the Teacher to always be with me, through the celebrations and the crisis  
To come through me and help me to be of most support  
To this world of 2017 that emerges from a strange purport



I salute this new era that I dub the Age of Integration  
To halt the exploding specialism, as we sift through our apparent devastation  
To heal our forests, our animals, our oceans, and our land  
We must heal the schisms with forgiveness, and hold each other's hands

To integrate our medicine, our universities, and our countries  
To integrate our gut, mind and body and to quiet those crazy mind monkeys  
To rediscover lost wisdom that our ancestors always knew  
To integrate it with our science and reclaim our Universal truth

A Universal truth that integrates all religions, all faiths, and beliefs  
Agnostics, atheists, followers, and chiefs  
We have learned it and forgotten it, and learned it again  
We teach it each time we touch grace and our hearts yen

I yearn to weave this magic, to heal our hearts and minds across the earth  
By reminding us who we really are, our connection and our worth  
We forget all the time, as we lose track of why we came here  
We get caught up in a race for which we forgot how we entered

So 2017 for me is important, it is a year I celebrate a half century  
Of Being on this Earth and following my crazy trajectory  
A time I have come to appreciating all my gifts  
Not the least of which is children and family whose love persists

May I be a Guide to those who would need a light that comes through me  
May I be patient with myself whose ego longs to spite and confuse me  
May my needs for distraction and addiction continue to wane  
As my channel gets clearer and only love and peace do remain

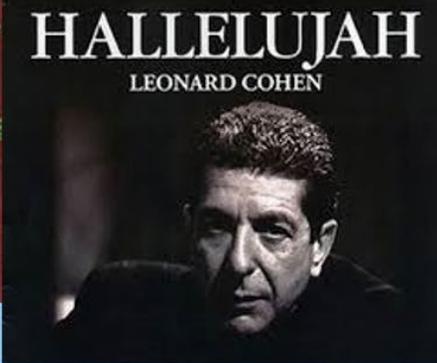
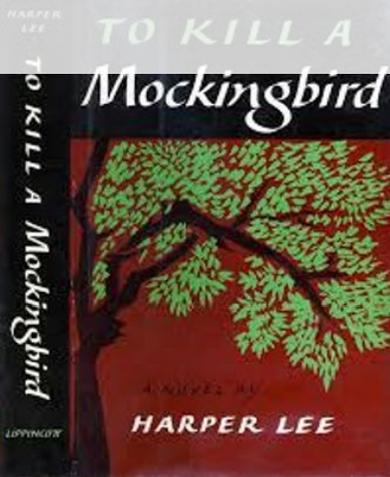
I just know there are reasons for all that we do . . .  
For all whom we meet, and all that we rue  
So, the universe has brought me a gift in yourself  
Tonight I'll toast to you and drink to our wealth.



So, lift your glass, and toast the moment.  
That's all that there is, no need for torment.  
About pasts that can't change, about futures that don't exist  
About flaws, about jealousies, about pain that persists.

Thank God for our humanness, and thank God for this life.  
Thank God for this music which seems so rife.  
It teaches us of love, of tenderness, and care,  
Of friendship, of honour, of giving beyond compare.

God grant us the serenity, God grant us the love  
And steer us towards Heaven, which need not exist above.  
Show us the way to Heaven here on Earth,  
I trust Your guidance, and I honour Our worth.



**HALLELUJAH**  
LEONARD COHEN



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