

A long, long time ago, in a country far, far away... there was a young girl who had her eyes fixed on the twinkling stars of the night skies over Tehran. Back then the air was not so polluted and you could see many stars in the night skies. Summer time, when they would set up the beds outside on the balcony to sleep, she would lay in her bed and look deep into the mysterious darkness of the universe and think to herself, What's out there? Is someone out there awake in her bed, and gazing at her in the night sky? Will she ever find her... See her... Will she fly out there and float in the wonderful, boundless freedom of space? Well, as fate would have it, yes...

I was born in Iran and lived there until age 16, then migrated with my family to the U.S. and got an education in Electrical Engineering, and basically was fortunate to live the American Dream. Don't get me wrong, the Road to Baikonur was not an easy one and had many ups and downs and obstacles. But what is important is that I stuck to my dream and did not lose my way. I hope that my trip becomes an inspiration for all of you to follow your dreams, wherever they take you. I also hope to show you the universe/space through my eyes and help you see how important space exploration is for our species. We need young imaginative minds to gaze at the skies to help us build a future that will not be earthbound.

Excerpt from "The Road to Baikonur" (2006) by Anousheh Ansari

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#PoetsForScience

Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



The Poets For Science Collection

Curated by Jane Hirshfield

Visit Science.TravelingStanzas.com

Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

Visit MarchForScience.com

Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

Anousheh Ansari

Co-Founder and CEO of Prodea Systems, the first female civilian astronaut, international Space Ambassador, serial entrepreneur and philanthropist.

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