

(Tr)end

Another celebrity sex-tape
leaked tonight
Check the intensity on
Facebook as we post a million likes
But what's the parallel?

A million lives
of little boys and girls
mentally brutalised and impregnated
by the penis of social media
Call it elevation, but we are running in place like inertia

How do we classify it?
when the country's first Resident
I mean the country's President
rapes oops I mean unwraps
a woman, exposing her nudity
in the process his own dignity
Yet, we scream Power
What is power?

Is it trickling water
from a shower
washing our guilt-ridden souls
full of pain and shame?
Look what we became
across the Continent
It's dark in the continent
Cos of the shadow of fear

I use words I write
Like a flashlight
I flirt with light
In love with justice
My proposal is freedom

Zimbabwe

From breadbasket to basket case
Zimbabwe is your destiny a curse?
Screaming liberation
But words without action
Are hollow like masturbation
Lifeless future carried in the scrotum
Going through the motions with no tangible outcome
Mentally no conception
Physically, a nervous condition

Vernacular rhythmic vibrations

Me I wrestles with it
Nearly choking on it
Chew on the bitter-sweet letters
Biting them off at the edges
Swallow bits and pieces
Spit some of them out
'Ara' me I shouts
No! It's 'R' the teacher shout
Repeat after me
And this time properly!
I saw a bird in the sky
Me I says, 'I so a bed in the sky'
No it's a bird the teacher says
'Ara' me I shouts
No it's 'R' the teacher says
My tongue resists the fluency
My mouth resists the mimicry

Me I am self-conscious
Them says me speech is awkward
They says me I is slow
Why I can't read with proper cadence and flow?
Teacher say it's my flat nose
Thick lips that can't shape the 'Rs' and 'Os'
Not your fault
Big black heads are thick by default
They take more time
To learn a simple line

My tongue resists the fluency
My mouth resists the mimicry

Yet when I speak in the tongue of my forefathers
Sing praise songs of my clan's heroes and warriors
When I recite the folk-tales I learnt from mother
When I pay tribute to my father
My tradition and culture comes alive
Imagery so rich some say it's divine
Words grow wings on my tongue and take flight
My eyes glaze trance-like
My heart beat recites
An ancient mystic rhythm of the African drum
My black and flat nose
Thick black lips can't shape the 'Rs' and 'Os'
My tongue resists the fluency
My mouth resists the mimicry

A myriad

A portrait

Scenery so profound it'd inspire Picasso's brush

Spine tingling stirring within me a rush

Of adrenaline

Setting in motion feelings and emotions

I thought were alien to me

Arousing sensations long committed to history

Sublime appearance evoking a memory

Of a sweet scented flower

Delicate petals once as precious as time,

I dearly held to; every second, minute and hour

But fate had her own design

And the sands of time slipped between my fingers

Tranquil patter of a waterfall

Melody so sweet sing to my soul

Let my heart dance to your rhythm

Like the solar system

Let my earth orbit around your light and warmth

A fruit fully ripe

Ready for the harvest

Heaven at a glance

Gently stroke my existence with your manner

Immaculate personae

Serenity beyond measure

A slight caress; throbbing promises of pleasure

Breeze from the sea

Waves carry me to the centre; the core of creation

The genesis

Volcanoes erupt

And seas freeze to ice

Clarity and contradiction's climax

Merge into one, in full fruition at the apex

Spiritual and physical

Pain and joy

Hot and Cold

Salvation and calamity
Gasping for life while assailed by death
A perfect paradox

Celebrity corpse

His body was engulfed in flames
I could see from a distance and through the jeering crowd
There was no time to waste I urgently had to get there
Every second counted, I ran my heart pounding like a hammer
He could die before I got there
Oh God have mercy and forbid such a tragedy
So near yet so far, No, No, NO!
It would be an untold loss, God forbid
I wouldn't be able to take it, no I wouldn't let that happen
I ran that day- oh my God I ran
The tragedy of his imminent death energized me
Not on my watch I told myself
As if propelled by mighty wings I flew
Every second was critical
I got there just on time
Thank God his body was still in flames
Throwing down my bags
I approached him and when he was within reach
I focused my camera and started clicking
I needed to get a good perspective
The background, yes perfecto!!!!
Laughing crowd and burning man- a perfect visual paradox
Photos don't come any better
I had to be fast or else I would miss the flames almost receding from his head
Three more clicks and...
Hang on hang on china don't die on me
Just two more photos...yeah
And voila, if that aint an award winning photo...I don't know what is
Well, yeah maybe just a couple more photos of the corpse now that he's dead
They could come in handy

Click click whoo, now I can catch my breath
A job well done
Gotta get on my cell
Hey man, I caught a big one...

Isidumbu sikaSodumo

(Celebrity corpse, translated into Ndebele by Phithizela Ngcobo)

Umzimba wakhe kwasokungamalangabi
Ngangibona kaluvilibana ngikude
Ngangingelamzuzu wokudlalisa, ngangifanele ngiphuthume khonapho nje
Umzuzwana wonk' engangiwubona, ngangigijim' okwomzik' uxotshwa yisibanda
Inhliziyo yami yayigqul' okwesando sokudiliz' umbundu wedamu
Engafa phela ngingakafiki, ngibe yini ke?
Nkosi siza bo, kangafi ngingafikanga noma kanjani!
Ngingabalihlazo phela ngilahlekelwe yibukhosi ngibukhangele
Kudebuduze kodwa kangikafiki phela. Hayi bo kangafi!
Ngifanele nganelise ukuthatha loba owodwa lokhu, angeke ngivumele ukwehluleka
Ngagijima ngaleliya langa Nkosi yami, loBolt weJamaica wayengaba ngumfana
Ukufa kwakhe okwakuzalandela kwangiph' isiqubu sehlosi
Angeke wafa ngingafikanga- ngeke inkomo ingazalumuntu koMhlahlandlela
Dukuduku ngamila impiko zengqungqulu sengiphapha
Umzuzwana wonke wawuqakathek' angath' impilo yam' ime ngakuwo
NgeyaMaSwazi ngafika ngesikhath' esifaneleyo
Mayibongw' iNkosi, umzimba wakhe wawulokh' ungamalangabi
Ngalahlela le okuyimitshaqana kwami
Ngasondela ngaba seduze laye kakuhle
Ngathatha umtshina wami wokuthath' imfanekiso
Qhwa qhwa qhwa sengithethe impikitsha ngesikhatshana
Kuqakathekil' ukungadlalisi ngitsh' umzuzwana nje
Okungemva kwakhe kwenza imfanekiso iphume kakuhle
Abantu abahlekayo lendoda engamalangabi- awu kwakuhle bo!
Akulula ukuthola imfanekiso yaloluhlonzi
Kumele ngithathe ngokuphazima kweso hlezi ngikhuthe amalangabi atshisa
ikhanda
Kabili qhwa qhwa, kathathu qhwa qhwa qhwa! Awu sengisebenzile!

Awu Sodumo akume kancane ungajah' ukufa!
Kusamele ngithathe njal' emibil' imfanekiso
Akwaziw' okwanonis' ingulube phela!
Mhlawumb' umpikits' olandelayo yiw' ozangiph' udumo
Awu sefile kodwa sengithethe imfanekiso
Laso isidumbu siyathathw' ungakhohlwa
Awu imfanekiso emibili yesidumbu qhwa qhwa
Eminye njalo qhwa qhwa qhwa
Awu ngisebenzile ngizitshayel' ihlombe
Sengingaphumula kathesi
Kangikhuthaz' umakhalekhukhwini wami
Ngazis' abangane lezihlobo
"Ngijimb' indlovu ngokwayo" ngitsho ngikloloda!