Maternal Love

Saheer Lalani, MPH

Painfully she carried me in her womb
Stroked her belly to calming tunes

Hurting from irregular kicks and moves
She sensed my hunger for nourishing food

Worked the nights as pediatrician on-call
Making patient rounds up and down the hall

Attended to numerous neonatal emergencies
Her heart yearned to hold me with urgency

Kneeling down in prayer every day
Asked for a healthy baby on delivery day

Read numerous books on parenthood
Trying to understand and learn all she could

Whispering to her belly she talked to me
Nervous about her role of - ‘mother to be’

Impatient for the day of my arrival
She dreamed of taking me to kid’s carnival

Then abruptly she had to leave work
The labor pain caused her belly to jerk

Endured unbearable pain during childbirth
And with love she brought me into this earth

The physical process of giving birth
Forever sealed her motherly love