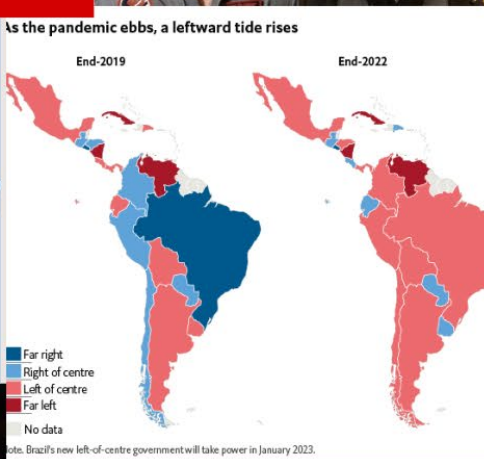
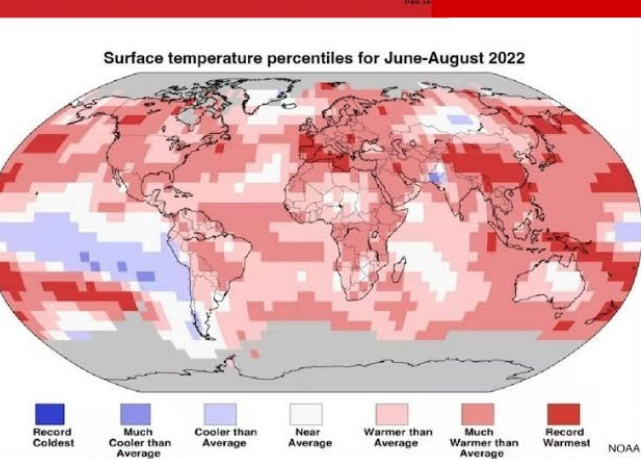


# An ode to 2022

by Katharine McLennan

apoetforhire.com



Poems Written for You and Yours:

Love Poems, Birthdays, Weddings, Funerals, Anniversaries, Graduations, Retirements, Baby Arrivals, Reflections, & more

*Katharine McLennan*  
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Tell me what you want to say, how you want to say it, and any pictures to go with it and I'll write it for you in a poem



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## by Katharine McLennan

31 December 2022

[apoetforhire.com](http://apoetforhire.com)

Twenty Twenty-Two, freedom from Lockdown, a hinge in history?  
Or yet another year, another war, and plenty of sophistry?\*  
Let us review the year, lest we forget its insights  
Lest we repeat its lessons, let's reflect on the highlights

Turmoil as Great Britain enters a new phase  
A "Trifecta" of Primer Ministers across 95 days  
Amidst the loss of a Queen of the world's longest reign  
Seventy years in her grandeur, 15 PMs she trained

A "Trifecta" of crises wracks a Pakistan of 225 million  
Near economic collapse, owing China \$31 billion  
The longest serving PM, Khan, leaves fighting in obstruction  
Epic floods demolish a million houses, 1/3 of the country in destruction

Humanitarian crises explode globally with a 100 million fleeing  
No longer safe, no longer fed, no longer sustainable, in their being  
The Ukraine, we know, but add Yemen and Syria  
Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti, Ethiopia in hysteria

Latin American Governments shift radically from the right to left-of-centre  
A pink tide reversal like the late 90s, our pundits wonder  
Count in Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru  
Chile, Honduras, Colombia, Brazil– all move left, too

The Iranian powers face the worst protest in their 43-year reign  
Incited by Mahsa Amini, a 22 year old, dying by police, beaten in pain?  
We now witness an eruption incited by a woman not covering her hair  
Is this a new revolution – will the people of Iran stand up; do they dare?

Ahh Covid, W.H.O. declares the end of pandemic in sight  
No more lockdowns, travel back, we ask if our responses were right  
Regardless, the legacy becomes a shift to "Work from Home"  
A pandemic, not a union, transformed work at a level yet unknown

Could we finally say goodbye to calling a human an "FTE"?  
If we work 38 hours, or if we work 19, we may indeed be free  
To call ourselves "One Employee" –regardless of our hours  
Contributing our unique talents, whilst A.I. increases in its powers

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\*Sophistry refers to "Fake News" escalating exponentially

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Those who grew up in the '70s recognise the word inflation  
In fact, like the '70s, we wonder if we are entering stagflation  
Did we give consumers too much money with COVID concession,  
As we see downed supply chains and shortages creating recession

In 1982, scientists warned of climate catastrophe  
In 2022, that future has arrived now disastrously  
Pakistan 1/3 under water, record European heat wave  
Droughts and hurricanes, is the Earth too late to save?

Climate change effects hit "irreversibility" this year  
Whilst we fight to wean off fossil fuels, amidst the fear  
CO<sup>2</sup> levels continue to rise  
We're still not cutting emissions, our UN sighs

China towards global domination, Biden does exclaim  
Intimidating Taiwan, backing Russia against the Ukraine  
Militarising the South China Seas, flouting IP laws,  
China's Belt and Road, across 80 countries, no pause

The US seems to weaken whilst threatening with economic power  
At least fourteen countries have declared their desire to abandon the dollar  
Asking to join BRICS\*, an alliance of nearly half the world's population  
What will the world be like, without American domination?

Russia invades Ukraine, citing "denazification" and "demilitarisation"  
Ukraine holds strong in many places against massive desperation  
NATO "rallies," but with less firepower than 30 years ago  
Critics call NATO having brain death, have they let European defence go?

Russians relying on winter to break Ukraine's defence  
Zelensky's New Year's speech rallies massive offense  
The world watches intently as we scrounge for the next sign  
Is this another Hitler invading Poland in 1939?

Are we at WW III? It is horrifying to start believing,  
Yet price shocks and supply collapses, we are now perceiving  
"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it"  
How close will we get before our world is depleted?

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*\*The new BRICS alliance is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.  
Algeria, Argentina and Iran have applied to join this alliance.  
Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nicaragua, Nigeria,  
Senegal, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates have shown interest*

Are we close to world's nuclear Armageddon? Biden queries  
 Eclipsing bioterrorism, are we back to Cold War worries?  
 Nine countries possess nuclear weapons, 13,000 in number\*  
 How twitchy are our fingers on the button – we all need to wonder.

Meanwhile, cancer death rates keep falling from technology alluring  
 A new Alzheimer's drug appears for a disease that wasn't curing  
 SOME animals have fought against extinction in population  
 Giraffes, wild tigers, cheetahs and rhinos now in augmentation

Unseen galaxies are witnessed through the James Webb telescope,  
 Recoveries of our forests are beginning to give us some hope  
 The world's population crosses 8 billion, around 1% it increases  
 India will now surpass China as China's population decreases

Saying goodbye to our beloved Olivia, Steve Warne and Pelé  
 Pope Benedict, Barbara Walters, Mikhail Gorbachev, Sidney Poitier  
 Jerry Lee Lewis, Angela Lansbury, Loretta Lynn, Ivana Trump  
 Archie Roach, Judith Durham, Rod Marsh, and Thích Nhất Hạnh

Watching screens as a new addiction, everything seems X-rated  
 How did get from the Brady Bunch to Game of Thrones and Californication?  
 The term binge-watching has entered, and we find a new high  
 Of dopamine, losing time, losing reality, our sanity to die

Yet, here are the popular good ones from 2022 according to the rater  
 Jurassic World and Top Gun Maverick, a mere 36 years later  
 Avatar, and Everything, Everywhere, All at Once,  
 The Bear, The Rehearsal, White Lotus, and the absurd Severance

I'm stuck in 1980 in my music, well . . . just because  
 Spotify says number one Harry Styles singing As it Was  
 Then Heat Waves by Glass Animals, Stay with Kid Laroi  
 Aha!!! There is Kate Bush, Running Up That Hill—a joy!!!!

So now 2022 has closed, no more lockdowns, 'twas liberating  
 On to 2023, in hopes of peace, clean air, and temperatures abating  
 In hopes of healthy food in our stomachs and kindness in our hearts  
 Education, welfare, inclusion and the revival of our arts

\*US: 5,500; Russia: 6,257;  
 China: 350, France: 290; UK: 225;  
 Pakistan 165; India 156  
 Israel 90; North Korea 40-50

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.

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