

**Let
Dem
Know**



The iconic
poetry of

**BENJAMIN
ZEPHANIAH**

**Let
Dem
Know**



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TURKEY TALK

GREET TINGS

Assalaam Alaikum

Hola

Szia

Sat Sree Akaal

Wa Happen

Zdravo

Yia Sou

Merhaba

Hej

Yo

Sawast Dee Craap

Ciao

Zdravstvuyte

Endemenesh

Ahoj

Bonjour

Yassou

Shalom

Namaste

Dag

Guten Tag

Buenos Dias

Parev

Ehida

Selamat Datong

Dia Dhuit

Hallo

And Welcome

BODY TALK

Dere's a Sonnet
Under me bonnet
Dere's a Epic
In me ear,
Dere's a Novel
In me navel
Dere's a Classic
Here somewhere.
Dere's a Movie
In me left knee
A long story
In me right,
Dere's a shorty
Inbetweeny
It is tickly
In de night.
Dere's a picture
In me ticker
Unmixed riddims
In me heart,
In me texture
Dere's a comma
In me fat chin
Dere is Art.



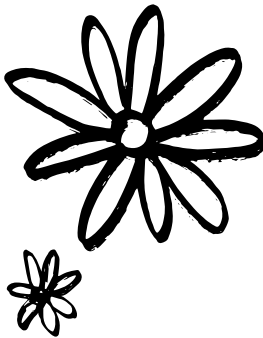
Dere's an Opera
In me bladder
A Ballad's
In me wrist
Dere is laughter
In me shoulder
In me guzzard's
A nice twist.
In me dreadlocks
Dere is syntax
A dance kicks
In me bum
Thru me blood tracks
Dere run true facts
I got limericks
From me Mum,
Documentaries
In me entries
Plays on history
In me folk,
Dere's a Trilogy
When I tink of three
On me toey
Dere's a joke.

RUNNING

I reckon I could run de world,
I used to run me school,
Hundred metres an two hundred metres,
I could run up Mount Everest
Wid a drink,
I could run tings wid big words
Like,
INFRASTRUCTURE,
an
TELECOMMUNICATION,
A marathon? Easy.
I could run out of bounds,
I run wild all de time
I run tings nice...as dey sey in Jamaica,
Or cool...as dey sey in Iceland,
I could run de Universe...in verse
But I haven't been given a chance.
I will get my chance,
Politicians are running outta ideas,
Dat may mean dat we all, you and me,
I an I,
All of we, may hav to run our own lives,
Dats bad...as dey sey in New York,
Way out...as dey sey in space,
All right...as dey sey in

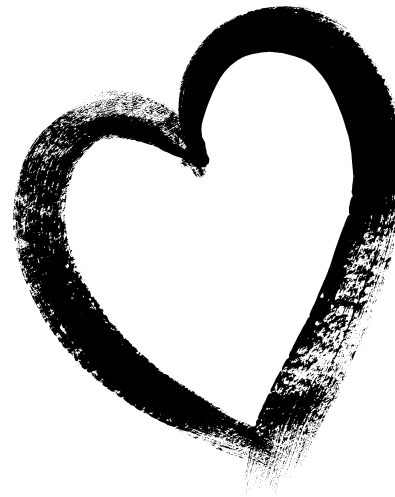
FEAR NOT

Wanna be in our gang?
We cause Peace,
Fighters fear us,
On de streets
We shout slogans
Like,
Peace an Luv
One race, de Human Race
Make Patties Not War
An
Kiss a lip.



We are very safe
Animal friendly
Flower power crazy
Whole wheat flour fans.
We are de listening gang,
We want yu to say yes,
More,
Do it,
Go save everything.

Our only enemy is Ignorance
When we see it we rap it
In questions,
Reasoning an openmindedness,
We recycle ideas
An produce true stories,
Your stories,
Her stories an his stories,
Wid luv stories.



We hav no words for things
like,
Join us,
We luv yu baby
We luv yu people
We luv yu grasshopper.

LITTLE SISTER

That's my little sister

Just five minutes old

Already seeking something

To bite and chew and hold,

That's my little sister

Already going bald

I can't just call her sister

So what will she be called?

I want to call her Carol

But all carols are hymns

I want to call her Jimmy

But I always visit gyms,

I want to call her spotty

But she may punch my nose

I will not call her Rosy

She don't look like a rose.

When I hear her crying

I want to call her *loud*

If she's the type for talking

I may call her a *crowd*,

If she's good at singing

I'll call her *nightingale*

If she keeps on grinning

She'll make the doctors wail.

The doctors called her beauty

But beauty is a horse

The nurses called her cutey

Being polite of course,

My Mummy and my Daddy

Just don't have an idea

We don't have a name ready

But we're so glad she's here.

FRIENDS

Funky monkey in the tree
I like when you talk to me
What I really like the best
Is when you bang upon my chest.

Slippery snake I am your mate
When all others hesitate
I'll be there right by your side
I am known to slip and slide.

Hop along, croak croak, how ya doing **frog?**
No one understands our deep dialogue
People may laugh when they see us on the road
We must stick together

Monkey, snake, me, you and toad.



ACCORDING TO MY MOOD

I have *poetic licence*, i WriTe thE way i waNt.

i *drop* my **full stops** where *i* like .

MY CAPITAL LeteRs go where i liKE,

i **order** from **MY** PeN, i verse **the way** i like

(i do my spelling write)

Acording to My *mood*.

i **HAve** Poetic **licence**,

i put my **commers** where i like,,((0)).

((my brackets *are* write((

I REPEAT WHen i lik**E**.

i can't **go rong**.

i *look* and **i.e.**

It's rite.

iI REPEAT WHen i lik**E**.

i have poetic licence!

don't question me? ? ? ?

ROYAL TEA

I went to Buckingham Palace today
To see where the Queen and her family stay
I went to Buckingham Palace today
To see the Queen's horses and men,
The Queen had gone shopping
A friend let us in
A very big chap with a very big grin
He put all the money I had in a tin
Security checked me and then,
He showed me a picture three hundred years old
Kept in a frame made of valuable gold
I told him I had one just like it indoors
And that I may sell it to help a good cause,
A chandelier he said was priceless was nice
I said my one's better and it has a price
I went in a big room and saw a big throne
Just like the one my Mum has at home.

I saw carpets on walls that were not for sale
I met the man who sorts out royal mail
I went in the room where the Queen has her balls
And in there I saw some more carpets on walls,
On high polished floors I had a good slide
I got a good telling off from the guide
That very big chap with the very big grin
Now looked even bigger was not smiling,
I said in his ear that I needed to

Pay a quick visit to the royal loo
It took fifteen minutes to get myself there
Upon the loo door it said 'Kilroy waz ere'
Cameras filmed me on return to reception
I signed autographs for my royal connections
I left a note for the Queen saying she can
Visit me anytime she's in East Ham.

I went to Buckingham Palace today
To see where the Queen and her family stay
I went to Buckingham Palace today
To see royal things old and new,
It cost me eight fifty but no need to worry
If you visit me you don't need any money
There's no OBEs but there's fresh tea with honey
And I can take photos of **you**.

HOW'S DAT

No Sir

I don't play Cricket,

One time I try

Fearing a duck

I watch de ball fly towards me,

I recall every spin

An unforgettable air speed,

It bounced before me

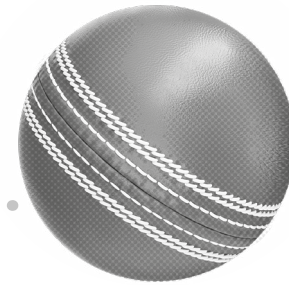
Jus missing a two-day-old ant,

Up it cum

A red flash

Lick me finger so hard

I thought me finger would die.



Teacher tell me

I am good at cricket,

I tell teacher

I am not,

Teacher tell me

We love cricket,

I tell teacher

Not me,

I want Trigonometry

Fe help me people,

Teacher tell me

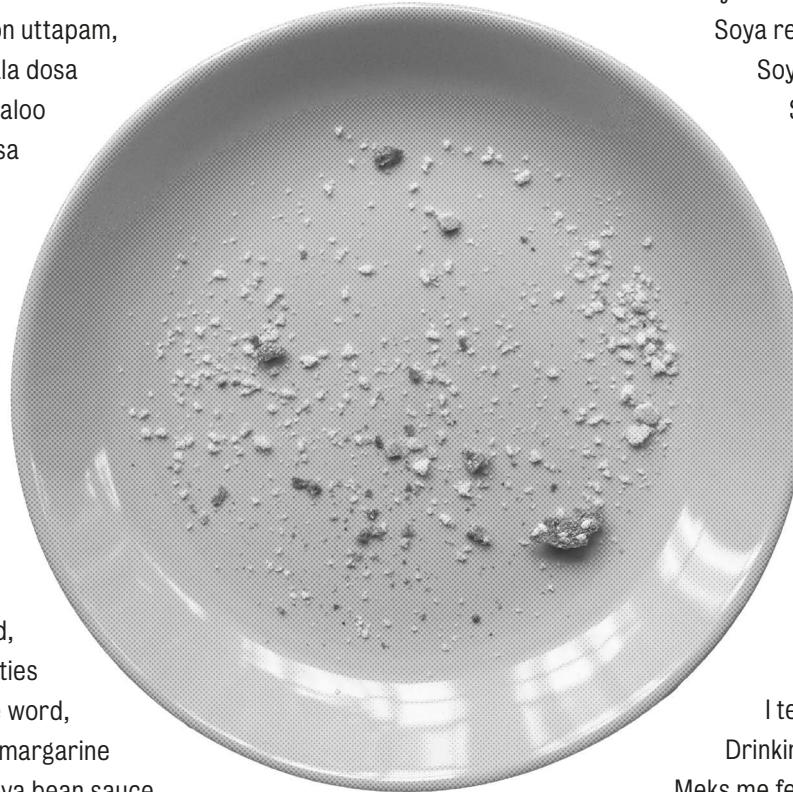
I am a born Cricketer,

But I never...well only once,

I don't play cricket.

VEGAN DELIGHT

Ackees, chapatties
 Dumplins an nan,
 Channa an rotis
 Onion uttapam,
 Masala dosa
 Green callaloo
 Bhel an samosa
 Corn an aloo.
 Yam an cassava
 Pepperpot stew,
 Rotlo an guava
 Rice an tofu,
 Puri, paratha
 Sesame casserole,
 Brown eggless pasta
 An brown bread rolls.
 Soya milked muesli
 Soya bean curd,
 Soya sweet sweeties
 Soya's de word,
 Soya bean margarine
 Soya bean sauce,
 What can mek medicine?
 Soya of course.



Soya meks yoghurt
 Soya ice-cream,
 Or soya sorbet
 Soya reigns supreme,
 Soya sticks liquoriced
 Soya salads
 Try any soya dish
 Soya is bad.
 Plantain an tabouli
 Cornmeal pudding
 Onion bhajee
 Wid plenty cumin,
 Breadfruit an coconuts
 Molasses tea
 Dairy free omelettes
 Very chilli.
 Ginger bread, nut roast
 Sorrell, paw paw,
 Cocoa an rye toast
 I tek dem on tour,
 Drinking cool maubi
 Meks me feel sweet,
 What was dat question now?
What do we eat?