

UN BAMBINO

By Teresa Staiano

The following poem won first prize in the Italian Original Poetry Competition sponsored by the **Dante Alighieri Society**.

Teresa Staiano, who is 19, was a sixth form student when she wrote the poem in 1979. She is currently studying Arts at Sydney University. She and her family arrived in Australia from Naples, Italy in 1976.

Dedication:

This poem is dedicated to the International Year of the Child. The theme which is enclosed in these verses is one of love, of the desire for peace, and for affection. As these rights are not denied to man, they cannot be denied to a child. The actual relationship, in fact, between a child and his mother should be a reciprocal one. The poem tries to establish for the mother a stand which she can take accordingly in order for her to have a balanced emotional relationship with the child. This reciprocal understanding will ultimately be beneficial for both the mother and the child.

*Teresa Staiano
December, 1979.*

UN BAMBINO

*Ecco d'improvviso qualcosa ti sorride.
Un bambino.
Et un sorriso freddo, colmo di pianto,
di tristezza
di sgomento.*

*Tu come madre delusa sei,
paiche' le tue grida e il tuo affetto un piccolo euoricino
hanno spezzato.
Pian piano t'accorgi d'aver shagliato,
d'aver mancato
d'aver troppo inptilmente amato.
Insomma, niente hai fatto.*

*D'un tratto dall'angolo della linda cameretta lo vedi,
e ti chiedi se ti fa pena,
ma dimmi lo sai?
E' un bambino, un bambino grande
che sonravvive da solo
E giace la' avvolto dal tuo egoismo.*

*Escludere un bambino e' un atto di vilta'.
Esso non chiede altro che dare non rubare.
Se l'amore e' una speranza per tutti gli uomini,
per un bambino e' una necessita assoluta.
Se la pace e' costantemente desiderata,
per un bambino diventa primo diritto,
L'attenzione, l'affetto e la comprensione sono diritti, non mancanze.*

E tu madre lo sai.



Translation:

A CHILD

*Suddenly something smiles at you.
A child.
The smile itself is cold, full of tears.
of sadness
of fright.*

*You, mother, disappointed are,
since your screaming and your affection a little heart
have broken.*

*Slowly you have realized of being wrong,
unsuccessful
and uselessly you have given too much love.
In fact little have you done.*

*From the far corner of the tidy room
you see him,
and you ask yourself if you pity him,
but are you aware of him?*

*It is a child, a grown child
who survives on his own.
And lies there surrounded by your egoism.*

*To exclude a child is an act of cruelty.
In fact he only gives, but doesn't take.*

*If love is hope for every man,
for a child is an absolute necessity.
If peace is constantly desired,
for a child it becomes first right.
Affection, devotion, and understanding
are basic needs in life.*

And you mother know it.