# **Poetry Series**

# Achilles Mauko - poems -

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## A Saviour Between Two Thieves

The man in the middle, taught the kingdom with wisdom in riddle, He was so simple, raised the dead healed the sick and even the cripple But to the hypocrites who were idle, he was never to be an idol Stood accused of deity swindle, by men who wanted him to play a second fiddle, Therefore, they hung him between two thieves, barely naked, in a tree with no leaves,

Executed by horrible means, his whole body filled with a mass of wound leaks, Speared and pierced in the ribs, but no blood or bone breaks only water drips, Thorn above the head and bleeds, nothing to hold him just nails for grips, With his fate decreed, face struck with reeds and bleeds no shoulder to lean just grieves,

They mocked him indeed, saying, it shall be only by miracle that he lives. Feeling thirsty, he could whine, and in sheer mockery, they gave him wine, Being righteous could not drink; he wanted to die with his conscious, Humiliated and reduced to zero, soon he was forever to become a hero For even in such excruciating pain, nothing to lose but everything to gain, Because no man worthy of his kind, could have changed the face of humankind.

Left to die in the company of two thieves, they struck a conversation, A symbol of perfect humility, even a midst series of frustration However, between the two criminals, each had a mixed reaction, Like a tale of two poets who couldn't agree on a simple description, To the man on his left, he was nothing but a symbol of inaction, Nevertheless, to the man on his right, he was a saviour, messiah in action, So the man in the middle by grace, to the latter, he promised redemption What Einstein in his worldly wits, could have referred to as relativity, Moreover, to the children of God this was by no way a show of simplicity This was more than love, but an act of grace, not of mere reciprocity, For He bore the sin of many. A fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy Though numbered with transgressors, he became their intercessor. So in between the two thieves, there was pardon and reconciliation, To bring a revolution that will transform the fate of condemnation And usher in a new creation, to end the rule by a constitution, but salvation, Planted in people's heart, no longer by wit and sight, or by our physical might But through Jesus Christ, to whom I am a witness and has brought me the light

## An Elegy To Abandoned Paths

#### **Prologue**

The witty pages by the sword of the modern poet is fallen
The natural musings by the inks of a young poet left barren
Of these dog days, shall we not bid the whispering wind?
To make haste and for the solemn farewell dirge lead
For in forlorn times like this, a poem to the beneficiary,
Is a rose, a beautiful flower in a cemetery

#### I.

The modern poet knows not the panther's paths, Of silent solitude and nights of darker darks. And words loathing such blatant ingratitude, Has deprived the young poet of infinite solitude. The mysterious existences, whose life endures, The winding foldings of a river's contours.

#### II.

Once upon a time, in a world such as this,
When fame was base, and knowledge such a bliss;
Mighty was the pen upon a poet's hand,
As a straying river to a bending bank
Elopes the sand with wanton streams,
Quenching its lust to lecherous schemes.

#### III.

Oh! Such times I do reminisce, when occasion sits;
Soulful pages I did caress, of poets so full of wits,
Blushful bachelors wove our aphrodisiac verses
Into rosebuds; the hairless loins of virgin lasses.
Coy ladies that did hear our kissing sonnets,
Were half won with verbal ease and less regrets,
A poet's death made the sun long for the grave;
Shortened life as the funeral tears of the great,
Rebellious robins mastered our songful lines,
Feeding upon the unwatched farmer's vines;
Inks of freedom did water the veins of liberty
To give revolution, the stature of immortality.
Luring flattery, did make the peacock's feathers stand
As words of wisdom, did wind whisper upon the land

#### IV.

Young is me; Longing is my old soul for an elixir of life,
Of deserted paths like the forgotten story of a former wife
Now doleful moments dance to the woeful chimes
Of wounded pens that attends our barren rhymes
Of facile writings, inks in search of tears of oblivion
As the melancholic moon bleed colours of vermillion,
Let the creepy night owl play it a teary rustic lore,
A demoniac laughter to mock its sweet years of yore

Epilogue
Be blue gay lily
Blossom into dust
The coy maiden knows not your colour,
Weep sweet blushing rose
Wet your withering countenance
The slothful lad knows not your beauty
Rest old poet
Rest your tiring soul
The young poet knows not your winding paths

# Change Of Heart

In love didn't we watch the sun rise?
And even embraced its magnificent warmth
In full bath of its pleasure
What of its going down
Wasn't it a pleasant stare?
And in unabated breath
Promised to stay till the next
With single hope that it would rise again
But what happened?
Now that you aren't here
I watch it alone
Or is it that your sun rise no more

After the sun in the night Didn't you whisper the beauty of the stars? And in the presence of the moon Made a solemn oath To stick till the dawn would break So in grace we made The sky and its children A witness to a sacred kiss Signing the heavenly seal Not to retreat from the deal We vowed to never depart the dream Pursue it to the brim But what happened? In the presence of these heavenly hosts In this beautiful glamour I dream alone

That was when the seasons were fair
You were always there
In love we would share
The very much we care
You never told me to prepare
Should the seasons turns bare
That you wouldn't bear
Maybe I wouldn't dare
To fair in this venture

The storm and rain is clear
And am hurting since you are not here
You let me face it alone
All intentions shown
The rains beat harder
The storm strikes even harder
And my soul gets weaker
The very once definitive spirit
Now cries from within it
But you are not here
Wasn't it an oath?
Crafted by two
And sealed in heaven
In full view of the gods

Would you come back
So we could dream again
Undo the untimely change of heart
To amend the love
That was once ordained

## **Destined Height**

This is no inspiration, But determination, Of a heart, Faced with part, And spurt, Still can't, Crack, But, Staying intact, A head, Though wounded, Can't be grounded, Nor cowed, Hence unbowed, A mind crowded, With grief, But still grounded, With ease, Upholding peace, To grease, Its new found lease, A life gone through series, Of miseries, Trickeries, And mockeries, Yet not yielding, Needing, Or pleading, But putting, A spirited fight, Holding tight, To fight For what's right Casting a light, To all its plight, Not to lose sight, Of the destined height

## **Disturbed**

Yester night I had a morbid dream
Like a Sheikh In a forbidden harem
The messenger of death smiled at me
And in a rare case, bent at my face
Then kissed my forehead,
Never did we speak o'wise I would be dead.
After that I could not sleep
So I got down penning it
In a blank black page to fit
But the ink in my pen was insufficient
So in the steel of the night I stayed silent

Today morning I visited the seer
To tell me what I see
For one cannot dance with the devil
And still stay to tell the tale
But the Wise-man man was blind too
Even with the help of his voodoo

Tonight when I get to rest After a long day of quest My spirit will not be at its best I lay with my fingers crossed Warmly placed above my chest And even as I close my eyes My heart stays awake And my mind won't take a break For I worry for my land Africa Cradle of the world ancestors Learn to adore your daughters Oh the land of the singing sun Stop maiming your sons Only the future can be trusted To keep its own secrets Till the fullness of time

## **Fragile Passions**

Shattered flings, scissored down
Into sharp fragments of broken glass,
Feelings of betrayed, stabbed soul:
Bleeding flower, laughing flies,
Willow wounds, shadows of forsaken love

Captured soul, trousered heart
Hemned in prison of virtual bars
Alas, what horrible fate! Beset
Than that of Romeo and Juliet,
Lost to poison and the blade
And to dust by the valiant Achilles

And as every flower lover knows,
Mortal hearts, are, fragile blooms
Shadows walled against shadows,
Flings only anchored to the wind:
Oh, my lucky naked mind
Feet west should the wind pitch east
And feel the kiss beneath the skin

Endymion, you
Who sunk into the abyss of a goddess:
Wake from your blissful, pleasurable slumber,
And I pray you tell me, the secret
Of the cave of wonders
That houses the immortal soul, for
I crave to kiss the wizards sleeve of a goddess
Against the chasm doom of mortals.

# Hope In Death

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Nothing stands between where I,
Lie,
And I,
As with vapour in the sky,
This breath that I,
Hold so high,
Will soon speak bye,
Like Seasoned rivers my,
Veins runs dry,
Time,
Pass by,
And my,
Waste life,
Flash through my,
Eyes,
My,
End draws nigh,
But like,
William Bligh,
Tied,
Drowned and left to die,
By,
Mutinous spy,
Still had to survive,
Never did he comply,
Even to the raving tide,
Like him I,
See no time,
To bow and cry,
I,
Will not just try,
I,
Shall have,
To fly,
Above,
The sky,
With gods, eagles and angels flight.
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## In This World

In this world, like sand by the ocean bed,
You will see much series of miseries, trickeries and mockeries,
Love and hate a like,
And as air is to life, accept, you are child of the universe,
Don't say life is unfair, neither say the world owe you anything,
Because prior to your conception the world was here before you,
If anything you owe it much more,

Threfore as a child of the world you got to master the law of life, Not to live alone,
The world got many children,
Both living and non-living,
None invicible,
You are not an island,
and with all its delicacy,
Life is mutual,

Amidst the face of all these evil, try to do good,
And like a budding flower's leaf you will often fall,
But still rise,
And if the world should throw dirt on you,
Take bath and move on,

Live good among all things,
Thy sisters and brothers,
Shunning violence, arrogance, dshonesty and hatred,
They poison the heart,
Embrace respect, humility, forgiveness and love,
They are bread to the soul.

Remember in life all is same and equal, No matter your status, Creation and mortality is a commonality to all,

## Love And Wisdom

Love and wisdom, More Intimate
Than an exchange between a tender bridegroom and his bride
Combination Clear like a foetus thought and pure as a virgins kiss
Much sweeter than her tease
Twice fold noble as a sturdy horse
Yet opposite like a gun and a rose

No wisdom in love Or should I say no love in wisdom Which is which, I can barely fathom For in love even the wisest minds sleep And in wisdom the purest heart cheat Lack of love just reason, minds marry and can't keep Without wisdom but only passion, hearts bond and later bleed Wisdom is organized love Love is accessed wisdom In affection devoid of wisdom man take other man's life In reason a lawyer put passion of heat as a defense And in wisdom devoid of affection the judge lessen the sentence What anomaly Wisdom feel life but think of death Love feels of only bliss Because for wisdom its foolishness to think of happiness

Love and wisdom

Both treat each other with sheer suspicion

Love sees wisdom as so immoral and evil

Wisdom sees love as so naive and foolish

Yet to men they appear to be in perfect harmony

So Many desire love and wisdom

And even as I speak now,

Many a man are making friend with love and wisdom

Surrendering reason to passion

Some thinking without loving

For me Lord I pray you spare me both And if I am to have any Don't give me love Maybe wisdom

I have tried love and it hurts Even then I can't love and be wise at the same time.

## My Beloved

My beloved is mine and I am hers
She who is finer than imagination
She has ravished my heart with her eyes
Her eyes, like doves by the rivers of waters
Her teeth washed with milk and tightly set
Hair so tender and smooth
Her lips are like scarlet ribbon

Oh! How lovely you are
All beautiful you are my darling
Your beauty has no equal
Your cheeks rivals a bed of spices
The fragrance of your breath
Bypasses banks of scented herbs
Your body wonderfully carved
The work of a skilful workman
In you there is no flaw
Yours is the perfection of an intention

In your tears
I find water to wash my soul
And in your laughter
Gladness to bubble my heart

Sweet one

Would you set me a seal upon your heart?
A seal upon your arm
For the strength of your love is like death
Its jealousy, cruel as the grave
Vehement flame its synonym
Roaring flood can't drown your love
Neither can many waters quench it
My beloved

#### **Peace Soul**

In the event that I lose my soul
The occurrence of my demise
Peace my broken soul
The curtain closes on me
Faster than dewdrops I depart
I looked at it and it did smile
For I am destined to travel young

Though soon
Honourably and with dignity
I have accepted my fate
For to live is to die

Like an illusion
This breath I hold so dear
Is verily impermanent
And when it will speak bye
Shed the stains of sorrow
For i ascended into beauty
And beauty withers when it grows
Grief not my loved ones
Sing no sad songs
Plant no roses
Only be the light above me
For the hour is here
To return to the potter

## **Politic Dog**

This pet of mine,
Has just preyed on its first birth,
Claiming it was starving,
When I had just bought it,
Enough to quench its appetite,

This pet of mine,
Has pushed away its second birth,
Leaving it desolate and cold,
Claiming the kettle has no enough space,
And it was only yesterday,
I made it spacious kettle,
For I thought with the new born,
It needed better accommodation,

Now this pet of mine,
Is bitterly barking at its third birth,
This time reason unknown,
If there be, maybe political,
When we had just enacted ordinary law of homestead
Of how to air grievances and amicably resolve disputes

What good is a nation,
That feeds on its children?
Of what interest is a nation,
That refuses to re-settle its very citizens?
Of what benefit is a nation,
That does not respect the ordinary law of the land?

This nation of mine

## **Redemption Through Sacrifice**

We buds of 1982, Chant salutes and clang shields,
To mock the silken knot, the loose noose at your collars,
Your names, like an army of resurrected aborted infants,
Bring chills across the wombs of the wives of your executioners
And of the hand by which your deaths were sealed,
Long is his life, an addition of your lives sufferings,
Eloquent was your defiance, as the history of your neglect.
November 10th give life to the surrogate corpse we buried,
Events of your execution is still slow news indeed,
Illusions of the media age, Power has its own agenda,
Guilt did make equal those, whom it did stain,

" Enemies of peace" history revisionists proclaim, Inklings of 'Nyayo professors', have vilified your struggles, Results of a negotiated and renegotiated past, The clocks struck one, their pens wrote thirteen This history without memory confines this generation, This generation promised so much, yet to be delivered To a sort of eternal present, a bastard historiography. Mutation of time, has rendered your guns stale, Weaklings are your seeds to call forth your courage, Allegedly, they killed revolution by word of mouth, Invited us to a mock funeral, never did we see the body, We do believe in the immortality of Grundnorm, Derived power can't be greater than its source

Worthy comrades what plagued you, still ails us, Corruption, tribalism, cronyism, nepotism, poverty, Private tyrannies, looting of public resources, Internal exploitation, external dependencies, Unsustainable policies, increased taxation, Political opportunism, Ideological bankruptcy, Narrow self interest and underdevelopment. What is a vote to us if it can't change lives? If not but a Mickey Mouse democracy. A tree is so called whilst still growing, But a wood when it ceases to grow,

Kamwana Wa Kamaliza, (son of the exterminator)
Oh winged is the time against the slothful
We the unpeople, buds of 1971,
Tribal political alliances is like jail to us,
This seed beneath the snow is repression to us,
And should we extend forth our hands,
To awaken the jazz of revolution,
Where silent life is the lock to freedom,
The gallows could be a key to us,
Our road is lonesome as an ancient poet's night,
Our only guardian is a neglected future,
Either a lily follows us or the gallows.

## Street Poets In Chains

Nothing shall stand between a man and his mind
Not guns, not prisons, not men in uniforms
So Poppa, Musambati Shira, Ian and volkanoh
While you make friends with the bugs in the dungeon
May your minds find peace in that owl's nest
Let your souls be of sufficient courage,
They did that too, to the prophets before you

History informs the future,
So the past is bound to repeat itself in the present
Fifty years of independence, no liberty to speak love in the streets
But the streets is always right, so they silence it.
Don't tell us how you want liberate Somalia
While in your own land you detain innocent poets,
Is it because insecurity in Somalia threaten Tourism?
So you trade your citizen's lives to foreign exchange
Intimidation to the men wielding guitars, pens and words.
Whose main intention is to unite the streets
Meanwhile the tweeps won't stop till they are free,
And today will not be the last time we trend

Worthy comrades, Poppa, Musambati Shira, Ian and volkanoh For the love of the pen, the guitar and the word They made you sleep, friends with the Vermin Let the vermin gaze with wondering calmness Quite interest implore the wisdom in your veins With your suckled blood let them use it as an ink To unfold the sufferings of street poets in chains

My friends Poppa, Musambati Shira, Ian and volkanoh Let solitude stimulate your minds even to greater exertions In cold cell floor, learn to write with be numbed fingers Fair thee well for the present, comrades in affliction For my heart is cold with the news of your incarceration We will visit; follow you even in the deep, darkest prison Meanwhile the tweeps won't stop till you are free, And today will not be the last time we trend

## Taming The Innate

Bequeath me the patience of heart, To travel in this fairest journey, Which in itself not an end, Lest thou in sheer folly strayeth, For in haste i lose serenity, And stir up desire before it pleases,

Grant me the coolness of mind,
To know
That his is that which was predestined,
In rush human want to change the course of nature,
But thy will I cannot change,
For that which human proposes, nature disposes,
Then ceases to substantiate that which was ordained,
Because in humility you did not wait,
Neither conceived the insight of the seasons,
The beauty of appointed time,
To sing not before you can talk,
To crawl before thou walk,

Save me the urging impulse of flesh,

So in appearance I can detect reality,
Lest in blatant disdain, disgrace my very soul,

For in flesh there dwells the power of deception,

The coercive force that overlooks the counsel of the inner domain,
And in premature celebration beats its temple,

For the trust of the flesh is the destruction of the soul,

In grace my reward reciprocate,
For in discretion and sound wisdom,
Thy laws I have sustained,
Of soul, mind and flesh,
And in patience walked this road,
Until thy will is due,
To rejoice in the beauty of my price,

# The Boy In Me When I Was Twelve. (An Archive From Childhood Crush, Now A Broken Dream)

To you Esmil The beauty in your smile And the glow in your eye As to when I look at them Turn my heart on, Feel my heart with laughter Now I am left grappling With the feeling Will you ever be mine? Will you some day Look my way I pray O am I going to bitterly pay The price for dreaming, Just look at us Then at the stars, So far away

I look at your world
And it's perfect
There's where I want to be
Where life will always
Be enough for me
And the pain I feel if any
Is a another kind of pain
Please guide my way
Into your arms
Where I belong
I just want to share
In your beautiful world
Esmil

## The Burden Of A Generation

I looked and I beheld birds hover,
Myriads of birds, flying around the pale in her face,
Some weeping, some gossiping,
Most singing the inhuman songs,
Sounds so shrill and confused;
It stirs her blood but she won't dance,
There are more pressing needs
Than the humour of the birds,

I watched her lean figure, tired and heavy,
Heavy with child and burden
Yet her frame racing, hurrying with a flying feet;
Oh! How I wept, and yet shall weep
With the ever returning morn.
Of how such tender breasts, must suckle slaves
Slaves of unrepayable debt and heavy taxation;
Her very days, shades of night

Oh Lord! How we sow with tears,
Bearing trail of seeds
And yet reap burden and pain
Where are our sheaves?
We inherit the emblem of our for-bearers
And pass it to our heirs,
Their every dream born entombed,
The scars of pain and burden we pass with a mute strain.

#### The Dance Of Lust

This lady with an hour¬-glass figure
And side swept bangs, hair loosely falling to her shoulder,
If, even for a moment takes to the dance floor,
Would make me boogie flow,
Till the wee hours of the morning glow,
To dance all my youthfulness and joblessness blows
For I want the dance of lust.

So tonight, with her, I will drink all my days' hustle,
To refrain my brain from dreaming, air building castle
That someday I will be great if I only battle the struggle,
My fate is an inverted pyramid; it will not stand the angle,
Soon it will stumble, drop the mantle, and then awfully crumble,
So before the sparkle in my eyes, are by the gods laid humble,
Before I gracefully surrender my youthfulness, to outlive my usefulness
Let me, by this lady of my time, dance, this life's sorrowfulness,
For I want the dance of lust

To her I will, willfully toss to the Caesars And when the drinks finally finely hit us, We sail in the ocean of delusion, Save for a truckload of flirtation, Glide smoothly to the hour's romance Pair up in a smooth sauntering dance Hold it in a closed up arms With plenty of wrap under arm turns, Lose my heartbreaks to her magic feet, And with the infectious accent on the upbeat, Make rapid steps, long moves, stretching moves, To make her stretch to the limits Passion pouring out from every hit, And with her suggestive leans If it doesn't stir my blood for real Then nothing under the sun will For this is the dance of lust.

And when floodlights fall in her eyes

She is such an elegant dose of beauty

And for once makes me forget the burnt bridges,

Makes me feel like I am at the end of my rainbow
With her I got tonight, I don't need tomorrow,
I will just dance away all life's pains sorrows,
And keep at bay all my past horrors,
To enchant this queen of my youth,
In her smile, I fall for her naturally rosy cheeks,
And in her blush, I steal a kiss from her heart shaped lips,
To fulfill all my fantasies and dreams,
Then the DJ makes the music slow
And all the lights goes down low
I lose it to the dance of lust.

## The Dead Too Have A Feeling

Into my silent land I sleep In your chaotic world, I admire you breath

When you look down at the ants I smile, I wave,
Believing you seeing me
But you ignore me

Instead you step on my house Your heavy weight breaking my roof With your pointed shoes You smash my rotting bones Does it mean you shun my world? Or am I just invisible

I like it when you hurting When you shed those tears You water my thirsting heart You bring life to my soul One day you will be here

#### The Will

If I should depart tonight take this body

Take it wholly

Let not even a single bone be broken

Or even a word of burial be spoken

I desired cremation to ease space

Due to the stretched graves

But not until I visited him at Chiromo

In one of their exploratory operation bodies no more

He was my friend a medical student

In the theater a hundred students scavenged for one corpse to operate

Only the first five were able to perform the real operation

The rest was just a facade passing the surgical in mockery

These are our doctors to be,

Then I looked down with concern

How greedy and selfish men can be

To add to the already overcrowded earth

Than to give even their carcases for education

That's why I say

Should this breath I hold so dear say bye

Come for my body and take it

Take it to Kenyatta University

Take it to the medical students

Let them use it for the advancement of medical education,

Let them use it for science and research

Let them use it for the development of knowledge

I beg please don't bury me

Am more afraid of the dark and the ants

Than these people wielding surgical blades,

Who desire wisdom to protect lives

These students need me

And if God should ask, I will explain

But I highly doubt if God need this physical body

For there is no spirit in the dead

Neither you

For there is no property in the dead

I almost forgot,

Should I answer that last call,

Which at some moment I will have to do
Take these eyes too
Deposit it with the eye bank,
Because do you remember last night at Huruma ward?
Little Esmil was born blind
I guess she needs these eyes more than I do
For in the grave men don't see
And Like my best friend Anita, I don't want her world to be dark
So should I die, take these cornea
And light her world

But think a second, do heaven need these eyes?

Am skeptical, but if they do

Then in heaven I will be blind

But it's true that in heaven it's all light

Or do beings reincarnate? That would be unfortunate

But it's OK because I have had my share of light in the first life

Finally to my loved ones this is my will
Let them take these body and eyes
You can only take my heart for God need my soul
Please don't stop them,
To deny my last wish

#### The Woman In Your Dream

That woman I see in your dreams
Her hand is lifeless, everything she touches die
Her breathe, every plant withers, dry
She only dances to music made of a living cry

That woman I see in your dreams
Whenever she wants to feed
The poor, the weak must bleed,
Blood stain colour her streets
Blood paints her wall houses
Some give colour to the roses
She always uses
To beautify love, secrets untold
Then you worry why some hearts grow cold

That woman I see in your dreams
In the darkest stage of twilight, dusk
After dead bodies decompose to dust
She collects their ashes, gather their bones
With their ashes mixed with their tears
Out of it she furnishes her floors
With their bones she curves bricks
Then build her foundation,
Finally she has made her mansion

Do you sometime smell blood under your bed?
And you still make babies, merry in the guilt
You say, a child who drowns in the river does not stop
The villagers from drinking of the same river
Then whenever a young soul is lost
You and the priest will say it is the will of God
But we all know it is the will of the ghost you host.
I will not drop this last tear, I will write it
That woman i see in your dreams

## Withered Royalty

Upon this cliff, rests, Silence, Series of dreams, broken
Deep the running river, sits
My very shadow, wounded
I shall throw the last stone
To see how much it bleeds
Listen to echoes of its sobs
Watch the waves, tears sails

Across the other bank, meets
The sweet scented herbs
Where once grew, the bright daisy
Like a shadow of gold tinted clouds
Lies still, withered, stained petals
Reminiscence, memories once forgone
Of the river's dulcet sounds upon her virgin's hue
Ere the wintry blasts of prodigal wasty wilds
Scattered her beauty to the strumpet winds
Now the waters hold a candle to her shames

Ye moral police,
Wasn't every harlot once a virgin?
Every dead once living?
Every saint once a sinner?
And the devil once a god?