Poetry Series

Stella Sisanda Qishi - poems -

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Stella Sisanda Qishi(12-05-1986)

A Ballad

Every street is seething with impotent mobs
Scudding towards bushes and caves
Desperately searching for cover
As the angry barrels target each one of them,
Bullets singing the anthem of the day

Where vicious throngs reside, truncheons
Are too lenient to bring back law and order
As the steady sirens fall silent
Muted by land mines, suicide bombers and
Bullets singing the anthem of the day

The supposed leaders of tomorrow
Carry ak 47s following suit of their fathers
Whether it's self defence or barbarism
I cannot tell but all I hear are
Bullets singing the anthem of the day

Sun baked blood-stained avenues
Awake to angry growls of guns
Fired at humans like they're hunted animals
Felled like fruitless trees occupying wanted spaces by
Bullets singing the anthem of the day

A Bloody Questionnaire

where in your body is your heart located?
is it oval or block-shaped?
does it beat in regular intervals as you decide their fate?
how many will quench your persistant thirst?
tell me ever hungry beast,
do you dream of butterflies and roses at night?
do you dream at all?
have you ever wondered why you, why them?
were you conscripted or did you go at your own will?
what did they drug you with to lose all empathy?
do they applaud you for superbly executed missions?
will they remember you when you're no more?
i wonder.

how do you describe your job to your son?
do you tell him you left another man's child fatherless
and slept with the widow thereafter?
do you feel manly as you sing paeans
of victory at dusk, inebriated?
how exactly will ferocity bring about peace?
in your manual, is it fair killing an unarmed man?
and do you write home telling your significant other
how many you've wasted thus far?

i expect answers when you return from your bloody missions... if you ever will

A Daffodil

I did not choose my presence To be good enough today And be thrown in the desolate tomorrow. I did not choose this fragile structure To be intimidated by mere breezes Bending this way and that, involuntarily. I did not choose this outdoors lifestyle Being spanked by easterlies and branded by eternal rains. I did not choose to be overexposed To blistering suns and colds and howling gales Though poets find my struggle metaphoric. I did not choose to grow on man's footpaths And cry unheard under their feet Set here and there in a drunken blunder. I long for the day when I'd hear myself say 'I owe my success to my travails' But that day seems to be brushing against my skin, Sliding away despite my impotent attempts. I only dream of leaning against a window pane And view the city lights at night, Of course that's ordinary to you But to me it's a fantasy For my height or lack of it Forbids me from seeing over distant roofs The heave of the maddened waves And the magnificent sunset.

A Feather In A Cyclone

It is hurled up to slate-coloured skies,
Twirled in buoyancies unreachable to man,
Passed on from droplet to droplet and back
Almost like a pendulum
Taking heavy clouts from a rasp cloudburst.

Sodden.

Battered.

Torpid.

Emasculate.

Plummeted to heavily-barked trees
And lie supine under leaves saturated by persistent rains
Taking hurried breaths,
Keeping its spinning head in place.
And as solace begins to settle in

The twister comes again and scoops it up and up and up.

A Friend Called Jesus

I was chained
I was choking
I was chided
In my past
For my past
By my past

I had no idea
Whether I was coming or going
Or whether I was going or coming
For life chewed and spitted pieces of me hither and thither

I looked around
Searching for a pillar,
But the people I thought were my friends
Thought me insane
For thinking they
Would even spare me a thought.
They proved me gullible
For believing I was worthy
Of them thinking of me
In my darkest hour.
And the one person I never thought a friend
Remained behind when all those
I thought would stay had gone.
Ndithetha ngomhlobo ongu Jesu.

He was my guide
When I refused letting go of my past
And, like the Israelites
Reluctant of turning their backs
On their oppressors,
I mourned my yesterday,
Holding on to my murky past for dear life

Fearing the Light that was too bright
For my darkness
To illuminate even the deepest compartments of my past
That no one knew of

Except myself and myself only.

For malum' John had already declared That darkness, as dark as it may be, Would never overpower the Light For the Light was the Word And the Word was the giver of life.

So I surrendered to the Word, Murky past and all. I was brittle I was battered I was broken And I expected nothing less than rejection Just like the people I thought were my friends did Who had drugged me with lies, Pretence, deceit and betrayal And in the end rejected me, But to my surprise He remoulded me He remodeled me He rewired me And all the while never leaving my side. I'm talking about a friend called Jesus.

A Grudge

a grudge haunts you,
it gnaws at you,
it redefines you.
a grudge keeps total bliss at bay,
it ails you,
it dismantles your heart,
it bedevils you.
a grudge lusts for revenge,
it precludes all hopes of perfect zest
and broils you with incessant anger.
it rearranges your fragile into a stone,
the animosity turns you into an inanimate creature
blimey! even that smile is a total guise!

but what do you do
when you discover that the person
you hold dear harbours a grudge against you?
i don't want to be a stone
so i beg you
can't we let there be peace?

A Journey To Hallowed Grounds

I imagine the final breath to be the hardest,
The longest and the ruthless
With the mind tracking back on memories
The joys and te pains but none like this
For a moment or so time stands still
All stands still
Amid the usual routine of daily life
And abruptly time flies
But life remains still
Struck by the inexplicable ironic amalgamation
Of sorrow and bliss
And before it decides which one to buy
Life is but another memory
Taking a journey to hallowed grounds
If hallowed grounds it ia they all see

A Lazy Summer's Day

Listen...

There's no sound of anger or of annoyance, There're neither cars racing on the highway

Nor that highway for them to race on,

There're neither kids chanting on the playground

Nor bells calling us to Christianity.

There's neither the cracking of the sky

Nor the persistent rain pattering on my roof.

There's no couple arm in arm to admire the magnificent view

There're no drums to feed our ears

Nor sirens to steal the boredom away

There's no unfamiliar wing creeping underneath the November afternoon

Nor floods to enshroud the thirsty grounds

The land lies lonely out here

On this lazy summer's day

There's no pollution to poison the airs

Nor forests to give them life

All I hear is the hushing sound of the wind

Assisting the sand to fall into beautiful undulations

A Tribute To A Playa

i will wear a solemn face, a half-broken smile and cry tears borrowed from your unsuspecting victims i will stand above you casket and sing you eulogies roughly scripted in my head, not scrutinized all night with a sobbing heart and end up grieving myself Lord No!

i will pray for your acceptance every night, though and say no one deserves it more than you i will not mention the strong bonds you've utterly broken, the trust you weren't worth nor the hearts that wept from the blows of Dismay as strong as those of a cowhide whip No, i won't mention any of that though you were always enclosed in brief, concealed, unofficial meetings with taken women Rife with Fickleness, Unsrupulousness and Subversion leaving devoted men demented.

safe trip to wherever you're going though i won't miss you, not one bit.

A Woman's Misery

of all the things that life had given me still, i felt my heart brimming with discontent there was a hole somewhere inside me that no one could seem to fill so i asked God to mould me a child He blessed me with a girl well, they raped her, chopped her like butchery meat, her beautiful eyes poked out, her soft cheeks sliced i cried myself to sleep every night

i asked God to mould me yet another child
He gave me a boy
well, he mugged and raped pensioners
on their way home from church,
pushed drugs round some street corner
doping scholars to stupor,
vaunting them to becalm the daily babel
and found him the following day bullet-riddled and lifeless

so tonight i kneel once again asking nothing for myself but praying for humanity for every soul that lives on earth

Ah! Hell No!

You sat on the sofa Your legs crossed over an armchair Staring blindly at the images on the tv screen your heart as distant as Jupiter carelessly chosen words flowed from your mouth it felt as though you were tryna slit my throat with a blunt knife but you were sawing instead of cutting myself wide awake through it all; the smug running in riots on your face and the searing pain. i felt the crack and life escaping my body. now you kneel before my stiff body all remorseful if remorseful you truly are but you're not anywhere near being God you don't have the might to command; ' Let there be light ' and the whole world illuminates. i'm not turning back i'm happy here.

Ajar Windows

Down the alleys of St Familiar

I hear a mother weeping behind ajar windows

After failing yet another test

After giving in to yet another pull of the tug-of-war.

The lecture had been tough, it seems,

From the tears she cries

A droplet at a time topples froma balcony

And together awash the dirty streets of Fort Despair.

The professor had no shame

Putting a cross across her face

Teen Management failed

But tell me, did anyone expect the poor woman

To come with a merit in this new syllabus

Of Raise a Hand and Do Time?

An Ode To The Velvet Voice

for Lebo Mathosa

around my heart are briuses and grooves that prove my devestation as i pay tribute with every day i meet i pray to gain strength to pull through to another day around my soul tears abound whenever i think of you i could not wound your badly infected wounds i fumble for words to explain i mumble the feeling i cannot express the shadow almost held my heart still the requiem won't arouse you from your peaceful sleep our friendship is enshrined in my living room not long ago i offered my silent homage to you i trust you kknow this is no goodbye though the shadow falls from time to time with no sanction from any ruler nor approbation from any resider now every yesterday is recorded in the books of history the anthologies won't bring you back, those i keep

they published your departure in different fonts and said you'd gone to a place where happiness abounds they captured your pictures in different poses but chose only the perfect amongst the rest and felicitously gathered words to tell the story of your life from the cradle to the day you took your rest

Autumn Roses

the chemistry saw us through the early morning mists we stood steadfast against the whirling winds the fervour-filled beauty in her deportment the acme of maturity in her own department what i felt i cannot compress into written words how i feel i cannot put into rhyming verses the serenity drove us to where we were those were the happiest times we ever shared suddenly, the evening candles flickered and went out! dear Lord, grant me the intellect to understand the science of love all that we promised we couldn't keep how we parted i can't seem to find the answers, still it crossed gorges and won several wars this heartbreak seems to be a morden norm

Beating The Odds

There were times when inspiration became sparse, When rte closest people to me derided me, Calling my attempts stagnant dreams, Frivolous dreams

There were times when I could no longer Keep up with the sarcasm, when I could no longer Placate my weeping heart I almost let the bitter flays get the better of me

I searched for sojourn
And found peace in letting go
I sought for asylum
And found a home in independency
Now as I read comments and messages
Sent by those who share the same passion about poetry
I am delighted to say
"I Have Made It!"

Because I Could Not Wait

Because I could not wait to jet set
I left my intellect behind
Amazed by the weight of this thing
To buoyant through the air

Because you did not send me the memo I took it the seats were meant to rock Then you took off without warning And jerked me so hard My head spun out of control

The plane crashed on take off
Three passengers and you, the pilot

And only myself, the sole casualty Because you did not let me buckle up

Because I could not stop to assess
The injuries I sustained, the wreck
And those trapped inside and call for Mayday
After all, I was the only novice there

Because I could not stop to weep
For there wasn't much to wail about
Except for flamboyance quickly turning to sullenness
So I simply turned my back and limped away

Behind That Smile

behind that smile
there lies love,
unwavering, unswerving love.
there lies a melody
that turns over a new leaf.
there lies a story that's still neither written nor told.
there lies laughter
that awakens the happiness in me
there lies an alluring view
that satisfies my inspetion
there lies veracity
that no lie-detector can deny

behind that smile
there lies love,
unyielding, unremitting love.
there lies a poem
that caters the soul.
there lies a dream
that everyone hopes to unveil.
there lies harmony
that permits no sadness.
there lies a memento
that portrays no evanescence.
there lies a horizon
that i've been trying to reach.
behind that smile
there lie you

Black, White, Pink And Brown

i look through the eyes of a troubled woman black, white, pink and brown and walk a mile in her shoes searching her soul for that last piece of happiness trampled by heartless earthly beings. i walk on grounds overgrown with disrespect inflilcting emotions of all kinds with my shoulders aching from the laden burdens stuffed up on them i groom offsprings who think tey know better who choose to be hard-headed and spurn my advice when i straighten the ragged edges of their meandering routes i meditate with poetry trying to fill her lacuna and voice out her ineffable struggles bound together by tears of despair. i look through your eyes, you troubles woman black, white, pink and brown

Breast Cancer

that lump leaves a cut in you
a hollow sapce
it leaves your heart bereft of joy
vexed
confounded
dislodged
enclosed in an airtight propinquity with pain
circumscribed by fear and despair
to that dark corner of loneliness and weeping
reduced to a statistic

Confessions Of A Mountain

lovers hand in hand stroll September away
fully protected gear they deploy
to prove their love endless and mature
do clilmb my ribs so broken,
they're in tatters. the easterlies disturb my eloquence,
obliquely they attack and stretch my appearance
too bad for an eye. they position
their sharp daggers slightly askew
and thrust them across your view
away the silver summer rains do wash my pedigree

Conscience, You Brutus

If u wud ease up on the pestering. Maybe i wud find will and space to revise my logic.

If u wud quit the yelling and the screaming. Pointing out my wrongs and never my rights. Maybe i wud find peace and time to heal both body and soul.

This madness has got me running in circles.

Ears blocked, mind dysfunctional, soul displeased.

The questions in my head need answers,
but the answers i have pose even more questions.

What good will possibly come of this Forgiveness?

I've forgiven umpteen times,
but i've heard no apologies in the umpteen times i've been wronged. I'm running low on patience.

Being betrayed by my conscience.

Corner Pocket

lithe bodies sway hither and thither postponing today's troubles to tomorrow like tomorrow will never come exotic dances taking the centre stage a stranger's arms locked round your waist lost in the moment of pleasurea moment of get-to-know-ya screaming for every record played till there're no more records to play dancing the night away till the moon gives in to sunrise you drag your heavy body homewards and meet your troubles waiting for you by the door

Curtain Closed

images whirled before the slavering blighter he appreciated the perfectness of the rotating lights the stars he imagined on the vertical horizon seemed so right pictures drew themselves though hardly brighter he spoke in languages that Ecstasy brings, the colab of powder, the herb and the schnapps revealed a man frailer than his pride, a twerp; and in times thought he saw somthing that blings he flew to the highest buoyancy of recorded degree as he walked in careless, untimely waddles and defied his decree the gap occupied between his synapses assured him of great pleasure and his mind, familiar with this escape, no longer felt any pressure he allowed hallucination to hold the fort while he lost his flair to gather his limited thoughts his character took a rather queer turn a single ride and return was nothing simplest he only worshipped the doping he overdosed and staggered and lost his footing as the curtain closed

Deafening Silence

Father,

Why did you rob me of my innocence?

Look at the shards of mine you left behind

Why did you make me a thing to take away

Your frustrations of your longest days?

Yesterday I was that tiny sweet child you held in your arms,

Your arms have turned me into someone

I never thought I could see with a naked eye

Sister,

Why didn't you catch me
When the worldly troubles dangled me?
When they swayed me carelessly like a bird with one wing.
Why did you turn a blind eye on something so imperative?
The bond of sisterhood doesn't exist here anymore.
Why did you fold your arms and watched from the sidelines
While they worked on a mission
To destroy my innocent spirit.

Brother,

How did this world steal away your conscience?
What made you lead me to a blind alley?
You, too, made me a thing to fill the gaps and boost
Your shattered confidence.
Why did you drug me and leave me hallucinating
And sold my body for a living?

And Mother,
Why didn't you protect me
When they dandled me like an hourglass?
Why did you turn a deaf ear when I needed you to listen?
I no longer feel your motherly love.
It seems we've drifted apart
Now this beautiful butterfly can't set its eyes in the world
And dare to dream.

They claim they never heard me screaming in my bedroom No one opened the door for me to freedom Now I'll always wonder What if I'm not the only one?

Domino Effect

Hypnotic love, urgent love. That
Irrevocable blunder leaves faces blanch
Vandalizing joy, crippling perfect life when
Affinity bears death instead of birth
Injecting significant others in the name of love. But those
Doleful screams can never hinder symptoms from showing and those
Sour tears will never cure the pandemic. It
Keeps finding time to attack along the lines of Carelessness and
Injures the inside before showing on the outside
Latent death working its way through your body as you
Languid, uncertain whether to Conceal or Reveal
Sicknesses taking turns, killing you softly

Echoes Of Silence

For Koketso Marishane

they knock my heart to numbness, echoes so cold and so inevitably strong. they bang the doors of my shattered heart, echoes so bleak and so inevitably gruff. they crash the walls of my poor heart, echoes so baleful and so inevitably loud. they push my heart back and forth, echoes so cold and so inevitably cold. they shrink the appreciation I always longed for, echoes brush it off, leaving no stones unturned. they tear my bliss into shredds, echoes so audible and so inevitably baleful. they fill my ears with the supersonic sound, echoes so gruff and so inevtably bleak. they steal words out of my mouth and leave me empty-headed and completely powerless. echoes of your silence obliterate me...

Electronic Romance

You pleaded me to punch you special phrases each day and said you'd whisper in my ears in response. these modern cords and keys curtail the miles you trod and now little do i convey my undying love with hopeless voices
Your access restricted machine prohibits every other eye, save yours
We took a vow that our hearts would know no other love now neither speedy hurricanes can copy these words to hire nor heavy storms can blow out this naked fire
We purloin these moments to meet in spirit for you cannot serenade me before i pray to dream the rime-covered acres lay still between us now our thoughts collide only up in the sky

Enactment

Life's a play scripted before the creation of you and I, penned down by Ambition, Edited by Dogmatism and directed by Greed. Our cues mystify both the cast and the crew-Some lines we memorise, Some we extemporise. Slowly this melodrama is turning into a horror.

We are fracturd by the truth
Though aspirant to slander an sabotage.
The plausible of arguments are rendered abominable,
The cruelty in us is not imperceptible
And the celerity at which we fluctuate
Is faster than the speed of light.
We are assiduous in rendering help and destroy,
Efficacious in landind ourselves facade
Of sensitivity though derisive.
'Rest assured', we say
And conceal instead of revealing,
Divulge instead of discretion.

Entrapment

I understood none of it
that those parlous tasks were to serve
as assurance, preludes to much
perils yet to come
with no option whatsoever
to withstand or withdraw
examine then the stretches of my fidelity
and the exposed features of my perfidy

this role of servitude is my turf
measure then the depth or shallowness
of my wisdom
where i stand i'll let you decide
and the rasp orders that block my earsi'll let them slide
God knows how much i despise confinements
that lecture me how to betray my fealty

but when i'm gone will you talk
of the Acuteness of this used or abused Fool,
the Omniscience of this unbeknown Layman
or the Dependency of your proclaimed Entity?
Will you brag about how fabulous a job you've done
standing up on behalf of society?
well, i pray that your society
does not retrace my steps

Fallacy

from long and bumpy rides
i turned to solitude,
ensconced in false pretences,
wearing a smile every morning
like a piece of cloth or some traditional
hide cut out from a sacrificial cow
fooling some killjoys, mitigating
the gashes of wounds they've opened
in my heart
and pose unfazed, completely nonchalant

i've tried letting go of the shadow but the shadow wouldn't let go of me to their unbeknown they say i inherited my uncle's smile unaware that i had long mourned] the death of my inner self

Heritage

Where redolence of pedigree once reigned
Identity is no more
But how deceiving an eye could be
Not to admire the unfractured rings
Of miscellaneous traditions
And how ungrateful an ear to ignore
The plangent drums
Doesn't the primeval clothing goads you to celebrate?

This modernization has razed the dunes
Of our sweet escape
Cor! Look at this mutilated nation
Negated by copycat
And the nebulous tomorrow flickers inn my head
Like I've seen it before
Perhaps in a dream, but I have – somewhere
This complicity...
Oh life! Bring back my traditional self!

Hope You Found It All

Your fingers slipped through mine my heart weeping for you aching for you you set off on a journey to find your truest self now years have gone by without news on your solitary voyage i hope you found all that you were looking for: the sense of belonging, the peace of mind, the dignity, the appreciation, and your significant other. i hope life is everything you wanted it to be.

I Have Tried, Believe Me

i have tried blocking my ears while he called you things you were not, but the epithets were heart-rending i have tried looking away while he beat you up but your doleful screams of help held me back i have tried calling 10111 but the line just went dead i have tried defending you but my arms just went numb i have tried callind 10177 but they were out of ambulances i have tried calling your neighbour, too but he went fishing that day and the lads across the street they went boozing i have tried reasoning with him but he called me an outsider your sister was in labour your mother lay sick abed your brother ducking and diving in Darfur your father partying at club Numbers so i locked myself in my room hoping that God's mercy would intervene and now as i stand above your lifeless body bathed in blood i curse myself for my helplessness but believe me, i have tried!

I Was Looking For It

When I was frantic Desperate to rhyme... I was looking for it

When I adopted Amiability
Trying not to tread on anyone's toes...
I was searching for it

I then changed to Amicable Aggression Letting my presence felt... I was after it

When I crammed many different ideas in one stanza Trying to comply with the demands of Brevity... I was stalking it

When I sought after unfamiliar words Desperate to sound educated... I was looking for it

Even when I tried being artistic And blending different figures of speech... I was looking for it still

But now I'm battling to keep up Desperate to catch my breath, Compelled to despair

I am done chasing after Perfection Perhaps when the time is right It will come crawling to me.

I Wish I Never Knew You

i wish i never came t know you,
to love you for the person you were,
the things you did and most importantly
how you made me feel
i wish i never opened the gates and doors
of my heart for you
i wish i could've raised the drawbridge
so you could go wandering someplace else
perhaps then my heart wouldn't break
perhaps i wouldn't find getting over you this difficult
i find the world too small to accommodate my wrath
nothing's lilke it used to be

i will mourn your departure the only way i know how

Ill At Ease

I'm terrified of growing up
I fear the endless pains,
The eternal struggles, the prolonged responsibilities
With fortune keeping its doistance
And fame coming in countable measures
I forsee an episode in my life
Kicking myself in the corner,
Wincing at my embarrassing failures soaring
To unreachable heights
Drowning my aspirations down an abyss
A fear becoming the man on the street
Tellling people which route to take
And go te other way
I fear failing the tasks bestowed on me by old age

I'M An African Poet

i'm an african poet
i hail from the dark soil
baked by the southern sun
coated in my glaringly black skin
yet nop self-pity governs me
as i rise from the dark ashes of independency
to my tormented self
this is one prescription you won't find in pharmacies

i'm an african poet
i write to quench the thirst
from the long runs i made to exile
and free the small voice at the back of my head
urging me to empty the kegs of anger
brimming inside like malty Chibuku
i do not need Ecstasy to arouse my creative self,
the callous are doing a far greater job
leaving me with not much of a choice
but scribble my sorrows down a white paper

it is safe to say
i owe my sanity to poetry
this is how i celebrate,
this is how i grieve

I'M No Rolling Stone

rapt, turning with every step drooling, whistling, fraught with need, pimped out rides hooting, faces dangling from lowered electric windows with lascivious gestures offering rides, eyes darting from pillar to post with come-hither glances. wistful. observing. covetting. their cohorts intervene but wink with hungry eyes, beckoning me, revealing their promiscuity, desperate to inaugurate their own queen of some brothel and pass me from arm to arm taking lubricant rides on these salient contours but fortunately these curves are not for sale despite what they may think

Internal Conflicts

sometimes i wish i could bleed my heart out and tell you how i feel but i fear losing a friend in you sometimes i wish i could stay in your mind for the longest time but i saw you with another woman the other day sometimes i wonder if you've ever noticed how i act around you if you have then i guess you're simply indifferent i've considered composing you a poem but due to my slim vocab i couldn't find the right words to say it's been difficult differentiating between a friendship and a romantic relationship but why can't you feel what i feel? in my fantasies you've caressed me in the darkest of times

with all the trouble that i went through still, you had not a scintilla of emotions for me so i'll suppress mine seeing that loving you is out of the question

Labels

they have a way of finding
the perfect faces to sanctuary themselves on
be they good or bad
it's the same difference
they differentiate you from me
and myself from others
they stick to us like glue
they take over our lives
and even if we could try to see the person you really are
we would always see what has beem\n carved on your forehead

Let Us Part Like Strangers

after years of pining for you we meet at last but soon we'll part again like we did a long time ago the thought of it alone unsettles me for i am not good with goodbyes i hate waving at you like we'll never meet again so when the time comes when you have to leave me... again let us part like strangers no kisses, no hugs, no holding hands, no sobbing, no promises, no goodbyes and when you're miles away don't look back that'll make the burden much lighter

Many Elegies Compressed To One

Especially for Lesley Manyathela Gift Leremi and Fernando Matola

streetlights blur before every dark hour the plangent drums pause letting the BANG! be heard and steal my breath away in a whispering murmur and bring it back flooded with tears of despair

the beast blew sticky breath across your face so cold my heart had never before been this numb across latitudes, whirling winds and climbing clouds your soul raced to report things down here done and undone

now this fervent heart in this world is saved felled by some silent affray on some unfortunate day all that's left now are canned poses in many scattered lenses clinical, aplomb, salient, eminent and innocent

the flamboyance is forever borrowed like it was yesterday and the day before as you trudge to your windowless flat grounded to muse about the good life you led

not even this pandemonium can bring back your pulse neither sirens nor eulogies can hinder your walking away the baleful chimes tempered with your longevity before the end of day and stole you to some adorned world where happiness is a must

the dazling light of the glimmering sky left your lonely lass abated, ailed, addled and frohting with disgust hoping your memory won't be folded and shoved into dark compartments or your existence be forgotten with the passing of long days and years

in the waiting room you'll see familiar faces as they anoint you, welcoming you to the envied life as they massage your fatigued body in varying paces and pacify your troubled soul throughout the night

in a few years you'll be turning fossil

torpid, unbecoming of your vlient self cor blimey! the age is stooping lower and lower! like gravity pulling me down from a rooftop of the tallest tower

Meetings At Sis' Beauty's Place

she moves swiftly between tables decorated by empty schooners and empty bottles of beer manned by drunks calling for refills everytime she passes by

behind the coounter,
walled by cases of distilled beer,
she sits listening to yesterday's reminiscents,
the same euphoria, the same fulminations
like broken records
emptying kegs lilke they're drops of tears
falling on vast oceans

or play referee in a feud over the kings of local football and utter vile imprecation over her broken chairs, smashed windows and threatening bottle pieces awaiting prey

she serves lost-love victims avoiding all thoughts of alimony and the retrenched completely falling apart but that's none of her business as long as they settle their debts

Mortality

this is not the end of life
it is in fact a sequel to the life we led yesterday
it is these heartbreaks that lecture us
how to love, how to live and who to consort
ourselves with
it is the same helplessness we share
the defines our weakness
and the quick learning of letting go
that defines our strength

we can cry ourselves to madness but the deed would still be done and there wouldn't be much we can do to undo it except accepting the fact that fate is indeed a done deal

On His Selfishness

Fathers sigh Mothers weep Sisters scream Brothers sob As the dagger plunged too soon through their hearts dances with their quavering voices they each in turn sing the song of despair 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' Voicing their sorrows in faithful prayers seeking clemency for sins committed unknowingly hoping He'll have mercy on them and spare their progeny till He decides they're not worthy of her purity and invited her to hsave supper in His banquet they then curse that Godly stuff for letting leviathans satisfy their needs in her soft contours without her consent...hardly a teenager.

One Fatal Myth

The devastated blighter groaned and grunted with almost every breath and in times he vigorously shook his head. He flickered his eyelids desperately trying to halt the inevitable Embarrassment 'Men don't cry', he'd been told when his mother died, he dared not cry. when he found his younger sister sliced like a sacrifitial cow, he shed not a single tear. then a string of heart-rending situation followed still, he held on to hte myth and took it like a man Time went by and the hilarious man without a joke to tell but instead shut hinself out of the world till one day his system crashed overloaded by pains of yesteryears He politely asked for his brother's shoelaces and hung hiself in the backyard.

Picture-Not-So-Perfect

Something seems to be amiss with this picture...
you were once so frolic, so carefree,
so fraught with joy and so ebullient
amid the stranger taking ownership of your space
your second father, your assailant.
Abruptly you trudged and withdrew
you spoke in monosyllables,
always on the verge of tears
dealing with troubles inequivalent to your age
for that leviathan pig rused his way up your skirt
in your mother's absence
and revved his engine and disappeared in the face of the earth
leaving you speaking in a monotone.

Remember Us

Dear Lover

Remember the time you courted me?

The late phone calls,

Seductive message,

The tenderness of your voice

And how gingerly your hands reached out for me?

Remember?

Remember how you swore with everything you hold dear

That no tear of mine

Shall trickle down my face on your account?

You said you knew what you wanted

And that was poor me

Remember how I kept telling you

About the fragile state of my heart?

Remember?

You promised to never inflict any more pain

But bring bliss into my life.

I know tears of joy

That they don't break one's heart.

I'm left bamboozled...

You claim to adore me

Though your actions don't reciprocate

Your sweet utterances.

I'm starting to believe that I'm the only one in love

Or am I infatuated with the idea of being in love?

O, how it hurts to romance an unresponsive wall!

Remember us,

Won't you remember us?

Remember When They Said

remember when they said
they loved you with their whole hearts?
suppose between you and sport
is approximately a tie, but how much space
is there left for ambitions,
material things, machinery or family?
what about leisure, travelling,
life and literature perhaps?
the eye will always find faces and things to admire
and accommodate them along edges
or between the furrows of your growing heart.

Rendevzous

We scheduled an appointment to meet at the church confessional And brainstorm solutions to my fruitless life.

He called to postpone.

We set up yet another meeting at the peak of the mahogany hilltop.

I'm quite embarrassed to admit that He stood me up in the scorching sun.

He promised to attend the one by the mouth of the roaring sea,

The one at the valley of a beer bottle and the one in the mist of the cigarrette smoke.

But I never came to His encounter.

GOD! You're such a typical male!

Shadow

It disgusts to admit that for every hour
I gain I near the constant guest
And every bliss bears a burden so laden
Even the heaps of brawny hunks cannot heave
Each tender touch ends in sullenness
And solicit for pure endless happiness
Is probably asking for quite a lot
The chronicles show it is quite common
For swans to disappear at the sound of that chime
For clarity to that brief moment is denied
Even to the faithfull followers
Singing remembrance to the lost ones
We gather in hordes to embrace our hopes
Even though we cannot withdraw fro this grief
For every once in a while a wish goes unfulfilled

So We Sat And Waited

We sat on hard, naked, long plank chairs
Choked by anaesthetics and painkillers
Waiting with bated breaths
To cry tears of joy and ululate
Calling her the greatest things we've come to know
We waited...

The sun turned askew above the mountains
Our ears crowded by the awful silence
Eventually Sisters came out without smiles on their faces
Overwhelmed by curiosity we stopped them
Before they could pass us by
'Doctor Bezuidenhoud will inform you', they said
And dragged their feet and disappeared in the hallway
Doctor Bezuidenhoud followed
His eyes locked firmly on the ground
Afraid to meet ours
Ours confronting his despair
He told us things our ears refused to believe
Our little Cinderella was stillborn

Steve Biko

Erected on a monument Breathless and motionless He holds his poise slightly askew to the light winds His lifeless eyes never knew a blink Only holding the observer's gaze His permanent posture in profound stillness His face bears half a smile And half an expression indescribable His shimmering copper suit indistinguishable From his shimmering copper skin Having endured acidic rainfalls, harsh winds And blistering colds with no comlaints He stands there, seemingly attending a meeting with himself, Perhaps pondering what his following step would've been, If he would've survived it had he survived the blows Now a resemblance of him stands outside the city hall For those who never saw him in his splendour A memory everlasting like a precious stone.

Still Waters Run Deep

the lament of heart-rending words
pregnant with hostility jetted off through
the airs, stuck in the crazy moment
of raging fury and inevitably
no soul nor might could pacify
the profoundly disturbed mind
the embodiment of uncontrollable veldfire
seduced by impetuosity
and the quest to end the pain
filled a simple day with drama
the palpable sense of hatred
overwhelmed by vengeance and resentment
eventually rendered a pang of underestimate
an overflowing calabash

bow to the inexorable for it seems countless souls live to destroy or perhaps destroy to live

Suppose Life Were A Sinless Colleen

Suppose life were a sinless colleen
Her pedigree etched in her diplomacy,
Wont to bounty, the queen of all kingdoms,
Featured in every man's dream.
Suppose she led a life free from predicaments
And we adopted her traits and feigned life in Eden

O! But what a shrew she's grown to be!
Sparingly she smiles and often she frowns
And now evry man's heart feeds on revenge
Other's prosperities disgust my eyes
We have become those with hearts of iron
the villains always vilifying every reat effort
Wishing our mates' affluent minds barren
Shouting words muted
Every now and then we applaud
But again it's all muted.

Table Mountain

I cast my eyes over this comely landscape
To closely perceive the historical beauty of the mountain
She's gorgeously dredged with leafy trees almost fastidiously assembled
And a mass of stones overlapping
She poises there pinioned by the beautiful Mother City
Together with the cheering voices of the renowned
And the simple plebs
Flaunting her limpid waters that silently giggle, constantly.
They furtively unclimb from her broad shoulders
In this hazy view to endear themselves with the thirsty grounds of Cape Town
So it recurs forever and ever with the intake of air
Whilst the quiet gullies secretly replenish the ocean
Observing this fascinating view so heavenly resplendent
In my heart there's no time for discontent

The Circle Of Life

from the very first cockcrow
to the very last tick of time's utility
they tread this life always on opposite lanes
now every step forward nears fatality
and velocity declines but only at the shaking of hands
one short breath exhaled is inhaled by this SIGNIFICANT other!
so whenever the other turns right
this proclaimed partner turns left
and meet again at the crossroads like they never parted

God crafted them of different manners soon flawless life is enervated, impeded, incumbered and not endorsed every insiration is matched with almost adequate conspiracy, they appear miles apart but they're locked in close proximity lilke a wheel to a rim and when the cries of despair uproar you discern that you'll always be back to square one...or not

The Guy Almost All The Good Girls

the guy almost all the good girls lose their goodness to comes in all shapes and forms he comes from all walks of life and from all racial communities he wears the latest trends, religiously, and drives saliently opulent sportscars with electric windows, shiny mags and sub-woofers he lets them splurge his money on his behalf and demands physical settlement in return he's good with poys too, whispering them sweet nothings, taking them to his world of mak-believe he calls them all the sweetest names you'll ever hear not because he loves them but because the list is way too long for him to keep track good lilfe seekers dropp out of school to play part-time bodyguards and full-time sex-slaves and curse the male species when dumped by this professional philanderer with an naked baby suffering from malnutrition

The Lost Struggle

For Lucky Dube

Our importunate desires were bound
To meet the implacable end
As it brushes itself onto each one of us,
Sporadically, without flaws
Leaving behind an almost palpable fracas
And too many unanswered questions
With wistful wishes blown away lilke a thistledown
By timely, indecipherable fate
Frontiers close in at the coming of this unbridled norm
Hurdles are folded and put aside for now and ever
Emancipaion and Deception at once
As the final eclipse closes on you

The Power Of Emptiness

Oh child!
I can see your patient eyes

Gawping at an open space

Watching dark angels riding snails

Your bowels whistling and mourning with nothingness

Your tight skin closely wrapping your fragile bones,

Your sunken sockets, your parched lips.

It seems you are nearing the place
Where life and death collide
You are tiptoeing along the fine trapeze of surrender
Impotently letting long days pass you by
In slow motion

Gaunted to skeletal

Picturing at the back of your mind
An empty funeral,
No one missing you
For you were all things but elite
Had you been, you wouldn't be so stricken

The Profile - Teko Modise

the skill is axiomatic,
flagrantly untamed
and utterly unimpeachable
dictating the enemy grounds
with serpentine deportments,
ubiquitous, conspicuous,
too lubricant to hold firm
yet too firm to knock down,
sending onlookers into a frenzy
with elaborations elementary only to you
pervading the aura of success around you
across the field with impeccable executions
walking under the radar of
international acknowledgement

what they say about talent may just prove them wrong because yours seems to be contagious

The Sad Reality

She queues outside the community hall With a two-month old hanging loosely on her back, The worn out towel carelessly tied; A three-year old on her left And d five-year old on her right Their empty stomachs roaring at the sight of sizzling boerewors They constsntly slap the air, misjudging the fly's flight Whilst their 18-year old mother flips her silky hair back Saturated with expensive gels, combed to reach shoulder length And her 3-inch heels keeping dust at bay. The budget has long been in place; Stilletos, Levi's jeans, a perfume and a fresh hairdo The rest goes to booze The long nights jamming with like-minded souls 'What about the kids? ', we wonder Well, they'll just have to torment their neighbours With weeping like they did the previous months. Being brought up by the streets Soon they'll learn how easy it is To point a gun for a slice of bread

The Story Of Tuletu

standing in the corner
under the fading lights
a leper out of sync,
a whisper in the pandemonium
that no one seems to hear,
prone to becoming a fall guy,
always has and always will
but still can't get used to the heartbreak
walking on fields overgrown with backstabbing
pestered
underestimated
hapless
stalking happiness but happiness
seems to be moving faster.

The Waiting Sped Up The Weariness Of Patience

The waiting sped up the weariness of patience
Upon that lonely shore so heavily boulder
To as far off as the eye could see
I watched there afar where the ocean seemed to meet the firmament
What appeared to be swallows swaying
Above the white crests, intimately, mocking my loneliness

I've walked the subways at night
Hoping to come to your encounter
Then I heard you prospected for new lands
Where you and your lover shall dwell
Even the memories we made do not seem to bother you
But I would've appreciated the incisive truth

Now there's nothing there that is left to say
Just that I have to summon the pieces of my heart
For there's no proper way of letting go
So there's nothing there that is left to say
Only that my heart must learn to subside

There's No Time For Anecdotes

there's no time for anecdotes as we lower yet another scholar down the lonely corridores of earth stabbed several times late last week or as we pay homage to junkies resting their high minds frothing from fatal powders and winos fallen prey to influences

there's definitely no time for anecdotes as the amorphous cosmos comes crashing down trampling innocent men, women and children in Darfur and the 'In my days' tune seldom helps or in the least curtail the physique of this Cupidity, this Selfishness, this Savagery

there's nothing humorous about AIDS hacking us down like a harvester scudding across hectors of plantation, striping them row upon another

there's nothing jocular about the new trend of fatal hijacks pervading the cities in circles robbing us of pure bliss

all that we can do is brace ourselves with long plaintive poemsfor another setback to shrink our zest or disturb our slow dance all that we can do is wait for another despondent cry to interrupt us as we boogie through the night

They Say Love

they say love is a fountain flowing down like the Victoria Falls magnificent. genuine, indescribable. they say it's where waters of the same current confluence they savour the smooth and turbulent flows together intertwined with much deference and pure affinity

but what do you call it
when the sense of revulsion takes the helm
malevolent. antagonistic, forefingers poking
the open space into a fitful polka-dot?
is it still a flawless fountain when
blows rearrange your facial features
turning them ashen?
abrasion perhaps
i think it very unlikely

love does not lie in perfectly boned faces, high social standards or fat credit cards it is merely the promise of common hearts unsurpassed by beauty or property so the least a person should do is let their love do the talking

This Heart

this heart churns love this heart brews hatred this heart houses my passions my passions share a room with my disinterests this heart manufactures aspirations and later decides to go against them this heart admires this heart chastises this heart misses you and this very heart avoids letting that show this heart longs for you yet it doesn't want to be broken by you this heart is a superwoman juggling between east and west, what's right and what's wrong, reality and fantasies and puts it all in perfect balance

Traffic Lights Operators

they don wild outfits
and overdo their wild make-ups, too,
they keep the western time
gaining themselves the status of Reliability
they must've taken Captivative-Standing lessons
as they queue there with figures like supermodels
in their revealing gear
waiting to be picked
and each waiting to be picked
by a wealthy insatiable hubby
to fatten that flat purse so she can feed
the empty stomachs left at home
I call them Traffic Light Operators
but misers call them whores

Unacknowledged

beside this solitary island
the sun's rays, dismayed by the unwelcoming
reflection, refract to the edges
occupied by reeds that dance
gratefully to the autumn breeze.
the murk of the night whispers the wishes
of the yellow sun but it all
comes to no avail
and the ripples seem to laugh
at the survey of lovelorn

Untitled

She queues outside a community hall With a two-month old hanging loosely on her back, the worn out towel tied carelessly; A three-year old on the left And a five-year old on the right Their tawdry clothes sticky with mucous their empty stomachs roaring at the sight of sizzling boerewors They constantly slap the air, misjudging the fly's flight while the 18-year old mother flips her silky hair back saturated with expensive gels combed to reach shoulder length and her heels keeping dust at bay the budget has long been in place; the stilletos, designer jeans a perfume and a fresh hairdo the rest goes to booze the long nights jamming with like-minded souls 'What about the kids? ' we wonder well, they'll just have to torment their neighbours with weeping like they did the previous month being brought up by the street soon they'll learn how easy it is to point a gun for a slilce of bread

We Dandle The Culture

We dandle the culture to immortality And frill it with all kinds of figures of speech We let the rhythm be its cloak And the plangent drums its heartbeat We are cleave to revealing the truth, Enshrine history, tell the tales And smother ferosity Behold the saint that feeds on treason And that pally face coated in a smile of still tedium Poetry has strewn to all directions Strewn to unequal dimensions Towards the east its modest And modern towards the west It is audible in the south In the north the plea is sound And we'll only rest when the star Of eternal life leads us back home That is our plea and God, Please don't let us grow cold

Welcome Home, Stranger

my heart has wept long after you left my heart weeps again now that you're back my eyes have grown blank with despair i can barely recognise you aged face your swarthy skin battered by the northern winds raddled by age, advanced by solitude jaded. bilious baked by foreign suns to senescence though you went in search of propitious opportunities you sacrificed me for greener pastures i do not complain, though for the strong winds have blown you back home

Stella Sisanda Qishi

welcome, stranger

You Are So Quiet Tonight

you are so quiet tonight. i wonder
whether it'd be smart or folly
to call you comely
but your silence is louder
than the spoken word.
what more words could i collaborate
to elaborate
my apology? can't you see this dagger is as sharp as a razor blade?

i saw your tears as you turned to look outside the casement i would've been pleasant if those were tears of joy but your anger torments, you keep it all inside. you have my thoughts racing in rotary tracks and the deformity of my heart keeps coming back

like the unhealth plume
of the factory smoke, your silence
chokes me almost to doom
is it what i said and should'nt have?
or perhaps what i should've done and did'nt do?
either way, your silence and your weeping vacant my heart, yes they do.

You Love Me Or So You Say

Im Puleng

and my droplets of love rain over your head

to shake u back to sanity.

You're Ngozi...well now, what in the Lord's name was i thinkin?

Roughly translated you're 'DANGER', 'ACCIDENT'

and i've been having a lot of those since u tagged along.

Blindfolded by love i played along

softened by ur half-hearted sorries.

'No, chommie. He didn't hit me. I bumped into a wall last nite'.

What a lame excuse?

And how stupid of me to literally hand over my freedom to u.

U expect me to go

ahead and make it official

and live a lie all my life.

Angekhe mntakwethu.

This ends here.

This ends now.

Im Puleng and im taking back my life.