

Igudu likaSomcabeko
(The Smoking Pipe of Somcabeco)

Ibhalwe ngu
(Written by)
Mazisi kaMdabuli w'eKunene

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Table of Contents

An Intellectual Portrait of Mazisi Kunene by Ntongela Masilela and Dike Okoro

Isethulo (Introduction) by Mazisi kaMdabuli w'eKunene

450 (Poems)

1. **Lona lolo suku lwemvula** - Hail the day of the rain
2. **Umuntu lo** - Some of us
3. **Okwababusi** - The king's buttocks
4. **Elokuthakazela umhlaba** - Clan praises for earth
5. **Umelapho wengqondo nenhliziyo**-Healer of hearts, mender of minds
6. **Umhlane womzanyana** - Burden of parenthood
7. **Wena oyimi** - My heir apparent
8. **Ububili obuyakudlalisela thina emazweni** - Two giant trees
9. **Iculo lemgubho ebuhlungu** - Sad songs at festivals for the departed
10. **Inkinga yokubona kokubona** - Inner knowing
11. **Ingqambi yokuhlupheka kwethu** - Source of our suffering
12. **Umlindo wokwelamana** - The wake of the siblings
13. **Umyalezo kaNomazwe** - Nomazwe's prophecy

14. **Ubuyaluyalu basebusika** - Woes in winter
15. **Ukuthuma kwenkululeko** - In the service of Freedom
16. **Ingqikithi yeqiniso lokuvela** - Mystery of origins -
17. **Imdanti yethu yemiphefumulo enezindaba** -A tradition of story telling spirits
18. **Ulwandle olube lusingakaza** - Tsunami
19. **Mhlawumbe** - Perhaps
20. **Imizungezo yezingxabano** - Cycle of quarrels
21. **Isangoma secala lakhe** - Brain dead
22. **Isinqekle sengqondo** - Guilt
23. **Ulwandle lweqiniso alufumanayo** - Finding the ocean of truth
24. **Umvuzo wokufumana** - Saluting your torture
25. **Ithanga lomhlaba** - Pumpkin of promise
26. **Iqholo lethu thina bomhlaba** - Pride in mother earth, the provider
27. **Isikhonzi** - Subject
28. **Umzenzisi wasebunganini** - False friendship
29. **Ingqambi enkulu yamathongo** - Great composer for the ancestral spirits
30. **Izigabagaba zamagama** - Stages in a growing name
31. **Umuntu ukanye nezilwane** - Man and beast as one
32. **Ubuthina obuyakuzayo** - Our destiny
33. **Izigi zomhlaba** - Departing love

34. **Ingcebo engisiselwe yona** - Borrowed fortune
35. **Inkinga yegama** - Enigmatic name
36. **Owayenethunzi elisindayo** - Sorcerer
37. **Inxeba lokwazi** - Wound of knowledge
38. **Imendo engambili** - Unfulfilling love
39. **Leyo Melika yabo** - What is so special about America?
40. **Abahlobo abathule** - Silence of the ancestors
41. **Igama lomngani ongasekho** - The name of a departed friend
42. **Ihubo lemibono yesalukazi** - Anthems and visions of a grandmother
43. **Isiyalo kocebileyo** - Counsel for the rich
44. **Omkhulukhulu kunabakhulu** - Looking for the prophet
45. **KuTufu waseShayina** - Saluting Tufu from China
46. **Igama elingelemfihlo** - The seventh name
47. **Angiyugidela wena** - I will never dance for you
48. **Inkubela yokuzwa** - Hard of hearing
49. **Ngejubane lezivunguvungu** - With the speed of whirlwinds
50. **Ababulali babantu** - Perpertrators
51. **Okuhle kwethu** - Not visionless people
52. **Isiqalekiso sawokhokho (Izinyembezi zabo)** - Ancestors at the crossroads
53. **Ngemibono yabaseGibhidi behlelwa izigcwelegcwele** - Moments as they plundered Egypt

54. **Umbala womhlaba wethu** - Blue planet, green earth
55. **Ngemuva komuhla weqhalaqhala** - Fools pride
56. **Amasiko ayebulalayo ezizwe** - Face of globalization
57. **Ihlaya laseSimungulu** - Comedian from the land of the deaf
58. **Isilomo somcebo** - Fame and wealth
59. **Ingane yomhlaba** - Child of our earth
60. **Obakho ubomi** - Your path of life
61. **Isibusiso soyakuzalwa** - Blessings from the one yet to be born
62. **Imfanekiso emibili** - Leaf and stalk borer
63. **Isibongo semendo** - Burden of surnames
64. **Izwi lokuthethisa iminyovu** - Stop the impunity
65. **Ekugcineni siyobamunye** - At the very end we shall be united
66. **Ozinhliziyi zimakhulukhulu** - Heart of a hundred chambers
67. **Igxolo akuyilo lilikhulu kunomuthi** - A bark is mere cladding for the tree
68. **Ikhizane eliyakuziwela** - This tick will bite the dust
69. **Ukusangana oku** - Encountering dementia
70. **UNomanga noNembeza** - The liar and the conscience
71. **Imbali yokulingana** - Big yellow blossom
72. **Imibono yasekudingisweni** - Return of the bird of liberty
73. **Igama lakhe** - Follow your name
74. **Imihlaba yokwelamana** - Cosmic siblings

75. **Umhlaba yiwo welapha abantu** - Earth, the healer
76. **Umthemelezo** - Musings
77. **Abahle esiyobamukelisayo** - Those that will inherit
78. **Ukwesinda kovalo lwebhungezi** - The fear of the buzzard
79. **Uze usenzele nathi** - Never forget us, beautiful child
80. **Naye akaze akhule** - Rites of passage
81. **Mina engithandiwe nguwe** - Being loved by you
82. **Bakhona** - They are there
83. **Ubuhlobo obuzwelayo** - Empathy
84. **Ubukhulu basebuntwiuni** - Humanity, the relay baton of greatness
85. **Ukuphakamisa ubukhosi** - Kingship we cherish
86. **Imigido yabomdabu baseMelika** - Native American Festivals
87. **Imithi ethele ngezimini zethu** - Achievements
88. **Umthemelezo wesikhonzi** - Worshipper's prayer
89. **Ubuwele lobu bethu** - Twinning
90. **Emva kokuphumula kude** - At our twilight years
91. **Isibindi sikaShaka** - The courage of King Shaka
92. **Nabo bangabalo mhlaba** - They are also children of our earth
93. **Yena owasho ebahlomulisa** - Distributor of wealth
94. **Isihlakaniphi sentombazane** - Venerable girl sage

95. **Babonise wena nkondlo yami**- Show them the way, my dear poem
96. **Uthuthuva lomoya wakhe** - Tempestuous spirit
97. **Usuku lukamame** - The day mother passed on
98. **Isilio sowehluliweyo** - Cries of the defeated
99. **Isizungu senyoni yami** - Bird of a thousand voices
100. **Ithamsanqa elifika kugcina** - Luck that arrives late
101. **Amabika ezikhova zaphesheya** - Messenger of foreign owls
102. **Ijuba lomhlaba** - Dove of the world
103. **Umoya wezindle** - Spirit of the wild
104. **Imfihlo enenkinga** - Secrets and knots
105. **Uhleko alufani** - Laughter amongst the poor
106. **Bebeyokwanela** - There is enough for everyone
107. **Ilizwi elizwakalayo** - My poem, my redeemer
108. **Inhlamvu yekusasa** - Seeds for days to come
109. **Izingoma zethu** - Our hymns
110. **Isithakazelo sikababa** - Father's clan names
111. **Abakhetheziweyo** - Heroes
112. **Esakho isibusiso sikudlulile** - You have missed my blessings
113. **Ngibonga intamo** - A salute to my neck
114. **Umbumnandi bobungani** - Companionship

115. **Kumhlabeleli wezingoma ezimnandi** - Sing on you unforgettable voice
116. **Umhlahlo wenyanga efayo** - The waning moon and the soothsayer
117. **Izinsiba zethu ezibomvu** - Our crimson-red feathers
118. **Isiyalo sakhe** - Father's good counsel
119. **Abazali bobuhlakani bethu** - The parents of wisdom
120. **Iziyalo zikagogo** - Grandmother's counsel
121. **Iphupho lakho elimnandi** - Your butterfly dream
122. **Yena esengibhadama** - Caught unawares
123. **Ubuhlakani bukamina** - To be self-centred
124. **Mina ngikwaziyo ukuncenga** - I, who can apologise
125. **Umvuzo wezinhliziyo ezingalaleli** - Fate of stray hearts
126. **Ngiyakuzwela wena** - What a pity!
127. **Entathakusa** - At sunrise
128. **Umelaphokazi wecala** - Remedy for the guilty
129. **Ilathalatha** - Imbecile
130. **Yingqondo okungabe igqokayo** - Cladding for the mind
131. **Ubuhle balhe obubi obungenasici** - As beautiful as a picture
132. **Umiyane owawulambileyo** - The hungry mosquito
133. **Umuthi owehluleka** - The tree that would not grow

134. **Ukokheleka kwenhliziyo noma ukuchamsela** - Spark of the heart or hatchlings
135. **Isikhundla sezinkanyezi** - Point for star gazing
136. **Ngaleyo mini enhle** - That day of the prophesy
137. **Inkinga yokuphila** - Mystery of life
138. **Lezi ziqu zami** - My accolades
139. **Uzobona ngani?** - How will you recognize me?
140. **Uphawu lwethongo lami** - The sign of my ancestral spirit
141. **Amaconsi lawa** - Water drops
142. **KwabaMnyama baseAfrika** - Saluting the Blacks of Africa
143. **O Afrika!** - O Africa!
144. **Okwezizukulwane** - Generation upon generation
145. **Ngithi uma ngicambalele** - When I take a nap
146. **Ukwananelana kwemnenke** - Conversation of the snails
147. **Ihubo labafela ilizwe lama-Afrika** - Hymn of the African martyrs
148. **Isiziba sabadala** - Lake of the ancestors
149. **Sengiyakukhulisa impela** - Rite of passage
150. **Iitshe elalihlala izazi** - Stone of the wise ones
151. **Imbali engithinta ngidlula** - Flower for a wanderer
152. **Ke MtakaShonkweni** - Child of Shonkweni

153. **Okwezingane zezimpi** - Orphans of wars
154. **Umsinsi ngelokomisa** - The sun's vision of the world
155. **Lowomkhosi okabili** - Two festivals
156. **Ukuvuleka kwegobongo lokuphila** - Opening the shell of life
157. **Ukukhula kuya ngengqondo** - Growth is by mentoring the mind
158. **Lezo zikhali zethu** - Our weapons of mass destruction
159. **Ifindo lomuntu** - A knot called mankind
160. **Ngobuze bakho!** - How vain you are!
161. **Indaba engeyesintu** - An African tale
162. **Iziqhwaya lezo** - Those warlords
163. **Kuwe mhlaba oyobhubha** - To your eath, doomed to destruction
164. **Tsibhinqo sesihlakaniphi** - A comic sage
165. **Ukuvuka kwengqondo** - My mind will be free
166. **Abebi bokwazi** - Stealers of knowledge
167. **Yimi ngiyobusa kugcina** - I will be the last king
168. **Akube yimi** - Let it be me
169. **Imiyalezo kadadewethu** - Messages from my sister
170. **Abantwana belanga** - Children of the sun
171. **Mina angithukwa** - No one swears at me
172. **Yingoba ubungekho** - Because you were not here

173. **Unehlazo wena** - Shame on you
174. **Nabo abazimungulu** - Even the speechless people
175. **Intonga yakho** - Your big stick
176. **Alungapheli** - Give us
177. **Isibuko okungesona esakho** - Borrowed mirror on
178. **Imishado yaseKunene** - The weddings of the Kunenes
179. **Mxolele yena** - Forgive him
180. **Ukuzalwa kwekusasa** - Birth of the new day
181. **Igula lomhlaba** - Calabash of the earth
182. **Emva kwabo** - In ancestral footsteps
183. **Amazwi angamazwi abafaneleyo** - Inheritors of sacred words
184. **Lelo lihlo lethu** - The third eye
185. **Ingoma yakho eyangivusayo** - The hundredth song of love
186. **Wena, wena mbongi yami enkulukazi** - Saluting you, my grand poetess
187. **Iqabunga lemilingo** - Magic leaf
188. **Inyosi yami esilithemba** - Bee, my only hope
189. **Isigodi sami sasekuthuleni** - My valley of silence
190. **Unomona yena** - Jealousy
191. **Umlilo oyolisa umhlaba** - Fire to re-forged the world
192. **Ukunqoba kwethu ikhaba** - Pumpkin of the pathway

193. **Eyami indaba** - My tale
194. **Ubani yena** - Who is he
195. **Wena onamandla okuzimelela** - Steadfast one
196. **Bona bayovama** - Genius and insanity
197. **Umuntu omsulwa** - An innocent being
198. **Umongi wabadala** - Carer for the elders
199. **Elethu ilizwe** - Let our land be known for
200. **Iphikankani lansondo** - Headstrong one
201. **Akungoba** - It may not be
202. **Ngonyakamumbi** - Year of uncertainty
203. **Izotha lakwethu** - Our dignified one
204. **Ngale mini yakho** - Day of your power
205. **Imbongi enkulu yesishiyagalolunye** - Epic poet of the
Ninth Cosmos
206. **Umzuzu wokuthoba** - The moment of creation
207. **Yena ongithandayo** - My lover
208. **Igula lami lemisindo** - My calabash of spiritual voices
209. **Ubukhona bakho** - Your omnipresence
210. **Bona abafayo** - To those that died
211. **Isithakazelo seqanda** - Salutations to the egg of creation
212. **Unyawo olungajwayelekile** - Gifted dancer
213. **Umsindo owendlalelayo** - The nocturnal prelude

214. **Akuzuvela** - No white cloud
215. **Osendlini ngakube uyoba phandle** - The one with shelter shall be without shelter
216. **Zikhona ezinye izingoma** - Yes, there are greater songs
217. **Obemkhulu ngezindaba** - Legendary storyteller
218. **Amathambo anezindaba** - Stories and skeletons
219. **Ngizohloma** - I will be armed
220. **Ithamsanqa lomfula** - A river called luck
221. **Esijwini sempi** - Hand combat
222. **Ingqimphothwe** - Somersault
223. **Wena lihawu lami** - My shield
224. **eMelika** - No place like America today
225. **Inoni lokuphila** - Essence of life
226. **Ubomi obuphambili** - Chalice of promise
227. **Isikhathi nemizuzu yaso** - Timelessness of oceans
228. **Olwethu uthando** - Our love
229. **Iqiniso lokubolekwa** - Borrowed truths
230. **Amaqungu amabili** - Two-faced courage
231. **Umthetho wemthetho** - The supreme law
232. **Umame wemihla ngemihla** - Mama, creator of my days
233. **Ikhubalo lami** - My medicinal plant
234. **Icala lokuphila** - The guilt of the living

235. **Umbono kaNolunya** - The vision of Nolunya
236. **Intabakazi yomphefumulo** - Generosity the size of a mountain
237. **Isifungo sobusuku** - The empty threat of the night
238. **Yena omkhulu kunami** - The one greater than me
239. **Ngingesabi** - Without fear
240. **Uhleko lwentenensha** - The laughter of the hare
241. **Akuzibambele kona** - Let it stand on its own
242. **Wukuze ngingathatheki** - So that I may not get excited
243. **Ohlala ezisho ngemicabango yabanye** - Perpetual stealer of the minds of others
244. **Iqhawe elingeqhawe** - Hero that is no hero
245. **Lawo masiko enu** - Your strange traditions
246. **Usuku oluqale ngomnyama** - A day whose dawn was ominous
247. **Umthombo ocwebileyo** - Placid fountain
248. **Elokuqala** - Primordial sun
249. **Luvemvane lwami** - My butterfly
250. **Iculo lothando lona lungaphelele** - A love song without end
251. **Igudu lobuwena** - Smoke of your essence
252. **Inzululwane yomhlaba** - Dizzying spin of the world
253. **Icala lababulali** - Fate of murderers

254. **Ilizwi lakho likaGedegede** - Your garrulous voice
255. **Umzimba wami** - My body
256. **Iqungu elibi** - Your lust to kill
257. **Umhlaba ungowami** - My world I yearn for
258. **Isikhumba esibulele abantu** - Skin/Identity
259. **Imfihlo yobuthina** - The secret of our being
260. **Abaqalayo** - Those that lead
261. **Omfushane owaqala kuwena** - My shorter leg was
cursed by you
262. **Izono zimnandi** - As delicious as sins
263. **Ingani sekonakele** - The die is cast
264. **Uma umame onomhlaba encishana** - If mother earth is
stingy
265. **Zalwa-ke wena** - Come out of the womb now
266. **Ihubokazi lakho** - Hymn of betrayal
267. **Ubukhwishikhwishi bamandiki** - Possessed
268. **Unyakamumbi udlulile** - Farewell to a bad year
269. **Ikhala** - Ponted nose
270. **Ezweni lezilwane** - Land of savages
271. **Amagama** - Words
272. **Elami ilanga** - My sun is rising
273. **Ngakube yicala yini** - Is it treasonable

274. **Izindaba zikasibanibani** - Stories and gossips
275. **Yibo esingabaziyo** - Those we do not know
276. **Isibusiso sikagogo** - Blessings of granny Phaqa
277. **Abalandelanayo** - Siblings
278. **Ixoxo lethuka umhlaba** - Earth cursed by frog
279. **Iziziba** - Lakes
280. **Phakathi kwenqwaba yamabhimbi** - In the midst of mediocre musicians
281. **Ubuhlakani obungobezizukulwane** - The book of generations
282. **Imibono yezimbongi nezazi** - Profound poet and gifted sage
283. **Lunyawo oluhle** - Last dance
284. **Izinjabulo zomhlaba** - Joys of our world
285. **Uzoba yikho okushoyo** - You will become what you utter
286. **Umzuzu wami wokuhlabana** - My moment of triumph
287. **Thina esibadaladala** - We, ancient ones
288. **Umvikeli wezihlupheki** - Defender of the orphans
289. **Njenganje wena mini** - Face of a new day
290. **Ivila** - Lazybones
291. **Ubunye bomhlaba** - Unity and duality in the world
292. **Iculo** - This song
293. **Inkinga yasogwini** - Mystery of the ocean's shore

294. **Okwethu ukwazi** - Our knowledge
295. **Usiba lwakho** - Your feather
296. **Emva konyaka wokweswela** - After the year of need
297. **Ngelokubhubha komhlaba wakwaNhlongasibi** - When the land of Nhlongasibi was annihilated
298. **Ukwenanenlana kwemihlaba** - Clan names of the spheres
299. **Isizung sobekukhona** - Missing my lovebird
300. **Isibhinqo sabaphilayo** - Mocked by the living
301. **Isinamuva** - Last dance
302. **Sheshisa wena** - Pace
303. **Ungathini wena?** - Will you?
304. **Okwethu thina** - Enduring love
305. **Igugu lowamagcino** - Privilege of the last born
306. **Lokho kwazi engikufumene belele** - Wisdom's visitation
307. **Iculo elikabili** - Duet
308. **Umlungisi uzithele isisila** - Beware, compassion courts danger
309. **Oyakuduma** - He will be famous
310. **Uhambo lwethu olukanyekanye** - Our journey in companionship
311. **UDemane noDemazana** - Twin progenitors of mankind
312. **Ifa lawobabamkhulu** - Bequeathed by the elders

313. **Ithemba** - Granny Hope
314. **Ilifa lolwandle** - Inheritors of the ocean
315. **Izandla zakhe** - Nobubele, nourishing goddess
316. **Amathonga angawakithi** - Wing of the ancestors
317. **Ngeyakho imini** - Apparition of song
318. **Akukho okumi kodwa** - The duality of existence
319. **Ingqikithi yobuphakade** - Essence of eternity
320. **Akumina** - I am free of guilt
321. **Engakube bethukela umhlaba** - Abide by lesson of the earth
322. **Sibuyele e-Afrika** - Returning to the source of Africa
323. **Indilinga yemendo yomhlaba** - Elliptical meanders of hemispheres
324. **Ubongabonga** - For you have to be thankful
325. **Ikhambi elifaneleyo** - Sacred herb
326. **Isineke lonwabu lwemihlaba** - Patient chameleon of the hemispheres
327. **Isihlahla sami** - My tree of life
328. **Imvunge kaNodongo** - Chanting voices of Nodongo
329. **Umvuzo weqhalaqhala** - Harvest of vanity
330. **Izinkondlo zemililo** - Poems set on fire
331. **Ngize ngibe mnandi** - Alluvial blood for a bed bug
332. **Ukukhula kwephuphu lami** - My young shall grow

333. **Icala elingelokuqamba izono** - Creating sins
334. **Unyawo lwesazi** - Footprints of the wise
335. **Akube njalo** - Gift of eternity
336. **Olwami uthando** - Forsaken love
337. **Ukuphaphama kwazo** - Your aura shall rise
338. **Ekuthuleni** - Realm of silence
339. **Igama elingasho lutho** - My name is 'Beginning'
340. **Iphupho elikhulu** - My big dream
341. **Angaze athi** - Distractions
342. **Leso siqalekiso** - Zulu yin and yang
343. **Ukubola kokuvundisa** - Decay, ferments of thought
344. **Kabazi** - Folly of the uninitiated
345. **OkukaNomalanga** - Nomalanga's suitor
346. **Imfando yakhe** - Your zombie confesses
347. **Okokuyola kwelanga** - Spices of the sun
348. **Ngiyakuzwela** - Shame
349. **Imbono yasendlini** - Of homesteads
350. **Ngesiko labantu** - In our tradition
351. **Abezizwe** - Our conquerer's strange impositions
352. **Yiko kuyinkosi** - Deeds maketh a king
353. **Ubukhulu obumudlayo umuntu** - Greatness that nibbles
on humanity

354. **Ubulukhuni osebunguye** - Hard hearted one
355. **Ulimi olubi** - Bad mouthing
356. **Ngibonga** - Heartfelt thanks
357. **Lezo zihlangu zabantu** - Those shields of our people
358. **Ubumnandi bokucabanga** - The joys of thinking
359. **Ngiyabazwela abaphesheya** - Pity for those from abroad
360. **Msukumise yena** - Lift him up
361. **Bayini bona** - What have they to show
362. **Icala lakhe** - His crime
363. **Umvivinyo wesifundiswa** - Test for the educated one
364. **Umuhla wokuvuka kwezizukulwane** - The day when generations arise
365. **Ngenkondlo yethu yomhlaba** - Yearning for our poem of the world
366. **Wenza ngani?** - What is your secret?
367. **Izinhliziyi zombili** - Both my hearts
368. **Uyihlo isicebi** - Your rich father
369. **Usuyokwazi ngelakho inxeba** - You will feel your own wound
370. **Ukufa kwabase Irakhi** - The people of Iraq are dying
371. **Isazi saseMabedlane** - The sage from Mabedlane
372. **Inhlanhla okungabe akuyona eyami** - Gift for coming generations

373. **Isilomo sakhona** - Village hero
374. **Imfihlo yokwenza** - The secret lies in action
375. **Imigido yabathandiweyo** - Xylophones for the gods
376. **Umhlaba osanelayo** - Bountiful earth
377. **Usuku lobuhlungu** - Day of pain
378. **Ngefindo lwesivumelwano** - Oath of rededication
379. **Abakhohlisi bomhlaba** - The ones that fool the world
380. **Ukwahlukana okupheleleyo** - When the whole splits into opposites
381. **Imicabango ngalowo oyodla imibuso wami** - Thoughts about my heir apparent
382. **Inkulumo engeqondileyo** - Tongue twister
383. **Inxako yabafundisi** - Mystery of educators
384. **Ulutho** - Nothingness
385. **Iqiniso lamaqiniso** - Truth of truths
386. **Nkosi yami** - My Lord
387. **Ngentando yakho** - Your wish
388. **Okukhulu kunami** - That which is greater than me
389. **Amacala othe ngawami** - Crimes you accuse me of
390. **Leso sibongo esingesibongo** - Surname that is no family name
391. **Ubuningi bethu** - In our multitudes
392. **Ukuzalwa kokuzalwa kwami** - My moment of re-birth

393. **Akayena owakithi** - He is not of our clan
394. **Ilizwana labezizwe** - Small voice of foreign enemies
395. **Okuphezulu** - Higher realms
396. **Iqiniso lemini** - Day is older than mankind
397. **Imilangazelo yezithandani** - Yearnings of lovers
398. **Sengiwubongile umuthi** - When I had thanked the
healing herbs
399. **Ukwazi kungokwabe bengazi** - Knowing by those who
did not know
400. **Inhlwempu engenakhaya** - Wanderer without abode
401. **Ngabantu laba** - Made by mankind
402. **Insimu yokubona** - Greater garden of visions
403. **Mina impela** - For me
404. **Kowami umuhla neminye ekhona** - My day and the day
of the spheres
405. **Awami amandla** - My power
406. **Iziyalo zobuntu** - A salute to mothers
407. **Yena okhohliweyo** - False prophet
408. **Ilifa lezizukulwane** - Inheritance as redeemer
409. **Umhlaba wezizukulwane** - Each generation, its own
world
410. **Umhlaba ozungezayo** - Earth in orbit
411. **Ubudala bomhlaba** - Earth the elder

412. **Ngiyolishiyela ilanga** - Caller of the sun's tune
413. **UThulethule wasezinkondlweni** - Poems never to be silenced
414. **Yifukamele inhliziyo yami** - Protect my feeble heart
415. **Balithatha ilizwe** - They took the land
416. **Amandla endalo** - Force of nature
417. **Umvuzo weqiniso** - Fruits of the earth
418. **Ubulima** - Duped
419. **Isifo sengqondo** - Disease of the mind
420. **Ilizwi lomngane wami** - A friend's voice
421. **Umgqugquzeli** - Promoter
422. **Izingoma zomhlaba** - Hymns of the earth
423. **USomlomo emibili** - Speaking with two mouths
424. **Isibobo sami** - My pretty woman
425. **Awami amafindo** - My knots
426. **Ke nyoni nyomphe** - My bird, my gift of love
427. **Ukuphuma kweshisandlu** - The coming of the north west winds
428. **Ubuze bami** - My folly
429. **Ilifu lesethembiso** - Cloud of promise
430. **Ngelami ikhaba** - My pumpkin of fortune
431. **Abaxabanisi** - Rumour mongers

432. **Emva kwempi yase Irakhi** - After the Iraq War
433. **Usuku olude** - The long day
434. **Imidanti emihle** - Good tidings
435. **Ukhetha mina yena** - She has chosen me
436. **Ngelanga elihle elizayo** - The beautiful day yet to be born
437. **Mhla uthandayo** - Your day of departure
438. **Isilwane somhlaba** - Beast of the world
439. **Uzoba yini?** - What will you become?
440. **Iwele lenkanyezi** - Older twin to the star
441. **Ubumpofu obuqwashisayo** - The poor know no sleep
442. **Ingagu lesibongo** - Made up surname
443. **Phepha wena** - Halt! Be safe
444. **Umngani** - A friend
445. **Ixhongololo lasezibhakabhakeni** - Inspiration of the cosmos
446. **Ngihambela ilanga** - Visitation to the sun
447. **Igagu lamazolo** - Song of the dewdrops
448. **Igama elibabayo** - My name is . . .
449. **Ingqayemini** - Day of miracles
450. **Inzalo ezayo** - Future offspring

English translation of **INTRODUCTION**

There is in actual fact a tradition of shortened poems that are laden with deeper meanings. Akin in their presentation to the proverbs and sayings. The difference being only that these short poems crescendo to the very mysteries of the proverbs. In manner of the waves of the sea, that form , rise and hasten with the wind and foam, to eventually spread and thrash the wide coastline. And the bathers receiving the shock of the whiplash, as it swallows the sands of the shoreline. This giant mouth of the ocean serenades in sweet syllables, the hymns and anthems of the nation. Such is the joy and happiness of the play and

growth of these shortened poems, as they express beautiful and truthful messages. It is the profundity of the words that gets repeated without end by the listeners and the appreciators.

All this points out to the fact that these shortened poems in this anthology need to be analysed with respect, as they convey sacred thoughts and viewpoints. Which is a tall order as many Africans today readily consume what appears to be simple. Herein lies the challenge of seeking the source and the direction of these poems. This laziness and fear has been imposed on the readers and the students, who have been instructed that poems are merely remembrances, love songs, legacies of the deceased, traditional rites of passage, or accounts on historical personalities. Today we no longer have the querying and prying minds of the modern Zulu poet, Dr. Benedict Wallet Vilakazi and the Xhosa epic poet, S.E.K.Mqhayi and many other great ones that went before us. Today's generation seems bent on eradicating this tradition of deep, independent African thoughts. We catch only tail ends of greater narratives, in a haphazard manner, and feel entitled to present these as the gems of epics. This is because what we know is feeding on puffed maize like popcorn, giving the impression of eating a roasted cob of maize. It remains a fulfilling illusion.

Despite the fact that many Africans know that we are the offspring of the wise ones. Hermits of the mountain who looked with wide eyes, who stripped the maize cob bare, as the zulu expression puts it , searching for the truth and the hidden meanings, the ideas of depth. This tried approach eventually allowed the wise ones easier access to greater intuition and knowledge. Never satisfied with easy solutions, they would query even the simplest of phenomena, as there could be a revelation in these. In a similar vein, these poems are thoughts, profound perspectives, an approach of restlessness and never to

accept things as they appear. The truth contained in this engulfs the meanders and behaviors of the hemispheres of this world.

Anyone who reads and re-reads these poems, will discover that there is more than meets the eye in African poems. Which is not to say that I am the sole and only king of African systems, but I have humbled myself, beseeched the ancestors, listened to their whispers, so as to be allowed a manner of conveying these secrets to a wider world.

Sharpened my spear at the ancestral stone. It may have started when I was meditating and reading the great epics of Imbongi Magolwane, son of Jiyane, the Great Court Praise Poet of Emperor Shaka. Who when composing a plot, layering with events, at the same time pursuing it, and knotting it in mysteries. The high point of that poetic landscape would be a voice sharp, poignant and mesmerising in images and in beauty and in murmurs of morality and guidance. Magolwane has composed:

“Ushaka ngiyesaba ukuthi Ushaka

Ngoba uShaka kwakuyinkosi yaseMashobeni”

“Who am I to address him as Emperor Shaka

He who was Emperor Shaka of Mashobeni”

Two lines with lots of words, conveying multiple meanings. The poet is not saying he is scared of King Shaka, but that he holds him in awe, in adoration, in respect, because of his deeds, like a monarch with multiple crowns. EMashobeni may be deemed as a site, but it refers to accolades. Even if it referred to a place, it alludes to the grandeur of the narrative of the Zulu Kingdom, with amazing events, and sparkling with men and women of legendary bravery.

What I am stating is better portrayed by this poem:

My sage

Creator with a brain of many lobes
You utter syllables and words that in
My formative months, as an initiate, a beginner
Remain shrouded behind the smoke of impepho incense
Lend me the intuition, the rare sight, the sensibilities
Creator with multiple brains that mould our present
Humble one, who genuflects when impostors usurp your powers
Cunning one, biding your time, fooling us mortals with mirages
We believe we tread firmly on our paths, yet these are your tracks
You, master who criss cross our destinations many more times
You know that only few will chuckle with the sun and smoke the
pipe of our essence
Inhaling chest-fulls and staring at the millennia, the source and
inspiration for our journey
There is a truth no one may declaim in daylight
A song that will be the anthem for our final festival

This poem signals the path that I am charting. The narrator assumes humility, the king is the one who is a servant, and the one who appropriates leadership, will be known as the impostor. The one many see as being of no consequence, is the very one who understands the mysteries of nature. He or she is continuing what are mere duties..."the smoking of the pipe of the essence of Africanness". Just like the old ones who would sit, smoke, and reflect deeply on the meaning, the origins and the future of our world view, the creation myths . Only there is developed a caring approach, to stand up for the responsibility of passing on these secrets to

generations over many thousands of years to come. In this regard, the future is really about the initiated, the anointed and the gifted who will be the great shield at the rendezvous of our knowledge and wisdom.

I would advise that these shortened poems may be read in a group, or by a single person, but they should be read many times over and preferably aloud. These are meditative words. The one who chants these words will understand the joy, the musings and will be witness to the fulfillment of spirit and the nearness to the mysteries. Similar to the chants, the shouts and the dizzying spins of congregants of the African Zionist churches. Also the traditional African denominations like Shembe and the healers, the medicine practitioners and the sangomas, who dance, sing and chant with raised voices. Africans attain spiritual transformation and greatness when their loud voices soar and cut the sky and seem to ride the very clouds in the heavens. We are not the subdued and whispering types. We have to be free, loud and expansive.

The African poet raises his voice in different tones, sings his message across and aims to reach the universe. And his audience responds with louder shouts of praise, spurring him on and multiplying the voices. I also shout my praises for you, new generation. Participate in the song and let us dance at the centre court of our unending African Festival!

1. Hail the Day of the Rain

Look there, the day of the rain flaunting her freshness
Thumbing open horizons of verdant green valleys
Swimming with riverine shoals of kinetic creatures
Wet and nimble in the deep recesses of waters
Indifferent to my gasps for drying rays of the sun

Lona lolo lusuku lwemvula

Yilo lona luzozigabisa ngobusha balo
Luzigabise ngokuqhibuka kwezimfunda zalo
Luzigabise ngayo imifula enezidalwa eziyaluzayo
Izidalwa ezikwaziyo ukuhlala nasemanzini
Kanti mina muntu sengilanyulelwa yilo ilanga

2. Some of us

Some of us pretend to be the gravity of spheres
More gigantic than all beings on this earth

Even oblivious of maggots feeding on our flesh
Some of us are destined to be dragged and
Fed like carcasses to offsprings of scavengers

Umuntu lo

Umuntu uyazibeka abemkhulu
Abemkhulu kunezidalwa zonke zomhlaba
Nazo lezo ezingabonakali nezimudlayo esaphila
Zize zimhudule zenze ngaye amadili abantabazo

3.The king's buttocks

Behold the rulers in their high realms of the wind
Sitting inside lofty shades and cool corridors and
Pre-occupied by picking yards of imported silk
Draping and dressing in gawdy hues that
Blow in the wind, in our faces to blind us
That we may never see a king's hairy behind

Okwababusi

Bona labo abahlezi phezulu lapho kukhona umoya
Lapho kukhona amakhaza noma kushisa
Bona benjalo nje bephila ngokuzisonga

Bezisonga ngezimvunulo ezimalivilivi

Bekhohlisa thina ukuze singazibuki izinge zabo

4. Clan praises of earth

This I owe to you my spirit bird

Since our encounter along my road of solitude

You dragged me onto open wounds, diseased valleys of earth

Splash landing on oozing pus where I heard wrenching

Clan praises of the earth

Elokuthakazela umhlaba

Ngibonga wena nyoni yami

Wena owadlula ngihamba, ngihamba ngedwa

Wanele ukukhala ngasengazi angingedwa

Waze wangiholela ezifeni, ezifeni zomhlaba

Lapho ngahlala khona ngakuzwa nawe usuthakazela

5. Healer of hearts, mender of minds

Then you rose to cook our wild spinach

Murmuring: "when ready we shall eat with our hands"

Yes, warm hands, creative human hands

Hands adapt in playing games of evil, games of goodness
It is these hands that taste offerings of your love

We thank you healer of hearts

We thank you mender of minds

Our voices rise in song

Umelapho wengqondo nenhliziyo

Wasungiphekela wena ungiphekela imifino

Usuthi: "uma isivuthiwe siyoyidla ngezandla"

Ngokuba yizo ezifudumeleyo yizo zingezomuntu

Ngoba zona ziyayazi imithetho emihle nemibi

Yizo ngazo sesiyakuthi singanambitha

Sibe sesibonga sibe sesibabaza sibe sesihlabelela

6. Burden of relations

What will you be when I have departed

On whose shoulder will you climb to rise above

Which silent mirror will absorb your accusations

There will be no wall to take in the mud of your sling

And no one to harbor your despicable deeds anymore

Umhlane womzanyana

Uzobayini wena uma sengihambile
Uma ungasenaye oyakuzikhweza kuye
Ungasenaye oyakumbuka emehlweni
Uthi: "Lona uyihlazo lasebantwini"
Usho nje ubewazi mina ngifihle amanyala akho

7. My heir apparent

Only to you I bestow my inner beauty
Follow me to my river of cleansing rituals
And on that shallow rock bed, my aura shall engulf you

Wena oyimi

Wena uzofana nami uzobamuhle njengami
Uma usuyakugeza emfuleni wami
Uma usuyakunqwamana nethunzi lami emadwaleni

8. Two giant trees

It is the illusion of green foliage of these trees
And dense forests who visit us with oppression
Yet the walk, the embrace of these two giant trees
Lends the assurance of companionship and carnivals
And restoring parades of our world

Ububili obuyakudlalisela thina emazweni

Imithi egabe ngubuhlaza

Ingeyamahlathi ingeyawo engcindezi;

Kodwa lena emibili emikhulu isihambele mina

Yiyo ngithi ngiphuma ngiyifumane idlalisela

Idlalisela kade isingiphelezela ezweni

9. Sad songs at festivals for the departed

In which pitch have I to sing in your absence

Which tune should I choose from these distant voices

How long is the wait for our complete choir

Can you not realize that our fullness is now in spirit

And our festival celebrates sad memories of the departed ?

Iculo lemgubho ebuhlungu

Angizuliqala leliculo selokhu wena ungekho

Selokhu wena usathumela amazwi amaningi

Usathi uyakufika ngansuku sesiphelele

Kanti ukuphelela kwethu sekungokomoya

Ngokuba akasekho ubani, akasekho usobaninbani

10.Inner knowing

At times the Creator assumes child like forms
Helpless and dependent on men and women
Tap tapping like the white rod of the blind lady
Bewildered by crass ways of this earth and
Startled as one who was not supposed to see
Nor to listen to litanies from gaping mouths
Just here lies the agony of inner knowing
The page in the book of the Creator

Inkinga yokubona kokubona

Ngezinye izimini uMdali uphenduka umntwana
Angene ebantwini ahlale phakathi kubo
Abuke ngamemhlo abuke ngaye ongaboniyo
Yena aze abone kakhulu aze athuke
Ethuke ngokuba kungeyena obonayo
Nakanjalo imilomo ekhulumayo ingeyezinkinga
Ingeyakho lokho okungamazwi azeluka ngemibono yakhe

11. Source of our suffering

Let the one who dares sing to announce this epic
No human voice, no whispered words can convey

Because solo melodies get swallowed in the wind
Only the voice of the poet I respect and love
Echoes this layered narrative from a dimmed past
The shuddering memory of a wounded nation

Ingqambi yokuhlupheka kwethu

Akahlabelele yena onendaba ayibikayo
Ngokuba iphimbo lomuntu namazwi alanele
Lona liyavuleka livaleke lingasho lutho
Kodwa elakhe yena engimaziyo engimthandayo
Lingezindaba zokuvelelwa kwethu
Lingamanxeba esibenjalo siwacabanga

12. The wake of the siblings

Chooser of the day, flash your wand
Open the silver and gilded gates of promise
Show the homestead dwellers, to crackle filaments of impepho
Initiate them with goat's blood, spit words onto tongues
That will loll out to name the hemispheric directions after
Whispered tales of epics unheard and untold at fireplaces,
Pain so searing like the medicine incision, the bestower of names.

Umlindo wokwelamana

Sizobona ngawe wena okhethe lemini

Wathi ngayo uyakuvula amasango

Wathi abasezindlini kabaze bashise impepho,

Okambe bethwase okambe bafunde amagama

Baze bakwazi ukuphumela phandle baqambe imihlaba

Bayiqambe ngogwelede abaluzwileyo

Nalo luze lubaqambe ngalo, olubaqambayo

13. Nomazwe's prophecy

You should know that the wind rustling with the leaves

Travels at the speed and baton of my compelling mind

And sows my warm tidings to all nations of the world.

You shall see my apparition when the petals of the scarlet flower

Scatter and fade into yellow seeds that sprout to feed all nations.

Umyalezo kaNomazwe

Lowo moya ovunguzayo odlala namaqabunga

Ngiwuthumile mina ngemicabango yami

Ngathi kawuze ungikhonzele kuzo zonke izizwe zomhlaba

Ngiwubone usudlula usuthintitha imbali ebomvu

Usuyithintitha izimbewu eziluphuzi usuyakuzitshala emazweni

14. Uncertainties in winter

Falling leaves in multi coloured hues, damp leaves

Dripping with dew, dropping like a flicker of eyelids

A game of seeking and hiding with the winds of darkness

Circle of conspirators, suspicious whisperers

Given away by the stripping of dry ears from winter's corn

Ubuyaluyalu basebusika

Ubuqabunga obunhlobonhlobo yibo buconsayo

Buconsa amazolo buconsa ukuphazima kwamehlo

Budlalisana nomoya buze buyongena emnyameni

Sebuyoba njengabantu benyenyazelana

Sebuyozwakala buhluba amakhasi omileyo asebusika

15. In the service of freedom

This is the belly that swallowed the food for the world

O! Mouth watering crab curry

O! Slippery flesh like our river snakes

O! The half-bird, half-fish delicacy

So many dinners, so many trips in the world

In your service, O Freedom !

Ukuthuma kwenkululeko

Yiso lesi sisu esesathwala izidlo zamazwe ngamazwe

O! Ngisho nazo ezibukeka okwezinkalankala

O! Ngisho nazo ezibukeka njengombokwane

O! Ngiso nazo ezinganyoni ekhasa emhlabathini

Kuzo zonke lezi zigemegeme, kukho konke lokhu kuhamba,

Nguwe Nkululeko owawungithumile!

16. Mystery of origins

For the flower without reflects the flower within

Yes, at times true flowers bloom in the inside

Like a tree blossoming through all seasons,

It will only be at the end that its true purpose will be known

Ingqikithi yeqiniso lokuvela

Lokhu okuqhakazile ngaphandle kuqhakazile nangaphakathi

Nkathimbe okungaphakathi yikho kuqhakaze impela

Ngokuba kusayoqhakaza nangelakusasa nangelizayo

Ekugcineni kukho kusayophuma iqiniso lako

17. A tradition of story telling spirits

Let me get real closer to you

You of the bowl of souls that you dearly love

And see the spirits in their splendour of colour

Searching for my soul in the confusing pile. Aha !

My hidden spirirt listens to the beautiful tales,

Ancient stories you will privately tell till eternity

Imidanti yethu yemiphefumulo enezindaba

Sengizosondela eduze kwakho

Wena onembenge yemiphefumulo yakho oyithandayo

Bese ngiyibona ngemibalabala yonke yayo

Bese ngifuna owami ngiwufumane ucashile

Ucashe phansi lapho ulalele khona izindaba

Bese kubayizo lezi osuyakungilandisa zona nangasese

18. Tsunami

I fear the ocean that always rolls back

As if one day it will swallow our earth.

A tsunami to drown us with its fish and all its mystery

Ulwandle olube lusingikaza

Luyesabeka ulwandle olube njalo lubuya

Olube lungathi mhla luthandayo luyakuwugwinya umhlaba

Mhla luthandayo luyosiminza nezinhlanzi nezilwane zonke zamanzi

19. Perhaps

Say what you deem to be profound

As there could be a depth below the meaning of words

Perhaps full wisdom evades syllables in our breath

Mhlawumbe

Akasho loko akuthandayo othandayo

Aze akholwe akushoyo yiqiniso

Ngokuba nkathini okungumfanekiso kwedlula ingqikithi

Nkathini okwedlula ingqikithi kungangalo lonke iqiniso

20. Cycle of quarrels

As you enter this homestead leave your baggage at the gate

And let our cycle of quarrels stem from our daily trials

Allow us to throw dirt away like water we no longer need

Imizungezo yezingxabano

Oyakungena endlini akazashiye phandle izindaba zakhe

Yikhona ezethu izingxabano ziyoqala endlini

Zibe ziyaphuma sibe sikwazi ukuzilahlela ezindle

21. Guilt

“How can you conclude that I am guilty

When their eyes sold them away as the culprits?”

Your very insistence on your innocence

Because the innocent have humbler dispositions

Isangoma secala lakhe

“Ubona ngani ukuthi yimina nginecala

Ingani bona laba balivuma bebhekana?”

Ngibona ngakho loko ukuba uluphikela futhi

Kanti abangenacala balivuma belibekela izizathu

22. Brain dead

I will do everything to elevate his name

Making sure his fame over-shadows my reputation

And allow his arrogance to down play my role

His accolades will never carry a footnote of my name
His borrowed prowess will be lean like a starved bird
Still, I will be there to carry him on my back as he falters
Shriving up his collapsing neck. My collar for a dead brain.

Isinqekle sengqondo

Ngizokwenza khona lokho okuyakumphakamisa yena
Kumenze adume adume ngaphezu kwami
Aze athi esechwensa athi mina ngimbonise angakwaziyo
Khona kuyobe kungeziqu zakkhe ayokuzifumana ngami
Ngokuba ngempela amandla akhe azacile ngawokuphiwa
Mina ngize ngimbelethe noma esehlulekile noma enjalo
Eseyisinqekle sengqondo yona njalo isixhugelayo

23. Finding the ocean of truth

My words to the willing messenger
Is to follow the scents, even tracks of beasts
My counsel to the initiates
Is to recognize and savour the power of truth
That descend touching the coast and the ocean
And is cleansed by foam of relentless oceans

Ulwandle lweqiniso alufumanayo

Ngizomthuma yena othumekayo

Azayilandele imikhondo neyabantu neyezilwane;

Azathi eselithola iqiniso athi gwelede

Asho ebheke ezansi ogwini lapho sekukhona ulwandle

24. Seek and you will find

A salute to you for piercing my ankle

I have been limping, hobbling, balancing on my stick

Struggling to walk across your man made deserts.

Until on seeing the oasis, my healing ankle quickened the pace.

Umvuzo wokufumana

Sengibonga wena wena ongihlabhe iqakala

Ngahamba ngihamba ngaze ngahamba ngixhugela

Ngenxa yobuhlungu angiyibalanga imidanti engeyami

Kepha kuthe uma sengilweqile ugwadule

Ngaluzwa lushesha unyawo selubona amanzi

25. Pumpkin of the world

The stretching pumpkin is now ripe and

Visible and flaunting tempting veins of ripeness

Promising the eaters a satisfying feast for all
To each according to his taste and his rank
And the softened tendrils and fingers
Licked with relish by us, inheritors of the world

Ithanga lomhlaba

Selivuthiweke ithanga ebelenaba
Selisobala liqhansile ngemithambo yonke yalo
Kuze kube yilowo nalowo uyakunambitha okwakhe
Unokwakhe okuyolileyo okumfaneleyo
Neminwe ethambileyo isikhombe ingcuthe
Isiyakunambitha njengathi thina ebesikhona kulomhlaba

26. Pride in mother earth, the provider

A calabash swollen with cream may
Mock and jeer the barefoot passerby who
Owns neither goat, nor hearth, nor pots
Taunts that become generational curses ,
“You will regret the day you were born”
Yet we are all born to feast on fruits of earth,
For she is the provider for all her offspring.

Iqholo lethu thina bomhlaba

Lizosho njalo lona igula elinezaqhele

Lizothi gabi gabi nakubo bonke abadlulayo

Bona bengenamfuyo, bona bedlela ezandleni

Bona behlekisa ngesizukulwane sethu

Bethi singesiphila ngomhlaba

Kanti wonke uwonke uphila ngomhlaba

Ngokuba yiwo wona ulinina lezidalwa zonke zelizwe

27. Subject

You may accept that you know him

Him who loves to be praised from sunrise

He with a porous chest of juicy gossip

He who boasts of borrowed powers from the strong

The very ones secretly stealing wisdom from the sages

Isikhonzi

Uzovuma wena uthi uyamazi yena

Uyamazi yena othanda ukuthandwa

Yena oyoze avume zonke izindaba

Esethi elakhe iqhinga ngelokulandela abanamandla

Kanti bona yibo bebheke ezihlakaniphini

28. False friendship

I never imagined meeting someone like you
That I would call 'false friendship incarnate'
You throw victims in the air as if in play
Sheepishly grinning as they scream in terror
Your skills of deception are more legendary
Than the proverbial sheep skin covering a wolf

Umzenzisi wasebunganini

Ngangingazi ukhona umuntu onjengawe
Yena ongenabungani bempela
Edlala ngabantu edlala ngabo iminqakiswano
Aze athi esebabona bethukile azazithobe
Azazithobe ukuzithoba kwamabomu
Khona kuyikho kungesu lobuqili bawochakide

29. Great composer for the ancestors

Singing his hymn he would scan the heavens
Face up to the mountains
The abode of his pretty progenitors
And the thunders reverberating in response with

Moving hymns reminiscent of the festivals of the ancients

Ingqambi enkulu yamathongo

Alisho elakhe ihubo qedane abheke phezulu

Abheke phezulu entabeni

Lapho kukhona abahle abamzalayo

Baze bandindizele ngezulu bemvumela

Behuba naye ihubo elihle ihubo lasemandulwini

30. Stages in a growing name

A person has ten stages of growth.

These she straddles and rides from her birth

Assuming a name in a life long bonding that

Turns familiarity into lasting companionship

Whose fame may rise to legendary staircases

That open into gates of perpetual pride and sheroism

Izigabagaba zamagama

Umuntu unezigaba ezimashumi

Ukhwela kuzo akhwele ekuzalweni kwakhe

Aqale igama azibophe ngalo lona limfaneleyo

Aze athi eselazi limphelezele

Lize liyakuduma lidume phambili
Ngokuba yena uyongena eqholosha ekugcineni

31. Man and beast as one

The smel is not of a carcass
It the smell of human hair
Lifeless and parched out on a human head
Sizzling and coiling from consuming flames
Burning, crackling and stinking like singed horns of a calf

Umuntu ukanye nezilwane

Akunuki inyama yokufileyo
Kunuka izinwele zomuntu
Zona zomileyo, zona zome kumuntu enhloko
Zona zize zithi sezisha zishe zigoqana
Zishe zinuka zinuka uphondo lwenkonyane

32. Our destiny

Now that we have seen beauty
Whose lingering perfume overwhelms
And uplifts desires of our searching souls
Now we can borrow the high pitch of the soaring bird

On her languid yet persistent flight to western horizons
The creation myth bird that gives birth to hemispheres
Now we have found reason to hasten to our destiny

Ubuthina obuyakuzayo

Sikubonile loko okuhle

Okuyothi njalo uma sikucabanga

Imiphefumulo yethu bese iphakama

Size sibenjengaleyo nyoni eculayo phezulu

Icula ilibangise kude emashona

Lapho iyakuqamba khona imihlaba

Nakanje thina ngobuthina singemi ndawonye

33. Departing love

In this my hour of depression in spirit

I sense the forewind of your approach

I hear the thump of your marching soles

Tremors of the ground throwing me off balance

I move to the side for steadiness, for shelter

Peeping through the foliage for your frame as it

Hastens in oblivion leaving clouds of loneliness

I helplessly cling on vapours dissipating in the wind

Izigi zomhlaba

Yinxa ngoba ngibuthaka emoyeni wami

Ukuba ngikuzwe wena ususondela

Ngikuzwe ngezigi zakho ezinamandla

Zona ongathi ziyayizamazamisa indawo

Bese ngiholekela ecaleni yikhona ngiyozibonisisa

Ngibone ngasese ubwena budlula

Nempela kube budlula nje bushiya isizungu sakho

Busishiya simile eduze kwami

34. Borrowed fortune

At your prompting I had to borrow from you

And became a wealthy person before many eyes

Loved and toasted even by total strangers

And celebrated by all the rats of this race

Greedy eyes stared at my fake fortune

Not aware that all this was not mine

The day the truth comes out

They will ditch me like spoiled pumpkin in fallow fields

Ingcebo engisiselwe yona

Ngayo intando yakho ngakhangeza kuwe
Ngaze ngaziwa njengesicebi ngazengaduma
Ngaze ngathandwa nayibo engangingabazi
Bona sebengithanda sebesondela kimi beshesha
Bona sebelangazela engangikuphetheyo
Kodwa bebengazi akukhona okwami
Nakanjalo mhla balifumanayo iqiniso
Sebeyokungidicela phansi emazaleni

35. Enigmatic name

Perhaps what we see is not reality
But an image of what is yet to come
A signal, an enigmatic name yet to be heard.
For strangers always keep memories of names
And carry them like loads on sagging shoulders
Because encounters in journeys are identified through names

Inkinga yegama

Mhlawumbe bona lobu khona abukho
Bungumfanekiso wobukhona obuzayo
Bungobokubambisa ngegama eliyobakhona
Ngokuba igama laziwa umuntu ongakwaziyo

Yilo lona ayakuhamba nalo eletshethe
Aze athi esembonayo ambonayo afanisele ngalo

36. Sorcerer

The day you came closer to me
I remembered your words of advise
Telling me to cease behaving like humans
Warning me to move my shadow away from you
A shadow you found portent like that of a sorcerer
I preferred to forget and harboured scorn for your words
Attempting to get closer to the ways of humans
And again you caught me playing with the humans
Stupid humans that I could mislead at will

Owayenethunzi elesindayo

Mhlazene ngikubona usondela
Ngakhumbula iziyalo zakho
Wena owathi angize ngingazenzi umuntu
Uthi ngize ngingakwengameli wena ngethunzi lami
Ngokuba lona linamandla lingelomthakathi
Ngakhohlwa ngaze ngakuzonda namazwi akho
Ngibe mina ngisalangazele okwasebantwini

Kanti wena uziongibhadama ngidlala ngabo

Ngidala ngabo ngoba bona bengaboni

37. Wound of knowledge

May you shield me from false fame

Whose tight grip leads to drowning of self-discovery

To imitating hectic schedules of street corner people

Gregarious, gawdy and loud with their shady deals

May you intervene and lift me out this madness

Place a stone along my truant path, as the tears and hurt of

My big toe will be my wound of knowledge.

Inxeba lokwazi

Ngicela ungivikele kulolu dumo lwamaze

Lona luthatha umuntu lwamuke naye

Aze akhohliseke aze athi ungangemisindo yabaphandle

Kanti bona badudwa imisindo yabo yona inamandla

Kodwa wena uze uvimbe uze uthi ungangibona

Ubeke ilitshelitshe eliyongiqhuzula

Ngize ngithi sengitetema ngibesengiqalile ukwazi

38. Unfulfilling love

How can I accept your love
And open my soul to your sweetness
I fear that when you find the comfort
You will sink your roots, refusing to budge
Turning me into your willing slave to be
Sent on aimless errands of no consequence
All in the name of playing your game of control and subservience

Imendo engambili

Wena angize ngikuvumele
Ungene kimi emphefumulweni wami
Ngokuba uma usuphakathi
Awuyuvuma ukuphuma uyobe usuhlala
Wena njalo ubusungithuma ngenze okufaneleyo
Usungithuma amaze ngamaze angasho lutho
Kodwa kuwe abe engukugcwaliseka kwemidlalo yakho

39. What is so special about America?

What is my real gain from this land of of surplus
A land lacking humanity of man to man
A land closing doors for the poor of the earth
A land not caring for the aged

A land sorely needing counsel of wise sages

A land that has given us no great composers

A land not known for venerable poets?

Leyo Melika yabo

Lizongenzelani ilizwe elinezinala

Kodwa libelingenalo ubuntu bomuntu

Kodwa libelivala iminyango kwabampofu

Kodwa libelibalahla abagugileyo

Kodwa libelingenazo izazi zezazi

Kodwa libelingenazo izingqambi ezinkulu

Kodwa libelingenazo izimbongi ezesabekayo?

40. Silence of the ancestors

When my age calabash runs over the record of time

And embracing love overwhelms my adversaries,

I will leap and land in your realm, seeking the secret root

Licking, chewing and spitting the bitter sap and wood.

Behold the columns of all my companions, what a sight

Amongst giants of giants, wallowing in the silence of the ancestors

Bewildered by the unseen spiritual companionship of the elders.

Abahlobo abathule

Kothi uma sengikhulile ngakhula kakhulu

Ngaze ngathandwa yibo ababengizonda

Ngigasele kuwe ngizofuna ikhubalo

Ikhubalo engiyothi ngingaliququda

Ngibone bonke ababengiphelezela

Bona bebakhulu kunami, bona bethule

Bona bethulke ngoba bengibuka mina ngingababoni

41. The name of a departed friend

I am tempted to name my child after you

So as to believe that you are always here

And to get used to your continued companionship

By hearing my child start to talk and walk like you

Yet, I fear your re-entering the soul of my baby

When you have already had a full life of your own

Igama lomngani ongasekho

Sengizoze ngiqambe umntanami ngawe

Ngenzele ukuthi wena ungaze wemuka

Kodwa uhlale njalo ungikhohlisa ngobukhona bakho

Ngize ngithi sengakhohliseka impela

Ngimbone nelizwi lakhe selinjengelakho
Besengazi wena umngenile ngingabhekile
Kube kuyo yonke leminyaka wawukhona

42. Anthems and visions of a grandmother

Deepest apologies to the one I turned my back on
The one I denigrated as a midget in this vast earth
Regrets for my oversight, because a grandmother fills the cosmos
She is the well-spring to quench the thirst of the stars
And her hearth is home to all creatures of the earth

Ihubo lemibono yesalukazi

Akaxole yena ongibone sengimfulathela
Ngize ngimeya ngithi ilizwe likhulu kunaye
Kanti yingoba ngingabonanga ongangalo ungangaye
Yilo lona liyakuphuza kuye ngoba yena uyisiziba
Ngoba yena wamukela zonke izidalwa zomhlaba

43. Counsel for the rich man

Now that your kraal is bursting with herds of cattle
Now that your amassed wealth will never die with you
Now that your ego dwarfs even the greatness of the Creator,

Give to my destitute children that, they may declaim your clan songs
As you distribute to their hands, tell them,
“This gift is not only for you, may it multiply also for others
Your honeyed voice opening the secrets to wealth and to sharing

Isiyalo kocebileyo

Ngoba wena unezinkomo ezingakaya
Ngoba wena unengcebo engaka oyofa uyishiye
Ngoba wena usumkhulu kunokukhulisayo
Yipha abantabami baze bakubonge ngezibongo
Uze uthi usubamukelisa ezandleni uthi,
“Loku akukona okwenu, ngani sengipha nabanye”
Usho usukhuluma usubenanele nabangakwaziyo

44. Looking for the prophet

For the oracle will state: “ Was the prophet was the one
Shunning fame, the one secretly keeping the wisdom of the land?”
Revelations once released would have put him on the epicenter
Whose leads we have been pursuing, searching for him
Along furrows of barren lands and kraals of the wealthy
The very ones who persecuted and alienated him, the ones
Wearing gawdy robes, who claimed ownership of the prophecy.

Omkhulukhulu kunabakhulu

Bayosho abayosho bathi: “Lowo owayengafuni udumo

Yena wayegodle ngasese mibono yelizwe?”

Yona leyo owayeyakuthi angayidedela esabeke

Nguye esesimthungathayo ilizwe lonke

Sesimfuna nasemazaleni nasezindlini zabakhulu

Bona labo abathe eyabo imini ayimfanelanga

Bathi kungeyabo abakhethiweyo abagqoke ubulivilivi

45. A Salute to Tufu of China

Warmest thanks, my elder brother Tufu

Humblest gratitude, to the expanse of your kindness

That rhymed and rocked me like a baby on its back

Guiding me through this winding passage, rite after rite

To the heights where your name echoed in mighty tones

And my hair stood on edge, my guilt pierced my chest.

Yes, I was ensnared by sagging webs and tired tales

Oblivious of your immense soul waiting for me patiently

Keeping sentinel at the gates held ajar for my delayed entrance,

Ready to lead me to sit on soft sands where epics are coiled age upon
age

KuTufu waseShayina

Sengibonga kuwe wena mnewethu

Ngibonga ububanzi bomoya wakho

Bona bungibelethe bona budlale nami

Ngaze ngakhula ngakhula kakhulu

Ngaze ngathi sengilizwa igama lakho

Kwashwaqa unwele ngakhumbula icala lami

Mina ngihleli lapha ngixoxa izinganekwane

Kanti umphefumulo wakho ungilindile

Ulinde emasangweni lapho ngizothi ngingangena

Ngihlale phansi ngihlale emhlabathini ngixoxe izindaba

46. The seventh name

Because nobody dares call you by name

I will give you a name from era to era

A name to be changed as soon as others adopt it

Keeping on changing it to maintain the secret.

For every seventh name, the cycle will start over again

To stay ahead of the passing on of those familiar with all the names

The fading minds and aged memories on your serial names

Igama elingelemfihlo

Ngoba wena kawubizwa ngegama
Ngizokuqamba elami elingelokugudlisela
Baze bathi abantu nxa sebazi engiqondise kuye
Ngikuqambe ngelinye nangelinye abangalaziyo
Aze athi uma eseyisikhombisa ngiqale ekuqaleni
Ngokuba bona ababekhona ngiqalayo bayobe sebabhubha
Sebabhubha nasengqondweni ngokuba bagagule wena

47. I will never dance for you

I do not intend dancing for you
Nor raising dust from the celebration square
I shall dance when my heart so desires
Self will, not seeking adulation by hand clappers
Not confused by shouts of revellers
That urge one to imitate crude choreographies.

Angiyugidela wena

Angizukwenzela wena ukuba ngigide
Ukuba ngisuse izintuli emagcekeni
Ngizokwenzela inhliziyo yami
Yona ingayulandela abaningi abashaya izandla
Ngokuba iyazi yona bona bayedukisa

Umuntu uze athatheke nawunyawo lwabo

48. Hard of hearing

You may scold me for as long as you wish

For I am hard of hearing

My eardrums burst with the boom on the cannons

That is why I stare as you throw up your arms

I am wondering whether you have gone mad

Or perhaps you went mad since the days when the colonial

Cannons blasted and killed many of our people?

Inkubela yokuzwa

Uzongithethisa wena uze ukhathale

Ngoba mina angizwa ezindlebeni

Ezami zagqobhozwa yizimpi zawombayimbayi

Yiko lokhu ngikujamele uyaluza ulahla izingalo zakho

Ngibemina ngitihi: Ngakube yene usangene?

Ngakube usangene ngokwezimini mhla befayo abantu?

49. With the speed of whirlwinds

Because of this calling of earth, the source

I will deceptively linger along, avoiding eyes of sorcerers

Because bursting in haste may attract the perpetrators
I will meander to the banks of the great river
Silently swallowing the water like a wary giraffe
At the very point of the beginnings of the earth
And then breaking out with the speed of whirlwinds
That cling like a jockey on the mane of the rays of the sun,
Gallop across savannahs to the spinning centre of lakes that
Is the unknown site of African creation myth narratives

Ngejubane lezivunguvungu

Ngoba ngizoqala indima enkulu yomhlaba
Ngizohamba ngitoba ngenzela imithwebulo
Ngokuba okokuusukela ngabe kungayiphambili
Ngiyozengithi ngingafika emngceleni womfula
Ngiphuze amanzi ngenzele ukuziqinisa
Ke lokhu mandulo umhlaba waqala lapha
Sengiyoze ngisuke ngamajubane
Ngisuke ngibambelele kuyo imisebe yelanga
Ngilidabule ilizwe ngize ngifike esiswini sesinzululwane

50. Perpetrators

For the hour of Osiris's judgement will descend on

Those denying complicity in this heinous crime of murder
The ones pleading innocence, and believing in false lyrics
Composed as darting eyes avoid the blood soaked place of slaughter.
Pepertrators will always accuse witchcraft as the source of their
deeds

Ababulali babantu

Bayokwehlelwa bona abaliphikayo icala
Bona abathi bamsulwa basho baze bakholwe iculo labo
Baze bavaleke amehlo bangaziboni izigemegeme zabo
Okambe baze bathi bayilokho abayikho ngobe beloyiwe
Ngokuba lokho abakwenzili kubantu kube kwesabeka

51. Not visionless people

Time for self-discovery will arrive
The inner eye attaining a clearer view
We will marvel at deft hands weaving the web
Of a destiny we know to be very beautiful
It will be the fulfillment of creations of our minds
A defiance to those who imagined us totally imprisoned
And visionless people

Okuhle kwethu

Sizobakhona isikhathi esingesethu

Lapho sizobona nobekufihlekile

Sikwazi ukulubabaza ulwembu lusaqala

Lusaqala ukwaluka loko esaziyo kuyobakuhle

Kuze kugcwaliseke nangayo yonke imicabango yethu

Nobethi kasinabuciko aze adumale

52. Dark dream

In my dark dream, my night sweat was gleaming like my sensor-feather

As I stretched my ears to sensitively listen to groans of forgotten humans

Straining hard to identify familiar voices, when I heard a boy saying:

“I have long departed, but I will return”

Screeching like a soul from lost catacombs, a distant echo in the valley.

And then the shock and explosion of massive, black cowhide drums

Lifting still higher the musings of bitter ancestors, who told me,

“Yes we perished with our children on that day of the massacre,

Yes, our return will be a return of unceasing tropical storms, of tears

That shall drench our tormentors so that they also may taste the salt of pain

And just like us, they will also sway in the procession of grief,
carrying their lifeless children.”

Isiqalekiso sawokhokho (Izinyembezi zabo)

Sekukhona ubukhona obukhona engibuzwa ngosiba
Ngize ngibulalelisise ngizwe ngibuzwe ngemisindo yabo
Ngicubungule amazwi akhona ngizwe elomfana
Ngizwe elakhe elithi: “Ngahamba kudaleni, ngiyobuya”
Esho ongathi osekade afa, esho emalokotho
Nempela ngibe sengizwa izigubhu ezimnyama
Ngabe sengizwa bethemeleza abadala sebesho nokusho
“Thina esife ngalelo langa nezingane zethu
Sesiyakubuya, siyakubuya sibathele ngezinyembezi
Kuze kube yibo sebeyakukhala njengathi
Njengathi ngamhla lowo sesibaphelezela abantwana bethu”

53. Moments when they plundered Egypt

It is not the urgings of my beloved muse
That makes me compose these poetic songs
It is the lamentation of a thousand years
I see the river of tears swelling the Nile
Blood bespattered sediment along the banks

Pushing apart heart and soul of plundered Egypt
Mine is to share solace, words of consolation
And maybe we could transcend our sordid episode

Ngemibono yabasegibhide behlelwa izigcwelegcwele

Ngithi ngiyayibhala inkondlo yami
Kungengokuba ngiyilabalabele
Kodwa ngoba ngiphethwe yibo okade bemuka
Besengithi ngiyibhala ngibe ngikhala izinyembezi
Ngibe ngibabona bekude bemanxebanxeba
Bemanxebe nasemphefumulweni nasezinhliziyweni
Bese ngibaphelezela baze badlule badlule
Kude emajukujukwini

54. The planet (earth) that belongs to us

It has never been for you and me to choose
From the borrowed palette of green hues
Green like the ocean green like the grasses
Or is it blue as the powdered eyelashes of the sky?

Umbala womhlaba wethu

Lombala esiwukhethiweyo akuwona owethu

Ungumbala wokubolekwa wona uluhlaza

Wona ungowamanzi ungowotshani

Ungoweziphakakbhaka eziphezulu

55. Fools pride

I have had enough of your fools pride

I now follow wishes of my heart, despite

The declaration to follow my words

I will be dancing away, in mistrust from you

Forked tongue one, dyed in the wool fox

Days of repentance are long gone bye

Ngemva komuhla weqhalaqhala

Angizukufuna emva kwalokhu

Ngizonzenzela loko engikuthandayo

Uze uthi uma usuvuma ukungilandela

Ngisole khona lokho kwenza ngihlehlele nyovana

Ngokuba uvuma nje unembedumehlwana

Ngokuba wala ukuvuma ngokwenkani yemihla yokuvuma

56. Face of globalization

To me you are devoid of culture and decency

Since you impose vulgar traditions on others
In the name of globalization
Your customs are not of our civilisation
When will you cease this genocide of our humanity?

Amasiko ayebulalayo ezizwe

Yiba wena awukhuliswanga ngemfanelo
Ukuba ubelokhu uthi amasiko akho ngawomhlaba
Awenu amasiko akuwona awethu
Ngangakho lokho ngoba awenu aselibulele ilizwe

57. Comedian from the land of the deaf

Once I strated on a winding journey
This time searching for the king of jesters
And lo I was to encounter a comedian who in mime
Told me to sit rooted to the ground
As he unfurle a flag of unforgettable magic
The gestures, the eyes and the rubbery body
I fell on my side in belly stitches of laughter
So compelling was this king of all comedians
And only when he bowed to depart was I to find
That the comedian was from the land of the deaf !

Ihlaya lasesimungulu

Ngake ngahamba indlela ende

Ngihamba ngifuna ngifuna amancoko

Ngaze ngathi ngokufumana yena owayengangawo

Nahlalala phansi ngathi dikli

Ngalindela yena ukuba awathulule kimi

Ngempela wawakhipha ngamehlo nezandla nemizimba

Ngahleka ngaze ngaqaqamba isisu

Kanti ngihleka nje angiboni yena akakhulumi

Yena ubuciko bamahalaya ububoleke eSimingulu

58. Wealth and fame

Would you have hurled me into this kraal of solitude

Had I been Gumede that all villagers talk about

In ever spiralling yarns that kiss illusory heavens

Everyone marveling at riches counted in trillions like sands of the ocean

Isilomo somcebo

Ubungeke ungihlangule kangakaya

Ukuba bengiwuGumede nginguye yena uyisilomo

Benginguye yena edumile edume kakhulu
Edume ngokuba enengcebo yezihlabathi

59. Child of our earth

Sing with that voice heard in the council of the gods
The affirming melody of our muse rising
And sowing secrets, meanings of warm lives
Sing and unite us, child of our earth

Ingane yomhlaba

Akahlabelele yena ngoba ulizwi lihle
Ngoba yena uthandiwe ngamadlozi
Ngoba yena uvusela than iqungu lokuphila
Ngokuba yena uyingane le yomhlaba wonke

60. Your path of life

Your path of life needs no exaggeration
As it is destined to fulfill all your callings
Yes, the beginnings are sweet and bring joy
Take a step at a time, that you may not resent the time of old age

Obakho ubomi

Ubomi bakho abuyubangakanani

Ngokuba bungubomi obuphelele kuwe
Uyakubunambitha ubuthanda ekuqaleni
Kodwa muvana buyongena esiswini njengesicikane

61. Blessings from the one yet to be born

My wish is that you be the one yet to be born
Possessing the magic to tame the wrath of the day
Endowed with far visions of unpretentious love
Never to be paralysed by the insipid fesar of power
Yes, the one yet to be born is a free spirit
That ascends to higher realms of the ancestors
Beyond the mundane dams of hate and hypocrisy

Isibusiso soyakuzalwayo

Ngifisa ukuba ungaba ngomunye wabo
Bona beyokulwehlula ulunya lwezimini zabo
Bonabeyakuthanda abantu bengazenzi
Bengenziwa nayizintshumayelo zokwesaba
Kepha benza ngoba imiphefumulo yabo yandile
Benza ngokuba imiphefumulo yabo isiphakeme
Ngoba sebazi izinzondo zabantu akulona iqiniso

62. Leaf and stalk borer

This wondrous life is like a leaf

Trapzeizing in its descent to the earth

Unlike a little red bird aiming at a stalk borer

Swooshing and swift before it could fly away.

A leaf not hurrying to catch the nap on the ground

And be sacrificial prey in the jaws of stalk borers

Imifanekiso emibili

Lona lehlayo ihlamvu

Lehla libheke ezansi emazansi kunina

Linjengenyonyana ebomvu iyocosha isihlava

Iyosicosha ngamajubane singaze sasinda

Kodwa lona ngeliyakucambalala emhlabathini

Lize lifunyanwe yizo izihlava ziliqobele imikhosi

63. Burden of surnames

It is the surname that colours a passageway in life

Imposing humility decency and moderation

Reminding all that we remain social beings

With naked eyes, with third eyes, even visions and dreams

Surnames are unremovable muti cuts inherited from the ancestors

Even those that provoked wars that decimated children of the earth

Isibongo semendo

Yisibongo leso esithonya umuntu

Simenze sona aze athobe

Aze akhumbule akayedwa elizweni

Nako ke akwenzayo akukona okwakhe

Ngokwesibili ngokwesithathu nokwaninini

Kanjalo liyambiza igama labamendulelelyo

Impi embi ebulele nabantwana

64. Stop the impunity

I will parachute onto the hornets' nest

Screaming that they should spare the children

And stop this impunity that provokes attrition

Hurt generations will plot endless wars of the future

Izwi lokuthethisa iminyovu

Sengikhona mina lapho kukhona iminyovu

Ngizokhuza ngithi: ayingahlabi nabantwana

Hleze igqubu elinjalo lingabelisaphela

Hleze naye ohlatshiwe aze athwale esikhulu isibhongo

65. At the very end we shall be united

Have you listened to the oracle's whispers for us
To hold hands and spread the infectious warmth
Written on veins of petting necks of new lovers
As a sign that at the very end we shall be united

Ekugcineni siyobamunye

Kade besibiza thina bethi asibambane ngezandla
Ukuze ukuzwana kwethu kufudumale nakusasa
Kuphumele nasemithanjeni yabanye
Yikhona nakhona ekugcineni siyobamunye

66. Heart of a hundred chambers

It is not late for admitting our grave error
Yes we were misled by the haunting beauty of a calf's face
Veering away from the one we deemed too ugly
Yes, the one with a heart of a hundred chambers

Ozinhliziyi zimakhulukhulu

Asilivume thina icala
Sithi yebo simthandile yena obengafanele

Yena emuhle kuphela ebusweni njengenkonyane

Kanti lowo ebekunguye, enguye emubi

Yilowo obenezinhliziyi ezimakhulukhulu

67. A bark is mere cladding for the tree

He apologises for that you had him telling to his friends

Displaying disrespect for those greater than him

Attempting to appropriate their thunder for himself.

Remember that the bark is mere cladding for the tree

Ixolo akulona lilikhulu kunomuthi

Aze ashweleze kuwe ngoba umzwile ekhuluma

Umzwile egxeka bona abakhulu kunaye

Ethi wenzela ukuba naye adume

Ngokuba igxolo lomuthi yillo lithi livikela isiqu

68. This tick will bite the dust

There is a tick clinging on on my dog's tail

Tough parasite refusing to move

As my frustrated dog bites its own tail

Crunching bones till they break

With blood seeping in drops you will bite the dust.

Ikhizane eliyakuziwela

Emsileni wenja yami kukhona ikhizane

Yilo ibe iyalithintitha alivumi

Isiye yaduba ngokuwudla umsila

Yalihlaba ithambo laze lephuka

Laze laphuma igazi laze laziwelalona ngokwalo

69. Encountering dementia

You are a terrible affliction

For disorienting one so profoundly.

Encountering your dementia

Is akin to forsaking life

Life that is seedlings perpetuating our destiny

Ukusangana oku

Yisifo lesi esibikazi

Sona senza umuntu asangane

Angabe esayazi okuyiyo ingqikithi yempilo

Yona okube ingabe iphathwa bucayi

Yona yona ngoba iyimbewu yobukhona bethu

70. The liar and the conscience

She has to accept the triumph of conscience
And for every temptation, she has to shudder in shame
Slowly betraying her intentions to mislead
No matter how vehement her words of denial will be

UNomanga nonembeza

Akaze ajwayele yena athi noma ethule
Kubekhona ukudikiza okumcebayo
Nakanjalo yena aze alikhiphe iqiniso
Alikhiphe engaqondile ebe ubethi uyaliphika

71. Big yellow blossom

I never imagined you will be the one to match my passion
You with immeasurable spirit and a generosity
The size and the twinkle of stars of our cosmos
Your tender fingers touched my mentality, my emotions
Oh that therapy of love as you stroked it open
Aha your juice of fecundity for my big yellow blossom

Imbali yokulingana

Kube nguwe wedwa engiyolingana naye

Wena omiphefumulo yakho emidekazi
Iphezulu ezinkanyezini isekulokozeni
Kuthi ngoba uyakwazi okulichopho lami
Ukuvule kancane kancane ngesineke
Kuze kuqhakaze imbali eluphuzikazi

72. The return of the bird of liberty

Our regiment haunched heavily on the sands of the sea
Watching without a murmur the rise and the fall of the waves
Listening to shouts of seagulls that played in the spray
As if to lighten our mission with the spirit of games
Our sunset eyes were pinned on a large bird climbing the horizon
Departing along a silver line of distant, dark and ominous clouds
A cue for us to resume our nocturnal march
Each man longing for the warm hearth of home
Following the silhouette of the bird of liberty taking us South

Imibono yasekudingisweni

Sabe sesihlala ezihlabathini ogwini lolwandle
Sabe sesibuka ukuwa nokuphakama kwamagagasi
Sabe sesilalela ukudlalisana kwezinyoni
Kona kwasekunjengakho okwemimoya yethu

Yona inyoni enkulu sayibona isiyikhwela intambama
Isikhwela emafwini amnyama isigoduka
Nathi laba sase sithubeleza ebusuku
Sesifumbethe imicabango ngekhaya lethu
Lona lase lisibiza lisibiza kude eNingizimu

73. Follow your name

Your name carries a message of friendliness
It was given to beckon all that is good
Evoking positive companions in your passage of life
Please take heed of the desires of your elders
And walk in step with your amazing name

Igama lakhe

Yigama lei elinamabika obuhlobo
Lona bekuqambe lona belangazela okuhle kwakho
Kona okuyakuvela ngawe, kuyakuvela ngemini yakho
Wena ke lifuze ngoba uneminyaka ezayo
Unegagu lakho lemindeni elikukhulisayo

74. Cosmic siblings

Listen t the cry of the cosmic bird in flight

Heading to its nests to the cradle of the earth
Remember that in our thousands we embody the cacophony
As we glide with our unseen sibling, the bird of creation.

Imihlaba yokwelamana

Inyoni ekhalayo ikhala phezulu iyadlula
Ibange ezidlekeni zayo, ezidlekeni zomhlaba
Ngokuba ayiyodwa ingoningi lolu lezwe
Yikho lokho isintweza kade nobuhlokhloko bayo

75. Earth, the healer

How can you stoop and begrudge the earth
Is she not our ancient mother
Is she not our true healer
Were you not raised in the protective palm of her hand?

Umhlaba yiwo welapha umuntu

Usholoni ukuthi unegqubu ngomhlaba
Ingani umhlaba mdaladala kunawe
Ingani yiwo owelapha umuntu
Ingani yiwo wona ukade ukusingethe entendeni yawo

76. Musings

Mother Earth

Provider warmth to your children at times of winter

Please call forth a new year

A year of growing and fertilizing all our dreams

Umthemelezo

Omamekazi nomhlaba

Wena ofukamele abantabakho nangobusika

Kawusenzele thina unyaka omusha

Unyaka wokuhluma nokuvindisa kwezimini zethu

77. Those that will inherit

It is not yet the time to bask in personal glory

Because our achievement is a mere foundation

For those that have accompanied us this far,

Those that will inherit experience from our hands

Abahle esiyobamukelisayo

Akufanele sizibonge thina esesiphumeleleyo

Ngokuba ukuphumelela kwethu kunxanye

Kungabo bona labo abasiphelezeleyo

Kungabo bona asebeyokwamukela ezandleni zethu

78. The fear of the buzzard

A buzzard strayed into my house
Knocking itself on all on my walls
Desperate searching for an escape route
Sowing paralyzing fear in my home
Perhaps I should open the door
Of escape and restore balance to my home

Ukwesinda kovalo lwebhungezi

Ibhungezi lingene endlini yami
Laze lazishaya kuzo zonke izindonga
Lifuna ukuphuma lifuna ukubaleka
Uvalo lwalo selwesinda ndawo zonke
Sekungathi ngingavula iminyango
Ngilidedele lindize lishiye indawo ifanele thina

79. Never forget us beautiful child

Our wish is that as you bloom in beauty
And be the adored one that we have nourished
As you strut with the pride of the bride

Attracting all eyes to your marvellous poise
Remember that the admirers will be paying homage
To us your parents

Uze usenzele nathi

Ongathi wena ungaze uthi usumuhle
Usumuhle kakhulu ngoba thina sikondlile
Wena wabona umakoti eselungisela imigcagco
Nakanje nawe usenzele amabuka
Amabuka ayakuthi angabona wena abone thina

80. Rites of passage

Stop whimpering as you are no longer a baby
Your parents will never walk your rite of passage
Look, even the fledgeling bird flies away
Determined to weave its own nest
Resolved to find companions of life
Conjuring new worlds of own imagination

Naye aze akhule

Uthini lowo okhala ongathi okomntwana
Obelokhu esola thina esimzalayo

Akanjengaliphuphu lona lithi ukundiza
Liyekuzakhela elazo izidleke
Lizekuzifunela eyalo imidanti
Lize liyokwandisa umhlaba ngeziligaba zalo

81. Being loved by you

I will not stray from my path
Growing and being loved by you
Weapons of life are at my disposal
My determination is to forge ahead
Winning victories for coming generations

Mina engithandwe nguwe

Ngizoqhubeka nginjalo mina
Mina engikhulayo ngoba ngithandiwe nguwe
Ngoba ngiphethe zonke izikhali zokuphila
Ngibe sengazi ngazo angisayuhlehla
Ngazo sengiyohlabana kuze kufike izizukulwane

82. They are there

They are there because they are there
Hearts lining horizons of deserts

Bequeathing laughter to happy crowds
Harvesting lives in times of plague
Yet, leaving crumbs of life to us the starved ones

Bakhona

Bakhona abathi ngoba bekhona
Balugcwalise ugwadule ngezinhliziyi zabo
Babuyisele kubo uhleko lwabajabulayo
Baze bathi sebevuna ezifeni zabo
Basivunele nathi thina ebesesizacile

83. Empathy

Even these feet inflamed by pain
Deserve the herbal water, a balm for the pain
Compassion has to be companion and supporter
All the way with renewed vigour till the very end

Ubuhlobo obuzwelayo

Ongathi lonalolunyawo oseluvuvukile
Aluze luwafumane amanzi okuthoba
Luze luthi seluyakufika ekugcineni
Lube lungasafuni ukupheza

84. Humanity the relay baton of greatness

For that day of immense beauty shall descend on us
You and me, offspring of the great house
We will break in praises of wonder
With a reponse from circles of worshippers
As they lift the great realy baton of humanity
We will join them in joy, the people shouting in excitement

Ubukhulu basebuntwini

Lizobakhona ilanga elihle
Elifanele thina thina esizalwa emzini omkhulu
Thina esiyakuthi silibabaza
Ebe sizungezwe ngabayakulamukela
Bona sebeyakulenza elabo nabo
Baze bajabule nathi baze bajabulise bonke abantu

85. Kingship we cherish

We need not genuflect to undeserving rulers
As kingship's purpose is to revere the earth
True kingship takes root with respect for others
And stretches further than the panorama of generosity

Ukuphakamisa ubukhosi

Singaze samncenga thina yena ozenza inkosi
Ngokuba inkosi ingokuphakamisa ubukhosi bomhlaba
Ubukhosi obuyibo bungobuntu bomuntu
Obuyibo bungububanzi bokwanza okungokwenzela

86. Native American Festivals

Your ringing voice erupted at midnight
Venerated bull buffalo, ancient one
I was stilled by your lone voice above the fireplace
Calling and responding to invisible spirits only you
Could see dancing, stomping across the flames
A flashing spectacle of red feathered attires

Imigido yabomdabu baseMelika

Ngikuzwe wena phakathi kobusuku
Ngikuzwe wena nkunzi endala
Ngikuzwe uhuba uwedwa eduze komlilo
Usuhuba engathi uyababona obabonayo
Ubabona begiya eduze kwamalangabi
Ubabona sebehlobe ngezinsiba ezibomvu

87. Achievement

The true sight of your achievements
Is a line on the left and the right flanks,
Reaching higher than giant trees.
My hands will grow longer than the branches
I will pick and pick a harvest of success
Biting devouring and spitting pits of joy

Imithi ethele ngezimini zethu

Kube ngapha nangapha
Lapho ngibone iqiniso lakho
Ngilibone lingemithi emikhulu
Lapho ngiyawulula khona izandla
Ngivune ngivune izimini zethu
Ngize ngithi sengizinambitha ngithi halala

88. Worshipper's prayer

Let me become your total mage
Transcending the confines of my mortal self
Let me better the slower pace of humans
Attaining timeless fulfillment you possess

May you lead me to thresholds of your grandeur
Closing on the staircase to the halls of the gods

Umthemelezo wesikhonzi

Mangize ngibeyilokho wena oyikhona
Ngingabi yilokho ukungokwami okulingene mina
Ngokuba kona kuthikukhula kube kukhula kancane
Kanti okwakho sekuyikhona osekwanele
Esengiyothi uma ngifikayo ebungakeni kwakho
Kubewena usukade wabangako waze wadlulela

89. Twinning

Because we are twins, you have to attend
And show by body, deeds and mind alignment
Lest we betray a conflict of wordly and spiritual demands
Let us emulate a moon charting an infinite cosmic path

Ubuwele lobu bethu

Ngoba sibabili kufanele wena ubekhona
Ubekhona ngokwakho nangezenzo zakho
Ukuze thina singabinalo ingaphansi nengaphezulu
Njengenyanga le eyaluka ngesayo isibhakabhaka

90. At our twilight years

Curb me from becoming a casualty of tiredness
Lethargic and senile, as our heritage is stolen
Singing lullabies to lull our offspring to sleep
No this generation are sentinels in the morning
Guarding the puppy motions of the waking sun
They will gaze at the red ball of fire
And nod in confidence as we depart to our sunsets

Emva kokuphumula kude

Ungangidedeli wena ngize ngiphumule kakhulu
Zize ziyomuka izinkomo zawobaba
Baze abantwana bethu balale kabanzi
Kanti ngabe bavuka entathakusa
Ngabelibona ilanga linyakaza
Ngabewubona umzizima obomvu
Base beze basidedele thina siye entshonalanga

91. Courage of King Shaka

It is your courage that spurs me on
That lends me the striking pose of an angry mamba

Fearless, as I scan smoky hills of perpetrators' fires
And when I lurch to rescue your trapped children,
Smell the agony, songs of roasting human flesh
See me toss them out of the inferno, out of the incendiary
Chanting your name, your memory of bravery
Son of Senzangakhona
Mountain of destiny

Isibindi sikaShaka

Yiso isibindi engisifumene ngawe
Sona sesingenze ngadlondlobala
Nagze ngathi noma ngibona imililo idlangile
Ngangena kuyo ngiyobahlitha abantwana bakho
Besengibezwa phakathi kwamalamngabi
Bekhala bememeza befuna iminyango
Ngaze ngathi sengiphuma nabo ngakhuza wena
Ngakhuza ezakho izibingo wena Ngangentaba

92. They are also children of this earth

Lesser than human is the one without generosity
Hoarding and not letting go of possessions
He, wallowing alone in caskets of wealth and

Counting rosary beads of accumulated cars
To be human is to humbly thank the sweat of your toil,
In measured style of decency and appreciation
To be human is to consider the plight of the needy
As they also are children of our earth
Yes, men and women of this blessed land

Nabo bangabalo mhlaba

Akayena umuntu lowo ongananelani nabantu
Yena ogodle lokho akugodlileyo
Yena osenqohe phakathi kwemikhulu imithangala
Esenguye ngokubalisa izimoto nezindlu zakhe
Umuntu ngumuntu ngokuba ebusebenzele ubuntu bakhe
Ngokuba ebubekele imihla ngemihla
Waze wabenzela nalabo ababusweleyo
Ngokuba nabo bangabomhlaba
Nabo bangabafazi namadoda alelizwe

93. Distributor of wealth

My full praises be to King Shaka
Who said we all deserve the national inheritance
Who personally served in the frontline trenches

Cementing courage in word and in deed
He said the tobacco of our world is for all enjoy
Son of Senzangakhona, distributor of wealth,
Of the white royal cattle amongst all of our land

Yena owasho ebahlomulisa

Mina ngibonga uShaka
Yena owathi ilifa lesizwe ifa labantu
Yena owathi umholi akahole phambili
Ahole ngempela nangezenzo
Owathi umuntu akangancishwa ugwayi ukhona
Washo umntakaSenzangakhona ebahlomulisa ngezimhlophe

94. Venerable girl sage

Now I can pronounce that your growth
Charts the path of the long awaited sage
Defying decades of doubt and prophecies
The voice of truth once said: "There will appear
The one of the great great ear
An initiate and collector of healing herbs
The princess of awesome lobes of sacred wisdom
Ancient one re-entering the haze of our cosmos"

Isihlakaniphi sentombazane

Sengibona ukuthi uyokhula

Uyokhula ubeyiso sazi esaziwayo

Sona abasifungela singakabibikho

Bathi: “Ngoba kukhona izazi ezingaka

Kuyobakhona okuyiso siyolalela

Okuyiso siyowahlanganisa wonke amakhubalo

Amakhubalo okwazi okwazi okwesabekayo

Sona siyobe siphuma ngayizolo”

95. Show them the way, my dear poem

My dear poem, please enter now their homes

Find them in conversation, in loud disagreements

Calm them down let them sit in a circle

Teach them humility so that they may hear you

That they listen to themselves, to epics of their days

And to feats as legendary as the four hemispheres

That take turns to illuminate human paths on earth

A call for alertness, for evading the comfort of the hearth

Babonise wena nkondlo yami

Ke wena nkondlo yami ngena ezindlini zabo
Ufafumane behleli bexoxa bedlamuka phezulu
Wena bese ubathulisa ubabuyisela ndawonye
Bakwazi ukuzithoba balalele kuwe
Balalele ubukhulu bezimini zakho
Bona bunjenjenje bubanzi baziwa yimihlaba
Yona leyo ebingasapheli ukuza kubona
Nakanjalo bona mabaphaphame bangalali emaziko

96. Tempestuous spirit

Once I searched for an acquaintance
Throwing my gaze closer to a passerby
Only to find that he was not the one I know
With his hypnotic eyes of crocodiles
Dozing on stones, not knowing their identity
Are they of the water are they of the land clan

Uthuthuva lomoya wakhe

Ekhona yena ebekade ngimfuna
Ngisondela kuye ngimcele amehlo
Ngize ngibone akayenayena engimaziyo
Lona unamehlo ezingwenya

Zona zilala ematsheni zingasazazi eziyiko

Kumbe ngokwasemanzini kumbe ngokwaselizweni

97. The day mother passed on

It was shortly before sunrise

When I saw the bird soaring through the sky

Hastening in flight to the West

And I knew at that moment

That you, you the firm back that carried me

You have passed on. You have crossed further on

Usuku lukamame

Ekuseni ilanga lingakaphumi

Ngabona inyoni ngayibona idabula amazulu

Ngabona yona ilibangise eNtshonalanga

Ngase ngazi ngawo lowo mzuzwana

Wena, wena mhlane wami omuhle obungibeletha

Usudlulile usuwemukile wemukela phambili

98. Cries of the defeated

His cry of the defeated was long

Sobbing endlessly as he moaned his vanquished soul

Lamenting the shame of a coming year of despair
Composing his sad song of the utterly defeated

Isililo sowehluliweyo

Esho njalo yena owehluliwe
Athi ngehluliwe athi ngehluliwe nemiphefumulo yami
Asho eseyakungena onyakeni wamahlazo
Lapho eseyakulicula iculo lakhe labanqotshiweyo

99. Bird of a thousand voices

Deep in the night I heard a love-bird
The chirping bird of a thousand voices
Symphonic bird of a thousand movements
I sacrificed my heart on that altar of love
Marvelling when it floated away with the chorus
Why now the silence of the bird on your return?

Isizungu senyoni yami

Ebusuku kwakhala inyoni eyayizithanda
Eyayizithanda ngamazwi ankulungwane
Eyayizithanda ngezingoma ezinkulungwane
Mina ngaze ngathuma kuyo umphefumulo wami

Ngathi hamba ungenanele ubumnandi obungakaya
Wathi ubuya nabo yayingasakhali inyoni yelizwe

100. Luck that arrives late

What exists, results from giving
That is a slowly winding coil
The one without praise in the beginning
Shall always be longing, always searching
Unsure if the givers know his clan names
But even if late, the crow of luck will ring
Three loud times also for him

Ithamsanqa elifika kugcina

Okukhona kuvama ngemihlomulo
Kuvama ngako ukuba kuyokhula
Wena ongabongwanga ekuqaleni
Uyakubenjalo ulangazela uyakube ufuna
Uthi kambe zithini ezethu izithakazelo
Kodwa ekugcineni liyokhala ngawe iqhude lokusa

