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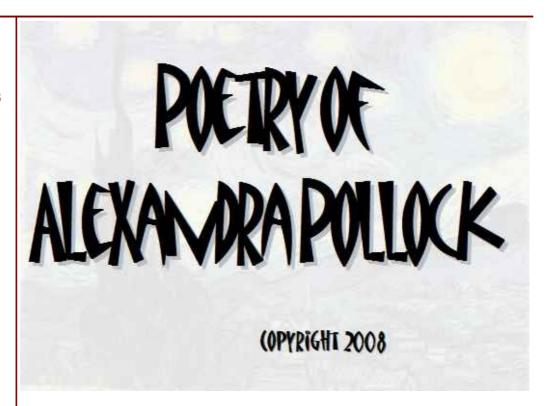
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## A lone flower

A three million year old a musical instrument was found in Iran.
The hand which taught its soul to sing long gone;
a lone flower now blooms in its place...

## Kuwait 1986 – Magic City--Echoes from the Past

Far from the soft green land that once had been an Eden where the wadi now runs dry, across the desert sands I flew.
I saw tall metal skeletons.
Like soldiers in a never ending line on long thin legs they seemed to march in giant steps.
They - and the power-lines they carried - a symbol of our hard material age..

Across the desert sands I flew and saw the lights of a phantom city on your distant shore drawing the blood of Mammon
Black liquid gold from deep below the sand - blood of the fire that was soon to flood your land.

Magic lights at night I saw on the distant shore when on weekends alive and happy we raced along the highway after swimming in the clear warm waters of the Arabian sea.

I called it the city of 2001 but it was a chimera a Fata Morgana of iron and steel. A thousand years hence where will it be?

A thousand years? -Less than 3 years it was before giant black tanks raged across the desert less than 3 years it was before the blood of fire - black oil from the bowels of the earth, touched by the evil hand of man - exploded and infernal fires raged across the desert sands.

Unleashed by wrath and greed this black thick mass - life blood of the earth and fire, spread across the surface of sea and choked all life within it.

## A Paper Doll

A paper doll was found floating in the fountain. The path below the fountain receded, blending into the deep green all around, a fine line fading in the distance... the line dividing past from present, death from life.

She leant forward slightly as if weightless and let herself fall. Deep water: embrace it! Back into the sea, back into space before time, back to the source of life - to die.

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Originally from Austria, **Alexandra Pollock** lived in Australia for 15 years then came to Canada in 1963. In 1982 she graduated from Concordia University in Montreal with a BA in TESL and an MA in Special Programs in Education. I subsequently taught English in the adult education program both at McGill University and for the Montreal school board, as well as doing some part-time translation (German-English). In 1985 I took a teaching job at Kuwait University. Following the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 I returned to the Gulf and taught English at Bahrain University for the next 4 years.