

Poetry Series

Andiswa Mvanyashe
- poems -

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Andiswa Mvanyashe(07-05-1986)

I, Andiswa Mvanyashe, a former lecturer and an isiXhosa language Practitioner, was born in Qumbu village at Tsilitwa. I attended my primary school at Mbambisa JSS in Qumbu. In 1998 I went to do my secondary education in Zimele Junior Secondary School in Khwezi location in Mthatha. In 2001, I started my high school in Little Flower high at Qumbu. In 2004, I proceeded with my education and went to former University of Port Elizabeth where in 2008; I graduated with a BA degree in Media culture and Communications under Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. I hold a Masters Degree in IsiXhosa which I obtained in 2011, BA Honors in Isixhosa (2009 from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) . During my university studies I served as a Surgent'n Arms and Public relations Officer in Toastmasters Society. I also designed a website for Toastmers Society, ABASA and Provocative ladies. In 2009, I worked as an IsiXhosa Junior Lecturer at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. In 2010, I started working as a Communications Intern at Renault South Africa in Johannesburg. In 2011 I worked in Pretoria for a Non-profit organization called as an IsiXhosa language Practitioner. I was also nominated as a Gnome intern (international company) under localisation for IsiXhosa language 2011. In 2013 I came back to Port Elizabeth to work as an isiXhosa lecturer at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, where I had the privilege of assisting in the creation of the Intinga Journal. Now I'm currently freelancing as an IsiXhosa Language Practitioner and finishing my Phd in isiXhosa Language.

Are You A Mortal?

Meeting Apollo on the way
Tall and handsome
I bet! I saw a Greek god
Are you a mortal?

For you are so good to be true
Everything about you seems perfect
Your words so sweet like melody in my ears
Your touch so soft like a summer rain in my skin
Are you a mortal?

Do you own diamond mines
For you smile like you have diamonds in your teeth
Your smile brightness up the room
You shine and attract my attention from afar
Diamond smile tell me, are you a mortal?

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Call Me A Woman

Rose that grows stronger than a tree
You carry food to the nations
You bring leaders and heroes in this world
Your dignity calms the storms
Call me a woman!

With my hands I mold,
Caring and giving love to the nation
Softness that produce strong soldiers
Soldier in making fighting for a better life for all
Call me a woman!

Creator of warmth in this cold world
Beautiful rose, you glow in the dessert world
Builder that will never give up
In your milk we drink and live
Sender of an important output to the world
Call me a woman!

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Enkosi Bawo

Ungawabamba na lo mathontsi eyembezi
Esithi chiphi chiphi ezandleni zakho
Ungawuthwla na lo mthwal' osinda nedonki yam
Ungasimela na esosikhalo esivela kwintliziyo eyophukile

Hayi wena ungumadida
Kuba wenza okudida abantu
Ngoba ndiyazi kuwe ezo zinto sisiqhelo
Sikhala sisondele
Abanye bahleka bebhekela

Babuya bekhokhoba
Babuya betake taka
Babuya bophukile
Kodwa wena usoloko wamkela

Buyini na ubomi ngaphandle kwakho?
Kuba nguwe ithemba, nguwe ubomi
Nguwe inyaniso, nguwe uNdikhoyo!
Enkosi Bawo!

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Ephemeral Pleasure

Eating and get enough of it
Shortcut to h***
You live scars of life
Enjoyment small like a seed
But you produce outcomes big as an elephant
Ephemeral pleasure

You live dirty stains, unwashable
In a minute I end my life
They search and find
It was only because of you, you!
Ephemeral pleasure

Boom! It's done
With one sound you die
Like an ephemeral insect
One moment I get the incurable disease
You live the history saying
It was only because of you, I say you!
Ephemeral pleasure

Andiswa Mvanyashe

I Am A Mortal

Seeing a cover
Something is inside
But the world likes the cover
But it's not the real thing
I am a mortal

Mortals can't see the real thing
But the immortal can
They say you're ugly
Some say you're beautiful
I am a mortal

Mortals decides about the cover
God looks at the heart
I'm tired by the opinions of mortals
The one who search for the truth knows
I am mortal

One day I will rejoice
When I've gained immortality
Not in this world but in the Promised
Land I am a mortal

Now I must ask to the one who sees it all
I must go by his directions
I must listen to him
And seek Him because
I am a mortal

Andiswa Mvanyashe

I Need Something

I was looking for nothing,
But I found something
But realised I got nothing
Was it there? It's a question
It seems as if I lost it
For I got it from nothing
I realised it was nothing
Even today I'm still waiting for it
For I need something

Andiswa Mvanyashe

In Love With A Stranger

My imaginations failed
I had hope from nothing
Our worlds were different
Our languages were different
I'm in love with a stranger

I saw a light in the dark
I built life in the sand
For my values were strong towers
I'm in love with a stranger

I never saw him again
For mountains grew fast without control
I had no choice but to let him go
I'm in love with a stranger

No road to stranger's world
No relationship with strangers
All I had was a dream that never came true
For love with a stranger was no love at all

Andiswa Mvanyashe

In The City Of An Old Coin

In the city of an old coin

Where owls sleep

Dogs don't bark

Lights speak

Silence an object

Screams no more

Sky a cover

Eyes looking

Mouth shut

The spirit hovering

Above the waters where people can see

Above the air a man can't breath

Above the roof a bright light stands

In the city of an old coin things will change

Grass will be greener

Peace will cover

love will live

only in the eyes filled with hope

The eyes that will never give up

Andiswa Mvanyashe

In The Desert I Live

In the desert I live
No sound and no people
I realised something was missing
In the desert I live

Birds flock together but I'm alone
If I was to be a sheep
I would be called a black sheep
Loneliness is my friend
In the dessert I live

A need for sharing is burning
Company is needed
I watch the happy world people sharing
For in the dessert I live

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Is It...?

Is it the tears of a hungry child?

Abused, neglected, beaten and bruised?

Is the cry of a woman watching her child die?

Are these the tears of a woman watching her husband leaving her for a man?

Is this an abused soul, lost hope and sad?

Is it life lived but not enjoyed?

Is it the cursed generation?

Rags torn crying

Ashes buried in a head of man

Flies having a party

World stinking with no air to breathe

Is it death prophesied?

Is it pain, anguish yet to come?

Is it the sign of the end times?

Is it what I see happening?

Mystery hidden in the heart of man

Tales never told, I will never tell

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Know I'M A Fish By No Choice

I thought we were the same
We lived under one river
We shared happy moments and sad ones
We chatted till the sunset
We laughed together
But now you are living me alone
You must know I'm a fish by no choice

You were a tiny toad
You learnt jumping in front of me
I encouraged you but now you are forgetting
Please come and share to me
The adventures of the land
For I depend to you for more knowledge
Please remember me for I'm a fish by no choice

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Living With A Rag

I got the rag
I saw it coming
Washable but still a rag
People admired it

Lose of a rag was a pain to me
I found out it was gold
Displayed in the kings castle
My rag is somewhere

They studied about its dirt
It was thrown into the last bin
I found my rag desperate
Changed and destroyed

Never became the same
Power to clean was gone
Never saw the need for washing it
For this earth hates beauty

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Merged Worlds

He smelled her perfume from afar
Listened to her heart beat
Understood her in silence
He wondered, watched
And admired her world
He imagined her world he never lived
They were both visionaries
Backed up by prayer
Yet they never knew
They were praying for each other
World in different settings yet beliefs the same
It's like they knew their worlds had to merge
They dreamt of the day yet they waited
They both had wonderful worlds
However, they had to end them for one world
A world where the word "I" was no longer in use
Worlds merged with one reason
A world blessed yet not always green
A world of all emotions yet one emotion dominating
A world some are wishing for
Merged worlds

Andiswa Mvanyashe

My Lover Monster Is A Parasite

My lover monster is tall and masculine
I saw him smiling from the distance
When I got closer he was roaring like a lion
My lover monster is looking for anyone to devour
I never knew I was the victim
My lover monster is cruel

My lover monster drew me closer
To his strong and tough arms
When I tried to lean they had thorns
My lover monster is up to no good
Oh! My love monster is scaring me

My lover monster touched me softly
I thought we were making love
But my lover monster was looking
For a soft spot to suck my blood
Oh! My lover monster is a parasite

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Ndinebhongo Lobayintombi Yomxhosa

Ndinebhongo kwaye ndiyazingca ngoba nguMxhosa
Umngqokrolo, oonombhoholo, oozalipholile inene zinto zakuthi
Sithetha ingathi siyangqisha kukhale ubuqaqaqa nobuqum-qum sihaqhazela
ukutyityimba sixel' ingcolosi mhla kugquthayo
Inene ndinebhongo loba ngumXhosa
Impundu amabele zinto zakuthi
Imali yomqamelo awuyikhuphi nje engekho umqamelo
Intombi zimisile zixela iintsengwanekazi zibhongxe amabele ingathi
yiNtwasahlobo
Inene ndinebhongo lobayintombi yomXhosa
Ibhinqa elibhinqela phezulu kodwa lithobeke okwesigingqi emhlabeni
Intombi eqhaqhil' engondweni kodwa iqaqambile nasebuhleni
Into ebhid' abafana bazibone beyibonga okwehashe lomdyarho lilungiselelwe
ileqe
Uzibone uyibetha igodo indoda kuba iyaphuma lento efukwini lentonjane
okweguzu liphuma ekhasini
Ndinebhongo lobanguMxhosa
Ndinebhongo lobayintombi yomntu omnyama

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Never Too Far

Even if they could take you away,
You'll never be too far.
When the sun shines,
I see you smiling
When the sky is blue, I see your face.
You'll never be too far

When the grass is green,
I see your beauty
When the birds are singing,
I hear your soft voice whispering in my ears.
You'll never be too far

You are here in my heart,
In my thoughts and in my mind.
You'll never be too far.
When the summer rain fall in me
I feel your soft touch in my skin
You'll never be too far

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Ngcamla

Gram gram iyagramzeka
Wayitha iyatheka
Wayinambitha iyaginyeka
Iyiphekile intombi kaMqithi
Wayingcamla uNjingalwazi
Hayi kodwa abanye bayingcamla bayishiya
Abanye bayitya bayityekeze
Kwabanye bayitya bangayiginyi
Yehla kamnandi emqaleni kwabayifunayo
Bayayinukisa abathanda amavumba
Vumba elimnandi kwabathanda okuhle
Vumba elibi kwabanomona
Yeyake mnambithi kokunganambitheki
Ingaba abayityayo imnandi?
Abayityanga abanye nje
Ingaba wokholwa ngova okanye ngoncamla?
Zikhethele kuba sikhola ngokwehlukile.

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Ntomb'Entsundu

Layaphina ibhongo neqhayiya
Lokuzidla ngobuntombi bakho?
Zayaphi iinkomo zikayihlo?
Ingaba isibaya asiqhekezwanga na?
Ntomb'entsundu ndiyabuza.

Buhle besizwe
Ntyantyambo yohlobo.
Nditsho nentaba zibizwa ngawe.
Bath' abadala bakujonga isizwe babone wena,
Kucingwe wena ntomb' entsundu.

Siphi isidima nesithozela
Sentomb' ebhong' entsundu?
Kuph' ukukhuthala,
Kuph' ukuqokeza sijonge umendo?
Ntomb'entsundu siyakulilela.

Sikhumbula lo mihla amabele aye ekhombwe umfana
Kuthi yakuthi jike kukhal'imfiyo
Zingantwanyantwa ifikile intomb'entsundu
Zingadede kunyathela intomb'omnt'omnyama
Ntomb'entsundu siyakudinga!

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Oyaziyo Nongayazi

Bayixikixile abakwaziyo

Bayihlafuna abanamazinyo

Bayithufela abanamathe

Bayinyathela banenyawo ezinkule

Bayibone ukuthamba bazicofela

Bazivela beyinyola ngeminw'emikhule

Bayibone ukuzola bayingxolisa obanamazwi

Yintlekisa kwabangayikhathalelanga

Bayibon'intle bayinyolukel' abanyalukileyo

Bayiva imnandi bayitya bayigabha ekuhlutheni kwabo

Bayishiya isonyanyeka

Ingajongeki ifuna ukuhlanjwa ngenxa yosomnyoluko

Ibifanele ubongwa kodwa nayitshicela

Ibifanele ukuvuzwa kodwa bayilimaza

Ibifanelwe kukuthandwa kodwa bayonyanya

Inzima into engumntu

Bayenzile bengayenzanga

Bayicingile bengayicinganaga

Bobubonile ubuhle kodwa asivanga ngabo

Babungcamla ubumnandi kodwa abachaza

Bakhethe ukuyibulala kunokuyiphilisa

Bakhetha ukuyusuzela kunoyicoca

Yinina intw'entle ibingenobukwa?

Intw'elungileyo ibingenokhuthazwa?

Besilindele uvuyo namhla sibona inyembezi

Isililo somfazi esikrakra esiqhawul'intliziyo

Bayephi abanothando bazibonakalise

Mzi wakowethu ndiyakhuza ndilimele ngenxeba elingapholi

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Sala Kakuhle Sithandwa

Intyantyabo ibintle namhla iyabuna
Uncumo beluqaqambile namhl'oku sisililo
Mhlawumbi bekufanele
Namhla umdlalo uyaphela
Sala kakuhle sithandwa.

Mhla wumbi besisaphuca
Mhlawumbi besisabhidekile
Kodwa ke yonke into inesiphelo
Kwazi bani okuzayo?
Sala kakuhle sithandwa.

Ukonakala kwenye kukulunga kwenye
Hleze ubambo lwam lundilindile,
Mhlawumbi ukufa kusemnyango
Kwazi ban'isind' entweni
Sala kakuhle sithandwa.

Mhlawumbi ndaphandlwa bubuhle
Mhlawumbi ndabona cala limbi
Izinto azihambanga ngesiqhelo
Iphini lomele emqaleni
Sala kakuhle sithandwa.

Andiswa Mvanyashe

Things We Go Through

We give it all away
And are left emptied
We get beaten,
And left by the side of the road
Things we go through

We get and loose love
They say it's a promise
But merely a lie
A lie that we have conceived
From the mouth of a rotten monster

We lay white sheets
And muddy feet walk over them
Feet so dirty that the sheet never regains its colour
We get cast away from love like rejects
Things we go through.

We never fall, we merely stumbled
They watch us weep thinking we are weak
Not knowing that they are strengthening us
To face the stronger storms coming
Things we go through.

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