

POETIC RHYTHMIC: THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME

By

Emeka Efe Osaji

17 October 2020

**Teaching Fellow in Architectural Technology
School of Science, Engineering and Environment (SEE)
Maxwell Building, University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT, UK
Staff Email: e.e.osaji@salford.ac.uk
Private Email: e.osaji@hotmail.com**

Muhammad Ali told us all he was the greatest.
Sceptics thought he was the 'Louisville Lip' mouthiest.

He told us his opponents will lose in round six.
Sceptics thought he was just up to his usual tricks.

He told us his opponents will fall in round five.
Sceptics thought his opponents might survive and even thrive.

He told us "I am The Greatest".
Sceptics thought he must be the loudest, but not the bravest.

He serenaded us with his lyrical poetry.
He even dazzled us with his satirical oratory.

He 'floated like a butterfly' and seemed to 'fly in the sky'.
Critics wondered how such a heavyweight guy could 'gravity-defy'.

He danced using the 'Ali-Shuffle'.
People considered him colourful and graceful.

In the ring, he could 'sting like a bee'.
With his gimmick, he unlocked showmanship like a masterful key.

Critics might ask if he was really the greatest.
Sceptics might argue about him as the cockiest, brashiest, and flashiest.

He resisted the draft, although it cost him being champion.
He overcame the legal battle and became an inspiration.

He was the first heavyweight to win the championship three times.
He won his championships while demonstrating impressive rhymes.

He participated in the "The Rumble in the Jungle".
The "Rumble" made the great George Foreman tumble and humble.

Muhammad Ali participated in the “Thrilla in Manila”.
The “Thrilla” was where he ‘TKO’ed’ the great “Smokin’ Joe” Frazier.

Muhammad Ali had his share of losses and controversies.
However, he was a ‘Champion of the Masses and Good Social Causes’.

He helped others in the world overcome their challenges.
He was the ‘People’s Champion’ despite the burden of Parkinson’s.

“Ali shook up the world and the world is better for it”.
This was President Obama’s praise for Ali’s great grit and wit.

Muhammad Ali reminded everyone he was going to make comebacks.
In such moments, we had flashbacks of his great sporting landmarks.

He will be missed by friends, family and many.
He will be immortalised by those influenced and impressed by his legacy.

He was the recipient of many prestigious awards.
He was honoured many times as part of his well-deserved rewards.

He is the BBC’s “Sports Personality of the Century”.
He is arguably ‘The Greatest of All Time’ in sporting history.

Go on Ali; show the Almighty what you let us know early.
You made us aware that you were lippy, but you also had humility.

You were happy that God made you pretty.
You gave us plenty of boxing history that is legendary.