**An Ode to Toastmasters**

I was wandering aimlessly through the passage of time

Trying to figure out my place on this Earth Divine

Wherever I looked, searched and seeked

I found no real answers to justify my need.

I played the roles I was characterized to be

In this Earth School of Life as we call it, you see!

A daughter, a wife, a mother rolled into one

With Beautiful moments, memories and valuable lessons a ton!

However I would always question who am I?

Where DOES my strength lie?

Are we supporting characters in the pantomime of life or do we have individual purposes that we can selfishly claim as just being MINE!

My introspection deepened as life passed by

All these questions encompassed in my mind

I finally stumbled upon a platform that seemed so fine

Was this the answer to my concerns that I had from time to time??

Although my journey in Toastmasters is relatively new

A certain confidence exuberates out of the blue

Facing my fears in innovative ways through and through

Creativity, leadership, public speaking are all a part of it too.

So here's My Ode to Toastmasters, I humbly thank you

For the Community spirit that I am truly indebted to

Whilst not forgetting the supportive environment with additional mentorship too

A voice now heard, a personal stage to perform

I will surely showcase my latent talents

And help myself come out into my own!

By Ritoo Arora

Aurora Toastmasters