



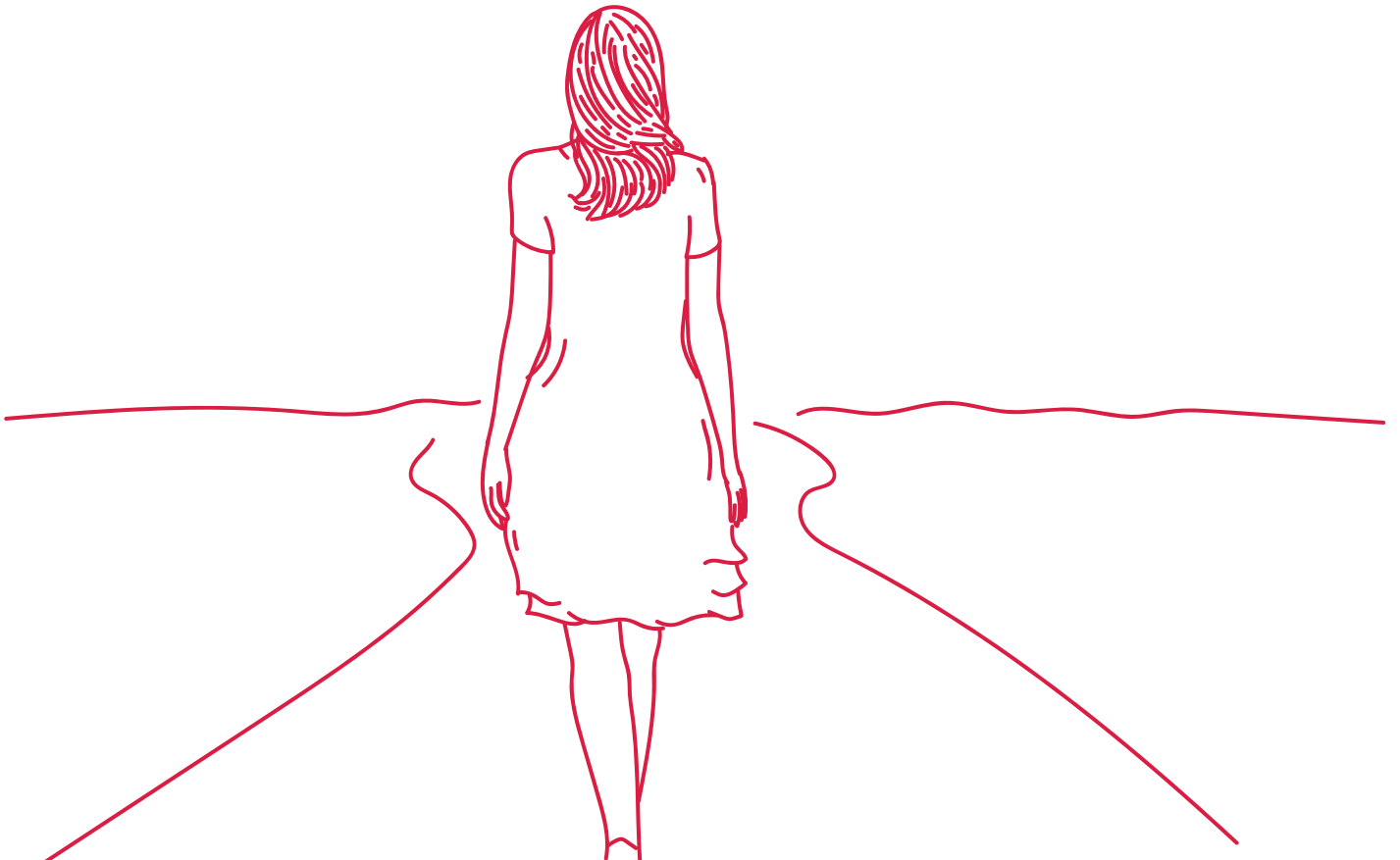
She

Vasanthi Vasudev

Love! You have sunk into treacherous deeps
Gone, as the summer months, parched and dry.

Life! You appear bleak and bitterly dull
As a landscape is in winter months

Hope! There is none of a forthcoming spring
To carpet my heart with flowers of love.



She! Was as familiar as the muddy earth
As close as petal is to the stalk.

She! Dearer is than all the treasures of life
My only solace but, all my joy.

Bliss! T'was to hold her in rapturous embrace
Behold her angelique face in dwindling twilight!

Gone! Are the days of our clandestine rendezvous
Behind many a hedge, tree or a wall!

Forgotten! Are the promises of eternal love
The silent stories our eyes have told.

Vanished! With her have the joys of life
My hope, aspiration, the very desire to live.

Repelling! Is the vacuum of life, minus she
The ugly solemnity of hapless solitude!

Forsaken! Am I for the pleasures of life
For the riches and joys of a shallow existence!

Look! Weak, hopeless, utterly helpless
Like the sorrow struck, storm rent earth, am I!



Where, my love, have you silently fled?

Where are you gone, tell me, I pray.

Where among the ocean of life are you?
Which man's arms now hold you captive?

Verses
BY VASANTHI