

## AHMAD

By Maryam Rahim

Little kitten, eyes twinkling with mischief, he likes to paw my face  
And as an insatiable player, I become his wool ball  
Sometimes to re-assure himself of my protection, he coils up to me  
In search of warmth and gentleness

When he smiles at me, his face lightens up  
And his cheeks lift up as the sunrise  
His tiny nose wrinkles up to the rhythm of his innumerable chuckles  
Ringing in my ears like ripples in the water.

In an instant, a cascade of laughter can cleave through him  
And reveal sparkling white pearls.  
Curious as anything, he explores the room to its every nook  
Searching for formidable treasures.

His big eyes, seeking my attention,  
Can never let me read  
Without passing over my shoulder  
To decipher my readings.

Little brother, your arrival has made of me a better person  
And pushes me to be more affectionate to others  
Even though the world we live in is tough  
Know that my arms will forever be wide open for you.