

Amin and Imaan Kasmadi

19th January 2005

Gone Too Soon

**Just for a moment
None too soon
O motherhood, how I felt
With my babies in my belly
Oh grow, my little ones,
Be healthy and be well.
With a promise I made
The Best Mother I'll make.**

**Then one day
Just as suddenly
Not wanting to be born
To feel life on Earth
Maybe you felt
You've no place in this world
The weeks you've graced me
with your presence
Flutter of heartbeats
None too real....**

**By the Grace of God,
I thank you
For the precious moments
I'd so honored to have,
Gone too soon....**

**I love you my children
Would you need me?
You are now in God's embrace
Be well, my darlings Amin and Imaan
Remember me
And wait for me,
For I'll come for you,
None too soon.....**

Poem by Nordiana Shariff

Nordiana writes:

My husband Kas and I got married in May 2000, and you could say that we tried to have babies immediately. Kas and I both are from a tremendously strong-knit family, and I realise more than ever now, how much of a pillar of strength & support they have been to us. We truly are blessed to also have a strong network of close friends to give us the encouragement we need.

Just to let you know a little bit about myself, well I did a lot of volunteering in my college days, especially when it involved children and the underprivileged. I did countless voluntary babysitting coz I really just enjoyed rolling around with the kids :) I have dozens of godchildren from friends and family. Everyone who knew me, said incessantly I'd be a terrific mum someday coz the kids just love me. Then, career called and then marriage came, and here I am, 15 years later.

My husband Kas and I were both so enthusiastic to start a family, and we saw our first gynae after only 6 months of marriage. A multitude of tests (both of us) and a few changes of doctors and hospitals later, we still couldn't get pregnant. My medical files had grown really bulky. I had PCOS but according to doctors nothing severe and was put on light medication. We tried so many suggestions from everybody, including TCM and accupuncture. No room for sceptics. I even resigned from my job to devote my time to conceive and receive treatments.

We went through 4 years of physical, emotional and monetary efforts and various assisted fertility conceptions including IUI and eventually in Aug of 2005, the notorious IVF with a fertility specialist. This was to be our final hope of becoming parents.

Barely 2 weeks later, we were heartbroken. The 3 embryos we implanted did not make it, for whatever reason. We had thought we had a good chance. We braced ourselves and mended our shattered hopes knowing fully-well before embarking on IVF, the low percentage of successful pregnancy. We, like many other childless couples, just had to pin our hopes on that tiny chance of a medical miracle. We had agreed to try just one cycle of IVF as that was just about how much we could afford. But things did not turn out the way we had hoped, and we both put up a brave front after the ordeal, but in actual fact we both felt very much crushed.

Live life to the fullest, so the saying goes. Just when we were on our feet, and I was thinking of re-starting my career - 4 months later in Dec'05 - somehow, by the grace of God, I was pregnant. We conceived NATURALLY. We only found out 7 weeks into the pregnancy, and with the first scan, there it was, a flutter of 2 heartbeats! My gynae was genuinely excited for us, but I personally had some reservations on being over jubilant. I had tears of joy and disbelief, but I really longed to feel my babies move inside of me to know that they were really, really there. That moment, and how I felt to be in all reality positively pregnant, was indescribable.

Too soon, I was into my 2nd trimester when I didn't feel right (a feeling; not physical...) and brought forward an appointment for the next scan. I just knew at that moment - when the doctor took a longer time than usual during the scan, and when she confirmed my worst fears. "...No heartbeat," she said - and that's when my soul died a little bit inside me.

I saw a different specialist for a second opinion that very day, and then another second 'second opinion' from another doctor. They confirmed that I had what seemed to be conjoined twins - one bigger than the other - which apparently caused one heart failure and the other to succumb similarly soon after. It was inevitable. I remember staring at the screen, seeing 2 separate but inanimate little spines in the grainy imagery. They would have been identical twins. I could not believe God gave us this gift and then promptly took it back.

We were adamant on retrieving our babies in best form for burial and we held formal funeral rites in accordance with our beliefs. We named our little babies AMIN & IMAAN. We cannot have them to hold and to love in our lifetime, but we know they're in God's hands and waiting for us on heaven's gate.

It has since been a year into what was supposed to be our babies' 1st birthday on Aug 22nd 2007. My husband and I rejoice in humility and faith that our darling angels have been, and always will be, ours for eternally.