

# Banquet in the Garden

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# Part 1: Fellowship

## **Hello**

Hello, beloved white dove.

I am thankful to receive an invite to the banquet.

I cannot wait to fellowship with you at this banquet.

As creation surrounds us, I look forward to being embraced by your love.

I was overlooked by my peers and every conversation stopped after one hello.

When you saw me cry in my sleep, your heart was moved with compassion.

Later, you came into my room and gave me the invitation.

I accepted the invitation to the banquet and we began to say more than hello.

**Quality Time**

My quality time  
With you is like a mango tree  
That produces fruit.

### **Unity**

We are at the table together.

Nothing can divide our unity.

His blood shed for me to cleanse me of my iniquity.

He died and rose from the dead in order for me to be united with you forever.

Because I am united with you, I am united with His family forever.

Since the family of faith has the same blood, we will be in harmony with you for eternity.

When I turned away from darkness, you brought me into His marvelous light and divinity.

As we are united, many who turn away from wickedness will be united with you forever.

**Priceless**

Despite the money,  
You love me and it has no  
Price tag forever.

**Close Contact**

You are so close to me.  
Sometimes, I felt I had no one to share my joy or sufferings.  
You are near and surround every fiber of my being.  
Right now, you are beside me.

Your close proximity amazes me.  
I am amazed you chose to spend time with me in celebrations and sufferings.  
I am aware of your loving presence in everything and my physical being.  
You are so close to me.

**Fresh**

As the clean water  
Flows, your love refreshes my  
Broken heart right now.

**Thankful**

I am thankful because of you.

I am grateful you see me when people overlook me.

My heart is filled with thankfulness because you love me.

You died for me that I can be free from the lies and be filled with your truth.

I am thankful you protected me as a man escaped alive from the lion's den.

I am thankful you embrace me despite my brokenness.

I am thankful you redeemed me from the hours of hopelessness.

I am thankful you invited me to the banquet in the garden.



**Sharing**

At the table, we  
Share tears and food  
From the tree of life.

### **Encouragement**

When we ate dinner, you saw my discouraged countenance.  
You asked me, "what is wrong?"  
I replied, "I am discouraged because I do not know where I belong."  
You embraced me with your loving presence.

When you encouraged me, the thoughts of discouragement faded away.  
You lifted my eyes to the heavens when you spoke to me.  
The fearful thoughts that weighed me down lifted off of me.  
You will encourage me for the rest of my days.

**Let's Talk Again**

I enjoy talking  
With you today. Let us talk  
Again and again.



## Part 2: Banquet Food

**Khichdi**

I had khichdi and  
It was delicious, delicious,  
And a perfect choice.

### **Chicken Makhani**

The chicken makhani had a rich taste.  
The chicken was flavorful.  
The color contrast of the cilantro and sauce looked wonderful.  
While I was eating, there was no haste.

I could taste the lemon and garlic from the paste.  
My inner being was grateful.  
After I finished, I was thankful.  
The chicken makhani did not go to waste.

**Delicious Naan**

At the banquet, I  
Eat the buttery naan and  
It was delicious.



### **Colorful Basmati Rice**

At the banquet, I enjoyed the basmati rice.

The rice looked delicious.

The rice was colorful and tasted nutritious.

The cooked lamb tasted great with the basmati rice.

The basmati rice was really good and without a price.

While I ate dinner with him, the basmati rice was fastidious.

The rice was greatly pleasing and scrumptious.

The basmati rice experience was very nice.

**Samosas**

From the outside, they  
Are golden. When I ate one,  
My tongue was dancing.

### **The Chutney**

At the table, I see the chutney.  
There are many flavors and I cannot make a decision.  
Every flavor of chutney has a colorful presentation.  
Several moments later, I get small bowls of mango and tamarind chutney.

I enjoy the taste of mango chutney.  
The tamarind chutney and the chicken pakora pair with perfection.  
During dinner, the chutney is an excellent addition.  
Of the two flavors, I really like the mango chutney.

**Lamb Tikka Masala**

When I ate the lamb,  
My soul, body, and mind were  
Completely nourished.

### **Chicken Pakora**

My eyes keep looking at the chicken pakora.  
At this point, I have enjoyed delicious food.  
Every food item is really good.  
If I can brag about a food item, it would be chicken pakora.

The chicken pakora has a savory aroma.  
The chicken pakora reminds me of fried chicken from my childhood.  
The chicken pakora was tasty and very good.  
I really enjoy the chicken pakora.

**Panipuri**

The panipuri  
Melts in my mouth as the cheese  
Melts on the hot food.

### **Kaju Barfi**

Dinner with him makes me happy.  
After dinner, there is one food item left to partake in.  
I cannot wait for dessert time from within.  
At the table, I see kaju barfi.

When I eat barfi, it melts in my mouth happily.  
The cashews are tasty from within.  
When I eat barfi, I see powdered sugar on my skin.  
The conversations with him continue as I eat the barfi.





## Part 3: Intimacy

### **Relationship**

I was hopeless and alone.  
You visited me in my room.  
My broken heart was like shattered bones.  
Your love embraced me in the room.

You left the room and I followed you.  
I wanted to know more about your love.  
I wanted to go and be with you.  
I was desperate for unconditional love.

We arrived at the garden.  
You invited me for more than friendship.  
I accepted your invitation at the garden.  
Anxious thoughts left after I began this relationship.

Your endless love is the reason why I am rejoicing.  
My relationship with you has been amazing.

**More than Knowledge**

Talking with you is  
More than knowledge. Friendship with  
You will heal my heart.

### **Draw Near**

I come to the table and I see you.  
Your peaceful presence captures my attention.  
I hear people say you are faithful and true.  
I draw near to you for a deeper revelation.

When you speak life, I listen to your every word.  
I leave the dark and draw near to the light.  
When I enter into the light of your presence, you speak more passionately than I ever heard.  
You remind me of your sacrifice and resurrection as your face shines bright.

As I draw near to you, I leave the deadly broad road.  
I was on a path where I was calling for hope among the dead.  
You lead me on the narrow road.  
I call on you for eternal hope instead.

You draw near to me as I draw near to your presence.  
My eyes will never stop looking at you in all its brilliance.

**Your First Love**

I am your first love.  
You died for all people and  
Came out of that grave.

### **Thank You**

I am thankful for you.  
When I was in my room alone, you came to me.  
When you invited me to the banquet, I followed you.  
When I came to the table, you embraced me.

I am thankful that you invited me to the table.  
I am glad for this opportunity to love you more than my own life.  
When everything around me crumbles, your peace keeps me stable.  
As I receive your living truth, I do not spread strife.

I am thankful many people will receive the invitation like myself.  
I rejoice your sacrifice and resurrection is perfect work for our redemption.  
I am glad you picked me up as a book was selected from an abandoned bookshelf.  
I am thankful for your victory as I overcome every temptation.

I am thankful your living water satisfies my thirst.  
I am thankful you loved me before I loved you first.

**Deeper Trust**

Whenever I talk  
With you, I start to have  
Deeper trust in you.

### **Reverence**

I see you are powerful.  
Your majestic presence is amazing.  
You are beautiful.  
Because of your power, my soul will sing.

I remember when you invited me to the table.  
I highly respect and honor you.  
I trust you because you keep my soul stable.  
With all my heart, I want to serve you in truth.

You protect me because I honor your commandments.  
I left the dark side and denied my selfish ways.  
I respect you as I obey your commandments.  
I honor you for my good every day.

My heart looks at you with reverence.  
My eyes are focused on your presence.



**Unconditional Love**

Unconditional  
Love will lead me to Yeshua  
With no conditions.

### **Fully Devoted**

Before I went to the table, I was in my room.  
I was filled with loneliness and doubt.  
I was amazed when you came into the room.  
I wanted to know more about you without a doubt.

I followed you to the garden.  
I see a chair reserved with my name.  
We eat and have fellowship with one another at the garden.  
When I am with you, I feel no shame.

The more I hear you speak, I begin to be fully devoted to you.  
I want to be committed to this friendship.  
My thoughts are filled with your word of truth.  
You will always be worthy of my worship.

When I forget to come to the table, you remain faithful.  
As I stay close to you, I see you are beautiful.

**True Fulfillment**

True fulfillment in  
You will lead me to a place  
Of no compromise.



## Part 4: Protection

### **My Present Help**

I was in trouble.  
I was drowning in my tears.  
You became my present help in trouble.

You saw me when I slept in tears.  
I run to you in my time of need.  
Because of you, I have nothing to fear.

You are always ready to help me.  
My soul has peace in your presence.  
In my distress, you reveal your love to me.

You help me when circumstances are intense.  
You support me when I feel miserable.  
You give me clarity when life doesn't make sense.

When you help me, the mountains tremble.  
You will help me because your works are exalted.

**Strong Refuge**

In every crisis,  
You are mighty and my strong  
Refuge forever.

**Defender**

Lack of defense  
I felt defenseless  
Lost confidence

Defenseless  
I searched for protection  
Hopeless

The source of protection  
Defender  
Protection

You are my defender.  
Safety  
Strong tower

Your defense is mighty.  
You will defend me when my enemies bring calamity.



**My Keeper**

When I felt alone,  
You have kept me and guarded  
Me from early death.

### **True Promise**

Fear surrounded me.  
I doubted your protection.  
I was afraid of what men did to me.

You promise protection.  
I began to trust you when my soul was in the mire.  
I began to have confidence in your protection.

You protect me when I walk through the fire.  
Fear was crushed when I was embraced by your love.  
Your promise of protection is true and every man is a liar.

When I belong to you, nothing can separate me from your love.  
The more I know you, I learn you will protect me from the enemies of my soul.  
Nothing on or beneath the earth can snatch me from your arms of love.

Your peace will protect my heart, mind and soul.  
Your divine protection is a promise that will captivate every soul.

**Physical Protection**

In your presence, there  
Is physical protection  
That no one can give.

### **Safeguard**

I was deceived by the father of lies.  
I sought guidance from the stars and symbols.  
More than five years later, I encountered the Creator of the earth and skies.

You saw the horrible condition of my soul.  
You died and conquered death for me to be with you.  
I rejected the broad way of deception and let you have my soul.

I am comforted when I learn more about you.  
Your word became my safeguard.  
The lies I believed were replaced with your truth.

Your words protect my heart and mind when life gets hard.  
Your word helps me to be vigilant.  
Your word is my safeguard.

When I knew about the motives of the enemy, I was not ignorant.  
Your word will be my safeguard and constant.

**My Hiding Place**

In the garden, I  
Discover you have become  
My hiding place now.

**My Shelter**

You are my hiding place.

My refuge

Safe place

Enemies seem huge.

You are mighty.

Refuge

You are my place of safety.

My trust

True safety

My face lifts up from the dust.

Forever

My trust

You are always my shelter.

Now and forever

**Protective Power**

In your presence, you  
Are mighty to protect me  
From the enemy.





## Part 5: Nature

**Delicate Flowers**

Delicate flowers  
Temporary troubles are  
Delicate flowers.

### **Tall Trees**

On the path, I see  
Tall trees on each side of me.  
Brown branches with leaves

All the leaves are green.  
I walk to the garden with  
Eternal life in me.

The same Creator  
Who created the tall trees  
Gives us liberty.

He gives us breath and  
The ability to grow  
As tribe of tall trees

The tall trees will point us to  
The tree of eternal life.

**Green Grass**

On the narrow path,  
I see green grass on both sides  
They are full of life.

**Fresh Air**

I breathe in fresh air.  
I walk to the banquet and  
Breathe the fresh air.

As I walk, I breathe  
In your goodness because you  
Are so good to me.

Fresh air comes from you  
Who is good and fills fresh air  
In my fragile lungs.

I breathe fresh air and  
I remind myself that you  
Only give me life.

When I breathe in the fresh air,  
I walk and encounter you.

**Living Water**

My soul thirsts for you.  
I believe in you and see  
Living water now.

**Cloud by Day**

On my walk, I see  
A dark cloud appears during  
The daytime hours.

In the dark cloud, I  
Experience your presence  
With power and love.

On the walking path,  
I receive your guidance and  
Divine protection.

You do not leave me  
Or abandon me as the  
Pain of dark nights.

Many eyes will not be blind  
Because they receive guidance.

**Path of Stones**

On the narrow road,  
I see the path of stones and  
I walk without fear.



**Evening Bonfire**

The sun goes down and  
The sky becomes dark for the  
Evening bonfire.

With your hands, you made  
A bonfire with many  
Thick sticks together.

I see the sticks burn  
And the white ashes travel  
With the evening wind.

The bonfire burns.  
I look at your eyes and see they  
Are flames of fire.

My beloved, I delight  
In our time spent together.

**Wildlife Wonder**

All of creation  
You made all things wonderful.  
Wildlife wonder

**Beautiful Sight**

A beautiful sight  
Of your creation is in  
Front of my eyes now.

It is wonderful  
You reveal your power  
In front of me right now.

It is glorious  
To see the mountains of fear  
Crumble before me.

I see the dove that  
Is sent as a sign to me  
You are here with me.

It is a beautiful sight  
To be raised to a new life.



## Part 6: Death of Hopelessness

### **Hopeless Feelings Died**

The hopeless feelings  
They were invading my mind.  
My heart was hopeless.

I was found by you.  
You transformed my mind with truth.  
Your truth set me free.

You give me freedom.  
Hopeless feelings become dust.  
They leave my mind now.

Today, I have hope.  
Your life giving words speaks truth.  
Hopeless feelings died.

Your words replace hopeless lies.  
In your love, my soul will rise.

**My Rescue**

I was in trouble.  
One day, you came to help me.  
You are my rescue.

### **Uplifting Soul**

My soul needs your strength.  
When you speak, I have comfort.  
Your words uplift me.

You are close to me.  
You deliver me from fear.  
Right now, you are near.

I give you my pain.  
Each day, I call out your name.  
You encourage me.

My strength comes from you.  
I give you my stress each day.  
Strengthen me each day.

You are strong to strengthen me.  
You will always uplift me.



**Eternal Joy**

My eternal joy  
The hopeless tears become joy.  
My eternal joy

**New Creation**

Old things fade away.  
You make me new every day.  
The old life is dead.

I lived for myself.  
I look outward past myself.  
You sanctify me.

In you, I am free.  
Sin has no power in me.  
New life in me begins.

My soul is made new.  
Old life is nailed to the cross.  
Old sin is a loss.

My heart is made new by your truth.  
Through you, my spirit is made new.

**My Salvation**

My salvation  
You are the source of my hope.  
You are my Savior.

### **Renewed Thoughts**

I had hopeless thoughts.  
The problems of life grew worse.  
My mind was broken.

I thought hope was lost.  
My thoughts were focused on lies.  
These lies shared no hope.

Your words revive me.  
You renew my thoughts at dinner.  
Your truth renews me.

I destroyed the lies.  
I am not conformed by lies.  
This is renewal.

I see his good purposes.  
My mind is renewed daily.

**New Heart**

My heart was hopeless.  
Later, I gave you my heart.  
My heart became new.

**Not Dismayed**

I was discouraged.  
The trials of life increased.  
I became dismayed.

My heart was heavy.  
My face was covered with tears.  
I was filled with fear.

One day, you found me.  
Your words strengthened my whole heart.  
You give me courage.

I am not afraid.  
Your presence gives me courage.  
Each day, you help me.

With you, I am encouraged.  
You encourage me each day.

**A Bright Future**

A bright future comes.  
The past painful days will fade.  
A bright future comes.





## Part 7: Resurrection of Communion

**Reunion**

No more division  
We are reunited now.  
A great reunion

**Eternal Peace**

Do not be anxious.  
The Prince of Peace is with us.  
He is near to us.

Life is filled with worries.  
His peace replaced these worries.  
We have no worries.

Do not be afraid.  
His eternal peace does not fade.  
We are not afraid.

He gives us his peace.  
The inner chaos will cease.  
We will receive peace.

Eternal peace is here now.  
We will receive his peace now.

**Fully Known**

I am not ignored.  
You see and care about me.  
I am fully known.

### **Incomparable Friendship**

Our friendship began  
When I was in my bedroom.  
You saw my sad face.

You saw me in tears.  
People loved yet betrayed me.  
I was left alone.

Your love embraced me.  
“I want to be your friend now.”  
Your words touched my heart.

I received your love.  
Later, I became your friend.  
Incomparable

Our friendship is beyond bliss.  
No greater friendship than this.

**Our Conversation**

Our conversation  
When we talk, your love fills me.  
Can we talk again?

**Sweet Communion**

I was distracted.  
I had these wandering thoughts.  
I lost my focus.

I lost my purpose.  
I felt so ineffective.  
My face had tear stains.

I will run to you.  
I shut myself in my room.  
I long for you now.

You are my delight.  
I want to spend time with you.  
A sweet communion

I enjoy talking with you.  
May my words please you alone.

**There Is Room**

I am here with you.  
I see an open seat for me.  
There is room for me.



### **Breaking of Bread**

We are here again.  
I cannot wait to eat with you.  
Time to break the bread.

This is a shared meal.  
You break the bread and share it.  
I received the bread.

You called the bread,  
“My broken body is for you.”  
This is unity.

When we break the bread,  
I will always remember  
I can grow and live.

I live because your body  
Was so broken on the cross.

**Same Cup**

I look at the cup.  
This is the communion cup.  
We share the same cup.

**A Meal with You**

Before I met you,  
I was eating by myself.  
I felt so lonely.

This night changed my life.  
One night, I was in my room.  
You knocked on the door.

You asked to come in.  
I opened the door for you.  
You came in and ate.

I saw a table.  
I saw a table with food.  
We ate together.

I enjoy eating with you.  
A meal with you gives me joy.



## Part 8: Invitations

### **Send Invitations**

The table is set.  
I have made a decision.  
My mind is reset.

The invites are made.  
I have no reason to fear.  
It is time to invite.

No time to waste now.  
He will come back anytime.  
Time is fleeting now.

No more distractions.  
We must invite everyone.  
Send invitations.

Time to send invitations.  
Let us invite all people.

**Mom and Dad**

You are invited.  
Mom and dad, please come with me.  
Come and eat with him.

**My Extended Family**

We have the invites.  
Let us invite families.  
Every family

Let us invite aunts.  
We can invite our cousins.  
Do not forget them.

We can invite more.  
We can invite our uncles.  
There are more people.

There is room for all.  
Let us invite grandparents.  
Let us invite all.

Nieces and nephews, please come.  
Come and be at the table.



**My Neighbors**

Come to the table.  
I invite all my neighbors.  
You are invited.

### **My Village**

Time to share the news.  
Let us walk to my village.  
Time to send invites.

He suffered for them.  
Each person in each village  
This is the good news.

He rose from the dead.  
He received the wrath of God  
For every village.

He paid a high cost.  
With his blood, he purchased us.  
He gives us freedom.

Come to the banquet, village.  
Choose the narrow or broad path.

**Far and Distant**

Come to the banquet.  
I invite everyone who  
Lives far and distant.

**Written with Love**

I write the invites.  
Each one is addressed to all.  
You are invited.

It states, "Come with me.  
Come and eat at the banquet.  
Bring all your burdens.

Bring all your concerns.  
Come and your soul will find rest.  
You will find true peace.

Come and meet him now.  
Meet the one who died for you.  
He invites you now.

Accept the invite today.  
Written with love, true witness."

**Endless Invites**

We must invite more.  
Endless invites will be sent  
From door to door now.

**Will People Come?**

I sent the invites.  
I asked myself this question.  
Will everyone come?

Will my sister come?  
Will my aunts and uncles come?  
Will my grandma come?

Will my neighbors come?  
Will my teacher and friends come?  
Will my cousins come?

Will my grandpa come?  
Will my nieces and nephews come?  
Will anyone come?

I will keep sending invites.  
The banquet will begin soon.

**Invitation to All**

I invite you all.  
Come and enjoy the banquet.  
You are invited.





### **About the Author**

While Sonia-Rose was completing her undergraduate studies at The University of Valley Forge, she shared spoken word poetry at multiple youth events. After she graduated in 2018, she published more poetry on Instagram and Writco (a global community mobile app for poets and writers). Sonia-Rose lives in Chicago, Illinois. Her hobbies are creating art and exploring downtown Chicago. Her passionate writing started in 2014 and until today has become a well-known writer.

