

## Poetry Series

# Frederick Kambemba Yamusangie - poems -

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## **Frederick Kambemba Yamusangie**

Frederick Kambemba Yamusangie (Novelist, Playwright and Poet) was born and partly brought up in Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. He has studied communication engineering at the University of Kent at Canterbury in England. He lives in Essex, United Kingdom. He is the author of Full Circle (ISBN: 0-595-28294-6) , a literary novel set in Congo; and also a book of poetry Beneath the Blue Sky (ISBN: 1-4137-8638-3)

### Works:

- 'Full Circle', a literary novel set in Congo (Africa) .  
ISBN: 0-595-28294-6

- 'Beneath the Blue Sky: A Short Book of Poetry'  
ISBN: 1-4137-8638-3  
(Official date of publication: 08/06/2005)

**...the books,**

One who runs away from the books,  
Runs away from one's mental liberation...  
One who runs towards the books,  
Runs towards one's intellectual enlightenment...

Frederick Kambemba Yamusangie

## A Jungle

Why should anyone call this town a Jungle?  
Is it a joke? Is it ignorance?  
Is it arrogance?  
Or it is just an other image making exercise...

Why should anyone call this town a Jungle?  
A town full of schools,  
Hospitals, restaurants,  
Mansions, roads, well know companies

A town, which has one of the best arts  
Museum of the world  
A town that can stage an international  
Boxing event of the century

A town full of intellectuals, students,  
Workers, singers, actors, diplomats,  
Businessmen, civil servants, writers

Why Should anyone call this town a Jungle  
Is there any moral justification for doing that  
Is there any legal justification for doing that  
Or it is just an other image making exercise...

A town with no sighting  
Of wild animals running around the streets  
Or maybe it is because its  
Inhabitants have been equated to wild animals

Why should one call this town a Jungle?  
Why, Why, Why,  
That is dangerous  
That could lead to someone calling

Any town where people  
Shoot each other for fun  
A killing town...A shooting field...  
Or an uncivilised town...That is dangerous...

But for me,  
Regardless of what you think  
Regardless of what you say  
I will always call it Kin Kiese Ya...ya...

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## **Absolute**

Absolute Truth  
That is how I see it

Absolute Falsehood  
That is how you see it

And...  
Absolute disaster

That is what  
We are creating

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## **As Real Knights Of Light**

The forces of real knowledge will  
Order us to discover the wealth  
Of the hidden mysteries of our  
Golden past

Star of the West, which is rising in the sky,  
Is about to vanish  
Still we might not get  
Much credit for the event

Alive or dead  
Today or tomorrow  
As Real Knights of Light let us shine  
Before it becomes too late

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## **Destruction**

I have seen it...  
I have seen it with my very eyes...  
Yes. I have seen it.

Beware; it takes many shapes...  
In fact, it's shapeless and also colourless.

Yes, I can testify that I have seen it.

How did I see it?  
I closed my eyes. I talked to the Trees.  
Even Water and Fire showed me all...

It comes under many forms...  
One might only see its' effect.  
I don't care how one choose to call it...  
I call it Destruction.

Destruction of the Earth.  
Destruction of Animals.  
Destruction of Human Families.  
Even destruction of life itself.

Oh! No...I am sorry...  
That is what we call progress...  
That is what we call development.

Frederick Kambemba Yamusangie

## Discovering 'La Negritude'

Discovering La Negritude

It is like drinking pure water freshly

Taken from a spring

Not Processed, Not Packaged, Not Commercialised

But just Pure and Clean

Water coming from the Mother Earth

Taken (with some effort) by you

And consumed (with not any persuasion) by you

Discovering La Negritude

It is like discovering your unknown heritage

It is like discovering a hidden

Treasure, wealth,

Which have always existed

But not known by you

Wealth, which could transform

Your life completely for the best

Discovering La Negritude

It is like waking up from a deep sleep,

And joining a group of privileged people

Who have fallen in love with names such as:

Aime Cesaire, Leopold Sedar Sengor,

Camara Laye, Sembene Ousmane,

Jean Malonga, Mongo Beti,

Langston Hughes, Zamenga Batukezanga,

Lomami Tshibambe, Ferdinand Oyono Mbia,

Richard Wright, Chiekh Anta Diop,

Patrice Emery Lumumba, Claude Maskay, Franck Fannon,

Felix Tchikaya U'Tamsy, William Egber Du Bois, etc..

And never looked back...

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## **Electronic Support**

And as long as I don't see  
You on the television  
Or I don't hear about  
You on the radio

Or I don't even read about  
You on the national newspapers  
Everything you are telling me  
That it is happening to you

I would consider them  
As a pure fantasy  
As a pigmentation of your  
Own imagination

I can even go as far as  
To advice you to become a novelist  
I can even get angry  
If you still persist to talk to me

About the all situation  
If you still want me to believe you  
If you still want to get my sympathy  
If you still want me to help you

With the kinds of sufferings  
That you are going through everyday  
With the kinds of oppressions  
That you are experiencing

With the kinds of famine and malaise  
That your wife and children are being victim of  
Get on television  
Make a radio broadcast

Invite a writer to write about you  
Not any kind of writer  
A journalist  
I insist a journalist

To write about you...Otherwise  
I would find it boring to read  
So, in short, get some kind of  
Electronic Support to inform me

About your problems  
While I am in comfort of my house  
In my car or even in my office  
Then I can believe you

Then you can get my sympathy

Then I can inform the all world  
That you are indeed in need  
Otherwise...Don't bother me...

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## **Especially when the sky turns blue**

As he is said nothing will be the same again  
He would be proven to be right  
One finds it difficult to appreciate what  
Belongs to him or her  
One should wonder why humankind  
Not all of them off course  
But enough to notice  
Are failing to appreciate  
The wonders brought  
By the apparent rise of  
The sun in the sky  
And the light it brings with it  
The rise in temperature allows  
All of us to freely wander the streets  
Especially when the sky turns blue  
That's true  
There would be no light or heat  
As nice and wonderful as  
The sunlight and the sun heat  
Especially when the sky turns blue

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## **I am Going Shopping**

I am going shopping  
But I will not see Mr. Smith,  
Even Mrs Velnet would not  
Cross my sight today

Today, she would not ask to me  
'How are you? '  
'How is your mother? '  
'Tell her I will see her tomorrow

At the seniors' citizens club meeting'  
Imagine,  
I am going shopping  
Without buying a bread at Mr

And Mrs McBride's bakery  
That's unbelievable  
Did you know?  
Mr Smith's butchery has been

Demolished  
Mrs Velnet's fruit and vegetable's  
Shop has closed down because  
She's gone bankrupt

From now on, the Smiths,  
The McBride's and the Velnets  
Would discover poverty  
Which was alien to them

For two hundred years  
All that...for what?  
It's for me to shop in comfort  
It's for me to get everything

Under one roof  
Well, what should matter to me?  
Is it the 'hello' of Mrs McBride  
Or 'buy one get one free'?

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## **I Am So Happy...I Am Ageing...**

Oh! I am so happy  
I am so happy at what  
It is happening to me  
I am getting Old  
I am Ageing

I am loosing my teeth  
My hair is turning grey  
For now on,  
Everybody would listen to me  
The entire village would sit down

Quietly and listen to what  
I would have to say  
Most of the evenings  
The children would abandon their houses  
Rush to my place

They will arrange the fire woods  
Which they will bring from  
Their own houses  
And put fire on them  
Regardless of what their parents would say

They would still come to my place  
Congregate around the fire  
Even if I was sleeping  
They would drag me out of my house  
By force so I can tell them stories

Or I can give advice  
One day I did run out of tales to tell them  
They insisted of hearing the story of my life  
Oh I am so happy to be ageing  
Even when my mouth smells

Grown up still want to come close  
To me and put their ear near my mouth  
Not even closing their nose  
And listen to what I have to say  
Everyone wants to be my grandchild

Even those who don't live in our village  
Bow in front of me  
As if I was the village chief  
I don't know if life can get better than this  
But I still have major problems to solve

How can I get back  
My privacy that I have lost  
I am not anymore able to be  
By myself and I am not allow to refuse

Any food that is given to me by everybody

Every single day as if  
They were in some sort of  
Food giving contest  
Well... Anyway...  
I am still very happy to be ageing...

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## **I Cannot**

I cannot give up my soul...  
That's what makes me  
Who I am

I cannot give up my dignity...  
That's what makes me  
Get my respect from

I cannot give up my mind...  
That's what gives me bearings  
And balance in my life

But...

I can give up my money...  
Because,  
This is a human creation  
This is a fictitious entity.

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## **I Feel Safe**

I feel safe in front of a blank paper

    Holding a pen in my hand

Creating stories I like

    Creating believable characters

Choosing real events

    While the outcome depends on me

I feel safe on front of a blank paper

    As it takes me

Where it could be dangerous

    For me to be in real life...

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## **I Have Already Became A Poet**

It is just an empty gesture  
To cut my head off  
And let me bleed to death  
So the doctor would declare me  
Officially dead on his arrival

It is just an empty gesture  
To cut my right arm  
And let me bleed to death  
So the doctor would declare me  
Officially dead on his arrival

Well,  
If it is my death  
That you are after my brother,  
It is too late  
I have already become a poet

Well,  
I am sure  
You should know by now  
Poets do not die  
Poets live forever and ever

From now on you  
And your countrymen  
Have not other choice  
Than to accept the fact that  
You would be dealing with me for centuries...

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## **I have seen the sun rising again**

(To Papa and Maman Dungu - In memory  
of my childhood friend Helene Dungu)

I was and I am still speechless  
I can never comprehend  
How you are coping  
With the loss of someone  
That you really love

And also an important person in your life  
I have looked at the blue sky,  
I have stared at the river Thames,  
I have looked at horizon,  
I have even consulted books,

Which contain words of wisdom  
So I can cheer you up...  
But I stopped for a moment  
I putted myself into your shoes,  
Then I realised that there is

Nothing I can do to create  
A diversion to this blow,  
To this immense loss,  
To this sad news...  
But the time would help

So at moment I should force  
Myself to remain quiet  
Because I know  
The time would be the healer  
Of your internal wounds

And also I should stop troubling myself  
Too much regarding your well-being  
Because I know you  
You will recover  
You will be strong again  
I know you have coped with some  
Painful moment in your Life,  
So I conclude  
You will still standing, Regardless...  
With confidence,

I can now say:  
I have seen the sun rising again  
Yes,  
I can see it rising again  
In your life...

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## **Let Us Go Gentle With The Nature**

Let us go gentle with the nature  
It has given us many  
Blessings to be proud of

Learn your Botany, Anatomy,  
Geography, Astronomy, etc...  
Before it is too late

Regardless of what the nature  
Is giving us  
A non-wise person will always

Fail to see the good side of it  
He or She will only see curse  
But let the rest of us go gentle with the nature...

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## **Let Us Live In Peace**

Let us live in peace  
Among ourselves  
That is our natural instinct

Let us live in peace  
Among ourselves  
That is our only way forward

Let us live in peace  
Among ourselves  
That is how we will befriend freedom and justice

Or otherwise...

Heaven only knows  
What will happen  
To our beloved Congo

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## **Looking Into My Inner Self**

Until I can look into my self  
And find the real  
Identity of my inner self,  
I will not blame anyone  
For my misfortune

Although the world  
It is making me to do so  
Still I will not blame  
Anyone for my misfortune  
Before I look in my inner self...

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## **My 'raison d'être' as a poet**

Let them say whatever they want to say about me  
Let them do whatever they want to do to me  
They are just wasting their time  
I don't care anymore  
They are just trying to distract me  
As a poet I know what are my 'raison d'être'

As a poet,  
I have duties to carry out  
As a poet,  
I have responsibilities to fulfil  
As a poet,  
I have a destiny to reach

So let them play the negative part  
Of the game  
And I, as a poet, will always play the positive part of the game  
Which is talking to the heart of the entire humanity  
Especially to those who have taken the time  
To open up their heart to poets such as myself

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## **My Black Pearl**

My black pearl...  
My black diamond  
My gold,

Which gives a black brightness...

It was you who taught me how to be love again  
It was you who taught me how to be happy again  
It was you who gave me the willingness to live again

But...

Why have you let me float in space  
Without you as my parachute?

Why have you choose  
To make me a wicked man?

Why have made me a man  
Hate his kind of women?

Yes...

Now I give you the permission  
To put me to sleep forever...

So I cannot see  
How I am losing you...

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## **My Princess**

Who said that I have stopped loving you?  
Whatever I did yesterday,  
I am doing today,  
Or I will do tomorrow,  
Has nothing to do to the way I feel about you...

Of course,  
The world might be limited  
Only to the five senses,  
But let us go further...

Regardless of my situations,  
You are and will always be  
That fairy tale Princess of mine  
I felt in love with...

Even though we have choose  
Not to walk through  
Life on the same path,  
But you still my Princess...

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## **OH! MY CONGO! ! !**

Oh! My Congo!  
You are and will always be my Congo  
Wherever I go  
Wherever I settle  
Wherever I live  
I will raise your profile very high...  
    So high enough for every one to see  
I will shout your name very loud...  
    So loud enough for everyone to hear  
I will make our connection very clear...  
    So clear enough for everyone to notice

Oh! My Congo!  
You do not know how happy I was when  
I found out that your children can never forget about you  
I was even more delighted to learn that your children are  
Preparing your Renaissance  
Do not ask me how they will achieve it  
Do not worry My Congo  
Your children are very  
Creative and Patriotic  
They have already come up with an idea  
Which they call Operation Besa Maboko,

Oh! My Congo!  
This is just an open invitation for all of us  
To give an helping hand in building your future  
They have decided to make you a giant of twenty first century  
Anyway you are the real and natural giant  
All of us your children...  
    Are proud to be called Congolese  
All of us your children...  
    Feel privilege to be called your beloved  
All of us your children...  
    Will never let you down, Regardless

Oh! My Congo!  
Do not worry anymore  
This is going to be your century  
So sit back and relax  
Through Poetry, Prose,  
Pictorial Narratives and moving pictures  
Your children will Build,  
Promote and Defend your Rebirth  
Just sit back and relax...You are in good hands  
Oh! My dear Congo you could not imagine  
How happy I am to be called your beloved Child....

Oh! My Congo!  
    Oh! My Congo!  
        Oh! My Congo!

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## **One's kind**

How can one claims to belong  
To the human family  
And inflicted pain to  
One's kind  
Regardless of his or her ignorance,  
Wickedness, lack of time, etc...  
No one has the right to allow any  
Unnecessary suffering of  
One's kind,  
As member of the human family  
Let us hold hands and spread love  
Among us...

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## **One's Real Talent**

Through the darkest  
Moment of one's life  
One should not just  
Cry, Mourn or Complain

But...  
One should stop  
And start to reflect  
One should start to do

One's Introspection  
Then maybe...And maybe...  
One could discover  
One's real talent.

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## **Racism or Tribalism**

One who lets  
One self to become  
Stupid or Insecure  
Runs  
The risk of embracing  
Racism or Tribalism...

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## **Robot**

And I should repeat it again  
In front of all your colleagues  
I am firing you on the ground that  
You are always been faithful to me  
You are always done  
Your job without asking any questions

And I should repeat it again  
In front of all your colleagues  
I will 'mechanise' or 'electronise' your post  
I don't want to see you anymore  
You said that you have been a good worker  
So, would be the robot

At least I would understand  
If the robot lets me be the only  
One doing everything  
I will still forgive the robot  
Because it is not programme  
Think for itself.

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## **Seeing The Light**

One who sees the Light!  
Also sees the Darkness  
Not seeing through the Darkness  
But seeing the Darkness itself

One who sees the Light!  
Would know  
He or she has seen the Light  
And would never say

Does the Light really exist?  
Does the Darkness really exist?  
One who sees the Light!  
Would be always

Jolly  
Big hearted  
And someone  
To have around

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## **She said...**

She said I should be patient  
I would succeed in what I like doing  
And I am saying  
I am already starting to flourish  
I am starting to rise from  
A mental oppression invisible but real  
To excel and date my dreams...

She said that I should be patient  
I would succeed in what I like doing  
And I am saying  
I am already starting to flourish  
I am starting to rise from  
A mental warfare every single day  
To stopped me creating my own reality

She said that I should be patient  
I would succeed in what I like doing  
And I am saying  
I am already starting to flourish  
I am starting to rise from death to life  
Now I can say I am living...I am alive...  
I am proud of saying it a loud

She said that I should be patient  
I would succeed in what I like doing  
I must admit I did not believe her  
Although she is the one who gave birth to me  
I could not see what she was able to see  
But now I can see it with  
My very eyes

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## **Thank You Mother...**

Thank you very much mother  
Your advices have cleansed my mind  
Of uselessness I acquired while I was away from you  
Thank you maman Balenga...  
Thank you very much mother  
Your advices have helped me to embrace  
The entire humanity as whole, Regardless of...

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## **The sky has turned blue**

Let us go out and celebrate  
Let us dance, sing  
And hug one other  
The sky has turned blue...

It has brought with it  
The spirits of happiness,  
It has brought with it a positive energy  
The energy to transform our mental vibration...

Let us go out and loose ourselves  
Go and be possess by  
The spirits of happiness  
The sky has turned blue...

Maybe one could notice  
One's mental vibration  
Being changed to a high level,  
Regardless our five senses...

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## **The Slanders**

The bitterness of life almost took over  
My heart  
The anger of life almost engulfs  
My heart

Why did I allowed myself to be  
Disturb by those Slanders  
Why did I allowed my Creativity to be  
Affected by the actions of those Backstabbers

Why? Why? Why?  
I should have known by now that  
Those types of people who suffer  
From inferiority complex

Would have acted as they did  
And would always exist  
Until the crack of doom  
If so why should I be concern

With them  
Regardless of my Actions or Response  
They will never give up  
Their attack on me...

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## **Unravel your heart**

Unravel your heart to the unfortunate people  
You would be surprised to see the impact  
You will have on them

They are looking for the kind of joy  
Which is abundant in your heart  
So please, unravel your heart to the unfortunate ones...

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## **We will make it**

We will make it! ! !  
You guys remember  
What was our status during  
The so-call Cold War...  
But we managed to survive

We will make it! ! !  
You guys remember  
What was our status during  
The so-call Industrial Revolution...  
But we managed to survive

We will make it! ! !  
You guys remember  
What was our status during  
The so-call Triangular Trade...  
But we managed to survive

We will make it  
Let us say it loud  
We will make it  
It will be difficult  
But we will make it

Let us not have an illusion  
It will be certainly difficult  
But we will make it  
We have to make it  
For our children sake...

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