Poetry Series

OLADEJI POPOOLA - poems -

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A Tale Of My Dream

Oh! My viable seed laid on the surface of perfect loam in the midst of it consanguinity I called weeds. It set forth and grew sprout, a moment of joy! it Struggled to grow among hundred of shoots, survival of the fittest an evolutionist tale.

Early morning I sprinkled it with water and sun flourished it day as every man's wishes a blossom life. It grows gradually, I arosed an irrevocable feeling, my beautiful Rose, voiceless as dumb, and as deaf as it was, I know when it famished.

An unimaginable day, I woke up and saw my adorable Rose being fed by a famished goat. A devastated moment I felt. I rumbled, and it was really a regrettable moment for the species of Capra aegagrus. Mother swung me on my shoulder and her aggressive voice echoed to my hear "wake up, you lazy drone and clean up your dirty cubicle" I woke up and found out that all was just a dream, a nightmare I called.

Adulthood At Dawn

I aroused from sleep by the ringing of my doorbell. Who is that I asked vehemently? Replying me in a repeated times, I am adulthood. Ah! Adult what? I am Adulthood replying me in a repeated times. Turmoil colonized my mood, a chill travelled down my spine and sweat stood out my forehead in presence of free blowing breeze.

My face gaunt and trepidation bitten me by the merciless ticking of the clock, my mind reverberates in a countless time, Ah! Adulthood Anxiety flow freely into my isle of thought.

Series of question jumbled my mind. Shall I conjure the wall to open up and hid? Shall I haul myself up the attic? Shall I tell him to revisit another day when I can receive him with drum and dance and with coca cola sweating and shouting of relief in my refrigerator? But still, anxiety encroach my psyche like a swampy land dating the desert.

Ekan ni omo okunrin ku,

My gerascophobia disappeared in my sky of thought. I accept my fait accompli, a new life begins. Adulthood calm a trouble water, the adolescent menace and soothe the nerves with self-dependence and responsibilities.

Ekan ni omo okunrin ku; A man died once

Her Heart Breaks

Dare not to laugh at them. They had made a mistake.

Desire to hear from them, they have learnt not to plant on the path of erosion when the rainy season begins.

When she comes again, he knows how many years he counts to rebuild his smashed heart and reconnect his feeling toward where it aglow. He need to find a virgin land to portray his ethos but virtually all the land seems trite and squalor.

Do not blame him for his pride, he can pay the price.

They are feminine of different race. The termite encomium bestowed on them. Operation begins.

Have you ever see blood in the wizard mouth unless the wizard bird falls to the hand of the folks.

The city is full of their population to canonize in the heart of the prudence.

Mind you, they are feminine.

Their ephemeral lovers, Termite the masculine repugnance after eating part of the natural cake. Then her Heart breaks!

In A Garden Waiting For A Love

The garden is calm for lovers, with bees foraging on nectars and millipedes moving heltershelter for their daily routine. Squirrels were mounting branches as usual.

The garden was full of insect hovering around with no purpose in insight. Some pat skin to suck fresh blood, they are the demons the gardeners left untold.

The height of trees were variant of palm tree, some were shrubs, they hardly enjoy the daylight. Weeds were buried in humus, the gigantic of tree branches deflates the gra gra of nutsedge root.

Birds were also sighted, they were engrossed with worms, but when my heart sing the blues of boredom. I do see them orchestrating hymn of love.

Time started waving to me a journey of no return, 'I stand, I sit', 'I sit, I stand' till the fragrance of the garden stale. No hope she would make the day. Until my legs cried for abode, I kept lookIng for her colour in the misty day that left me out of blue.

Mother, I Shall Bring Thy Joy

Mother, the tidal wave blows toward the direction I voyage, my sail fought tireless until it gives up its last strength to the battle of the tidal wave. Mother, in thy hand lies my life, stitch my sail with thy prayer, yours is the joy I bring.

Their birds will sing the song of despair, when you narrate my tail to the enviers but yours is the early morning birds that warble the song of hope.

I shall hear thy voice when you call me by the seashore, kneel and pray to thy God. Mine is the favour of thy God and yours is the joy I bring.

In the palm of God the mother's joy lies. Mine is the favour of thy God and yours is the joy I bring.

My Plague

In your fist lies the paint of beauty, you gild the sky with blue that makes the dusk envy the dawn.

Among flowers, you adorn Rose with beauty that make others see their ugliness in their haters eyes.

Those cruising on Nile The trotter of the earth by foot when you reach where the Earth have eye, show Him my ugly picture to see His bias of nature.

Earth, where is my beauty? Have you sell it to the mogul? , have you give it to your affectionate as a gift? or have you lost it while struggle to orbit the sun?

Earth, where is my beauty? my grotesque face is my plague.

My Son, Don't Cry

Calm it with prayer the frayed home but not to cry. Oh! Son don't cry for peace shall reign again. Who will you blame for your plight, marital brouhaha never let your sleeping pill work. Father, Mother tell us the real tale why the home frayed. Son don't cry, for God sees thy home, Paint your agony with utopia wipe off tears on your doleful face. For your home shall be peaceful again.

Only In My Dream

She sedates me with her petals fragrance, A times, after a rainy day, her rainbow lines the sky and descends on my heart.

She signal me with appealing early morning dew that caress lilies. Her petals fragrance diffuses with breeze and blows from north to south to erase conundrum engraved in my memory.

But still, I have no clear definition of what the signs are all about. Is this the trick Earth use to remould a man whose heart has been broken by girls wiles? Or is this the plan B my enemy hoax to treat my fuckup?

But the definition was clear and precise when she appeared in colour of Rose laced with Lily and petals fragrance that silenced the noisy market. Rose is meant for lovers, with true feelings her heart speaks.

Gecko lies deceivably on wall to prey on insect rejoicing Night with moonlight, but hers is different, her feelings speaks, she is neither a predator nor a prey but a love angel that only visit in dream.

Only in my dream the love river never look back, the odyssey of love worth a sweet tale to narrate and only in God's fear lovers have nothing to regret than a daybreak death.

Rise And Keep Rising

Friend, you must rise and keep rising, there are times when life depresses us, times when it seems we are being drowned in water of tribulations, times when life mirror almost slips from our hand in attempt to get rid of agony. But to remould a broken life becomes an issue... times when staying to the ground appears safer than attempt to rise.

But, friend you must rise and keep rising until your lion becomes a lamb. Wave off the early morning froth and desist the ephemeral joy the noon offers freely. The night is yours to count the number of the stars and yours is the brightest one.

Yours is the success awaited by the shore, the voyager shall never leave with thy glory still you come, and yours is the glory held not in the fist of wicked man. But in the palm of thy God, yours lies freely.

Friend, rise and keep rising for your tribulations shall turn to a calm lamb shepherd by God.

Saara (My Appeasement Feasts)

Friend, this is my appeasement feast. This time I won't mind to bring it to church. It is the same bread and wine our lord left us with love.

It is not Corn mosa, Kokoro, it is neither bean cakes nor puff puff you might thought but heavenly distilled of my sage thought.

Not a money ritual sacrifice to the gods, and not kadara collector a normal man might thought. The one you ate last give birth to something I don't know? But with plea accept my Saara.

Accept it with love and trust

with love not with diversity of belief, not with self deception, tribal discrimination, mental criticism, not with acrimonious past.

Accept my Saara, I am also a sculpture of clay. Not with fire the devil crafted from the heavenly divine scripture.

Take it all and leave none;

It is a bread of love I bring for you, eat it and drink wine of forgiveness, regardless of maim that bleeds blood of hatred and left scar of conundrum in your heart. But yet, you need to forgive and forget.

This is my Saara (Love and forgiveness)I shall go beyond mosque if we need to live with peace and dwell in one love.

*kadara: destiny

The Conversation

Last night was for Linda Crige chanting of love excitement that wakes the sleeping forest. Six rounds sex... What is my concern? Nevertheless, uncle is back with Mercy Bukas. Tonight I shall spy through the keyhole.

But it was not like yesterday, my eye greeted the vixen of the moment with the intensity of the sun. But the night was for conversation! for conversation!

"I am pregnant this is the test result, four month and two weeks"...Voice seized from close range.

My eye gazed uncle's mind, though it was misty... this must be emblematic of joy I inferred.

Pandemonium broke out and silenced the smiling breeze, argument ravaged the air... uncle denied " It is for Danjuma"

Not a muttered curse from the two sides. Ogun and Sango did not awake from their tranquil sleep regardless... but Esu was at work, the curse appalled my heart not once...Who is at home to settle the rage...rather the awaken forest was marching closer.

" I never promise to marry you" uncle glued my ears with his voice of wiles. Chapter closed.

Alas, a child will be born, head for uncle, dark-skinned as Danjuma, others for Alien.

An unfortunate child will be born by a promiscuous mother to licentious father only if not a descendant of sewage.

*Ogun: god of iron Sango: god of thunder, Esu: satan

The Oppressor I Know

I tried to write but my ink agglutinates I tried to speak but it seems my voice has been betrayed by the wave. I forced my hands, my legs but gesticulation betrayed me more than the wave.

The stone landed on my skull, the one the oppressor threw to the market. But my voice was not heard when I screamed out with pain, instead, he merry of accomplishment.

I let down tears to narrate my grievances but no matter how I tried to bring out the pitiable water, it is being appreciated with smile.

Oppressor kills,

They don't care you sight the dawn with sadness and give up the last breath with distress before the dusk. They are human that lack humane.

Where I Come From

You can throw me stones because I cast, or declare me wanted because I define my fatherland. I am not a bastard. Let me talk! You can toss the coin hundred times, I am black, I am African.

From Oyo ile to the crest of Olumo rock, I sailed through Erin Ijesha waterfalls and uplifted through Sambisa forest to Oke Ibadan hill. I reside where people want rain to fall on a single roof.

My skin colour doesn't define my tongue, neither symbolizes my cognitive possession. Where I come from is where menace is a staple food like maize.

Where I come from, transistor radio breakfast us with appalling news; father impregnates daughter, son kills father, two heads found, body missing. Dapchi school girls kidnapped, Chibuk girls are nowhere to be found.

Where I come from, course material is 20 marks, even 40 marks. You fail to buy it, only the polyite can explain better.

Where I come from, they plant Okra and harvest sorghum. Don't be surprised, it is a manipulation.

Where I come from, the labours earn unpaid salary and stakeholders' tour around Miami with 36 billion dollar salary allowances.

Where I come from, snakes wish they could revenge the deformation that marred sapient reputation. Jamb 32 million Naira. Where I come from, cattle have equal right to everything under the sun and if you dare deprive them their right, Ak47 is the pathway to grave.

How I wish the space permit me to say enough. We are giant of Africa, and everything we touch rust. Where I come from, our first and best university accentuates Ibadan beyond gold coast.

Who Will Tell Your Story, What Will Tell Your Story

Speak! but in your same godly voice when the world never metamorphosed to what it appears now.

The famished tethered goat has freed himself the owner of those yam and cassava it is right time you keep them safe.

Mother chased them and later fell when Adrenaline dried from its origin, Omo ma pa mi one day it will change to Omo ma pa ra re.

Those butterflies displaying in the midst of the creator's thorns, tell them their ancestors never see the favour of time to question why they fly with fragile wings God is unquestionable!

It is right time the parrot friend the future, hear their good fortunes and come back to friend those thieves, then we can have rest of mind when we left our clothes outside to sundry in Mellanby.

What will tell your story?

A day when the wick fully soak in it palm oil and the light of judgment day burn with pitiless on them andthose who you have caused distress to, will appears in broadday light, they want to testify to your bad deeds.

Let them tell your story Let the saint river cleanse you and sun dry off your bad deeds then, we can bid you rest in perfect peace before and after we left your single grave. * Omo ma pa mi: child don't kill me * Omo ma pa ra re: child don't kill yourself

Wife Like No Other

I am not wealthy, but still, you keep loving and hoping my Honey. Still, you tell me you never regrets we form a colony.

Your tripod stand that harbours firewood makes my heart burn because your eye appealing skin now appears as a colour of charcoal.

Mama Risika never ease your nerve, she keep pushing you for war. Am still imagining how you endure her torments. You are now korikosun.

What of when the Sobus' gossip to you am in a date with Yetunde, even have pregnated Iyabo down the street. Your replied Ese adupe...still melt my heart.

Forever I will remember that grisly night, the roof blown off by the gale, the single room we dwelt was as if it was colonized by Mississippi. Still you never see that as excuse to run to the mogul.

Wife like no other, there is more to say about you. Millions of words cannot full a Ciosan basket it only blow away and affect sane minds.

Korikosun: friend Ese Adupe: Thanks