the Jack of Poets open microphone

The Jack of Poets dealt
with the art of voices feeding

you at the end _____
of all moments that die

To guard hunger's right
to speak free
of truths starving
A recipe
to
savor the heart of time

" The air of soup gives "
as the winds of words carry

And they came, one by one,
to this word of mouth feast

Each came to add to
the soup's endless giving

Amongst them were those
with end-of-the-world ears,
questions on madness,
on what peace of mind is,
for sounds of hope birthing,
and the soul of words resting

deep inside the life of inspiring alive

And so came the contributors
with the gift of precious listening

Not hungry to share
Just happy to donate
No need
for a portion of speaking one's poetry,

others to read,
saying:

" I'm hungry enough
to be here my will,

eating my own words
to stay the crest
of my death's resting
here upon this stage,

to crave what reveals
my mind to myself
for you,
and for me,
and for the blank page

awaiting what is empty

Admitting my donation here
is more than my presence,
less than my pride,
and beyond my self-importance. "

As listeners surround our voices to hear
through the quiet mind of receiving

" I'd never think so much of my life position
--to believe that my life will . . .
--to believe my life will . . .
--to believe my life will
never know
such a hunger. "

Admiring " What courage!
To admit words in public! "

" . . . to know nothing
and the hand of the voice can
still feed you. "

As the Jack of Poets once said
" They are willing to be scared.

To give and receive
their love-exposed fears.

Alive for the sum of living
to nourish
the lone soul
of you,
and the soul of the planet we die on "

C.C. Arshagra

Arshagra is an autodidact raised in his grandfather Arshag's garden. Arshag, an Armenian genocide survivor, taught him profound attitudes of benevolence: no hate, no enemy, no blame and no vengeance. He spent many years in Boston and Cambridge – urban areas that nourish the voices of emerging poets and encourage free speech as a common language, free of social and cultural dichotomies. His journey of transcendence drew strength from the improvisational movement and healing arts, and constantly renews itself with profound commitment to indivisible love. In more recent years, his writing has been complemented by work on websites that serve free speech and humanitarian goals. Recognized as one of the most dedicated poets on the open microphone circuit, C.C. Arshagra received a Boston award for participating in the most open mikes in 2000. He is the author of Emotional Geography, Poems, Scared Sacred, Death of an Ego, What Manner of Character, and without returning to publishing he has not stopped writing for 20 years, including lyrics, YA and works for children. He founded the poetry art band Funk Physics, and is a veteran of both the improvisational movement arts and improvising live to jazz with the Jeff Robinson Trio with bassist Blake Newman, Ken Field's Board of Education and Michael Caglianone's Zen Bastards. His live improvisations include ID Poems, "inkless dialogue" work that exists in sound form only. He also has produced many radio and video shows for broadcast, including Stone Soup Poetry, The I Do Not Know Show and other eclectic A/V art projects. Most recently he has ventured to push the boundaries of free speech with a living work of art and a paradigm art project known as The Human Room Open Voice - THROV. Destine to be a social media platform design created to be a gift, in whole, to the participants who enter into it freely. The Arshagra walks the walk, speaks soul to soul and is humbled by life as an artist. His canvas of creativity is expansive and his favorite mantra is "Love is not afraid."