



# The Vanquished Kite

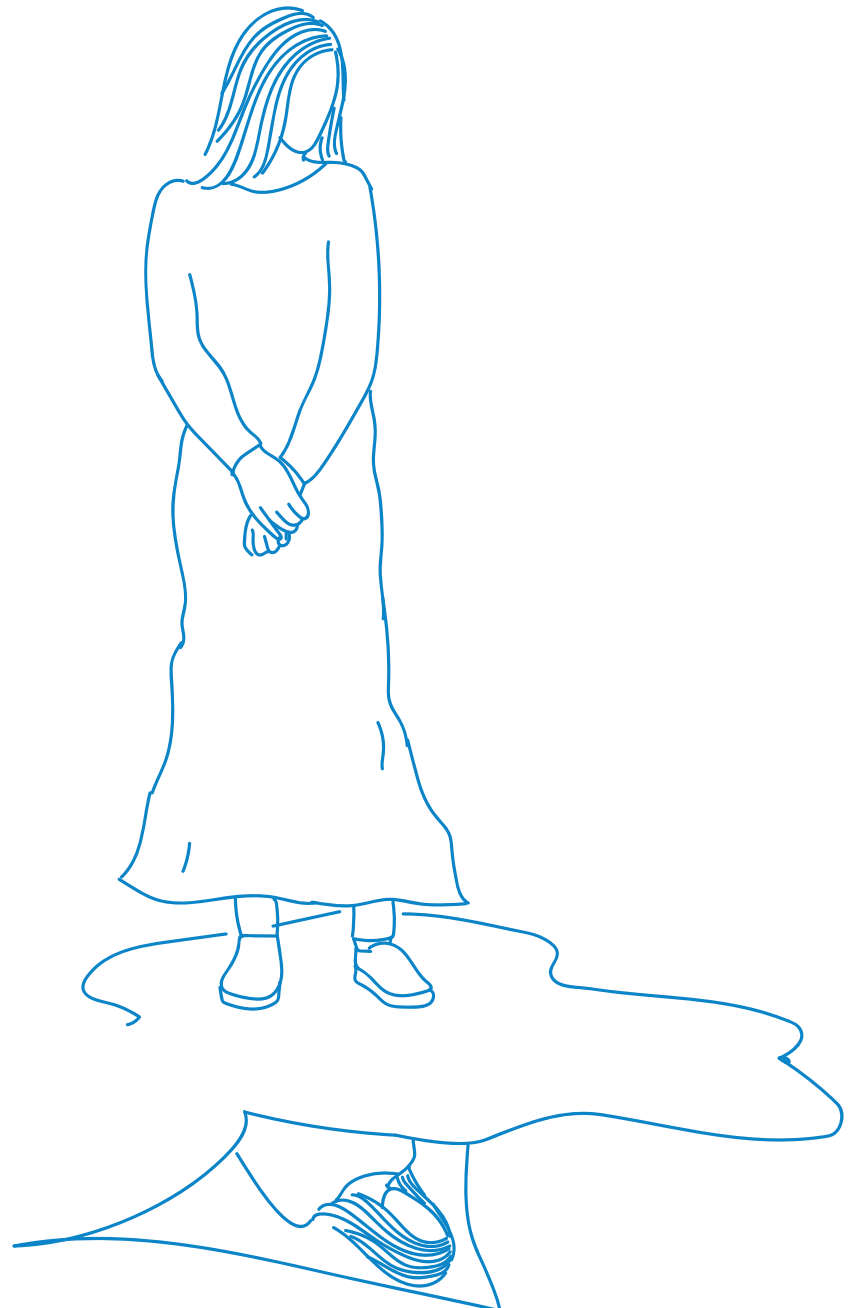
*Vasanthi Vasudev*

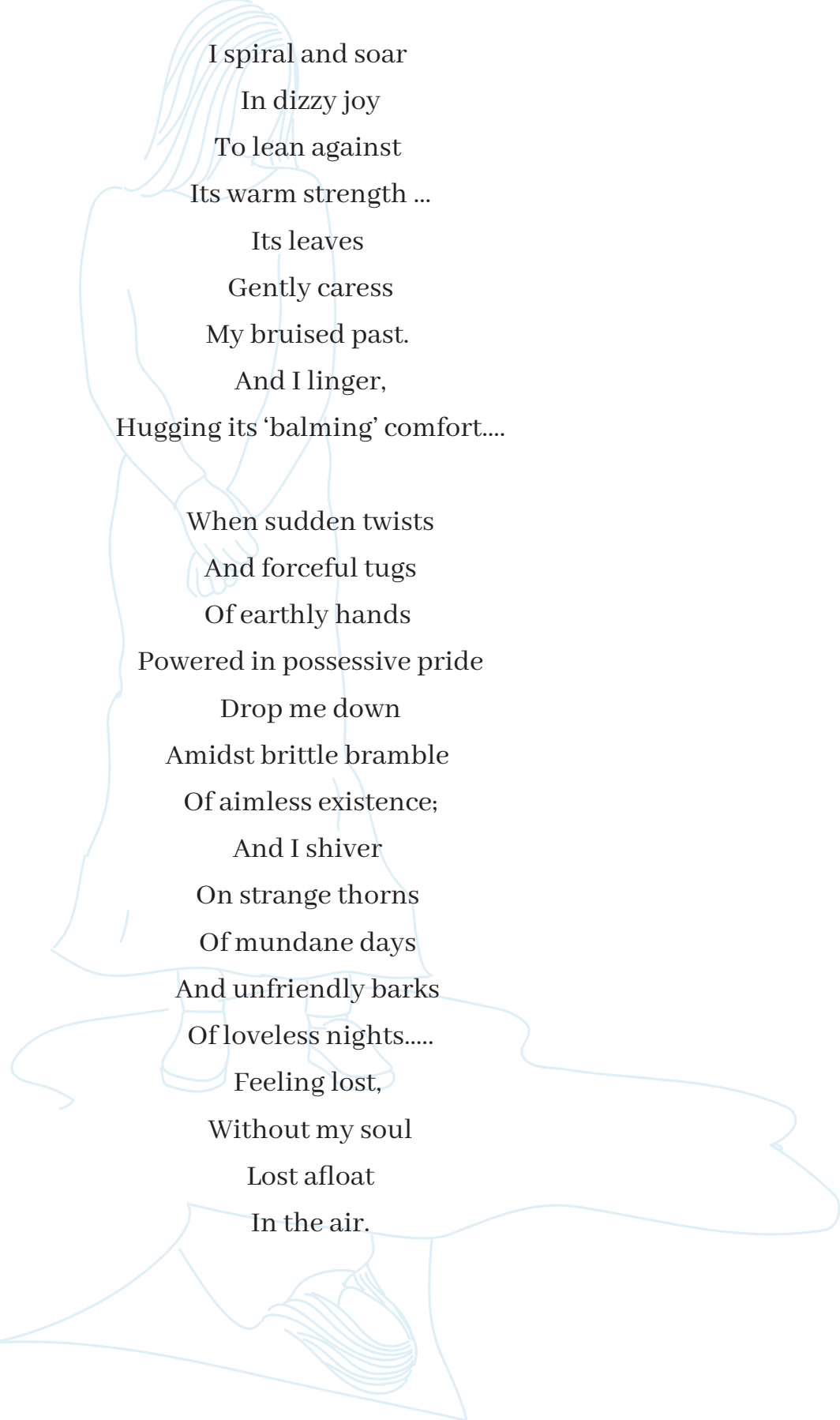
I feel like  
A kaleidoscopic paper diamond  
Fluttering helplessly  
On its central reed.

Weak and battered  
Tattered and 'pin- holed'  
By piercing winds  
Of life's saga....

Yet,  
Braving past  
Beaten paths  
That encircle and cage,  
Carrying leaping dreams  
And buoyant hopes,  
I frisk and fly  
Above, alone.

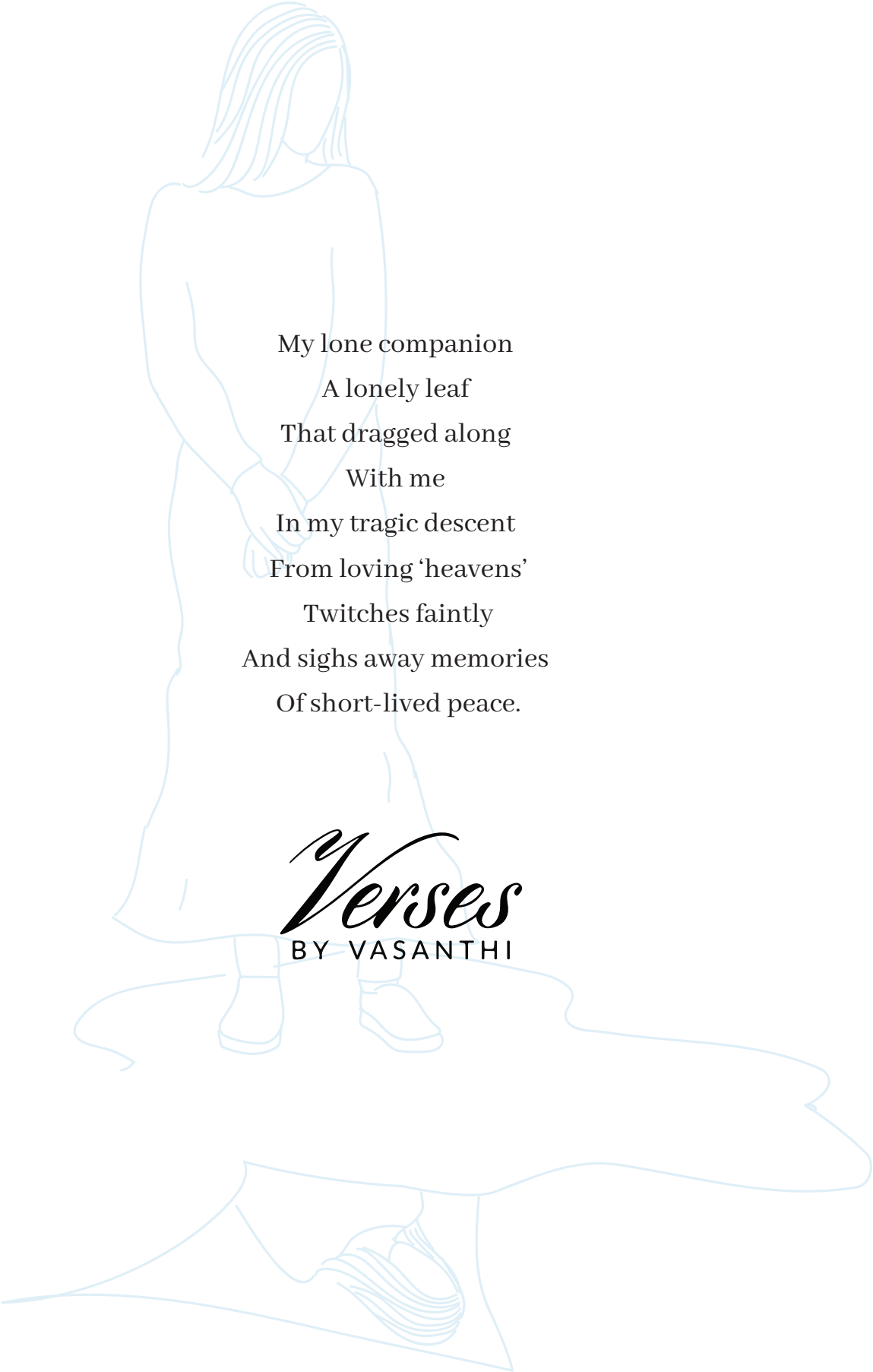
When sudden, I see  
A lofty tree  
Swinging soothing arms  
Beckoning me.





I spiral and soar  
In dizzy joy  
To lean against  
Its warm strength ...  
Its leaves  
Gently caress  
My bruised past.  
And I linger,  
Hugging its 'balming' comfort....

When sudden twists  
And forceful tugs  
Of earthly hands  
Powered in possessive pride  
Drop me down  
Amidst brittle bramble  
Of aimless existence;  
And I shiver  
On strange thorns  
Of mundane days  
And unfriendly barks  
Of loveless nights.....  
Feeling lost,  
Without my soul  
Lost afloat  
In the air.



My lone companion  
A lonely leaf  
That dragged along  
With me  
In my tragic descent  
From loving 'heavens'  
Twitches faintly  
And sighs away memories  
Of short-lived peace.

*Verses*  
BY VASANTHI