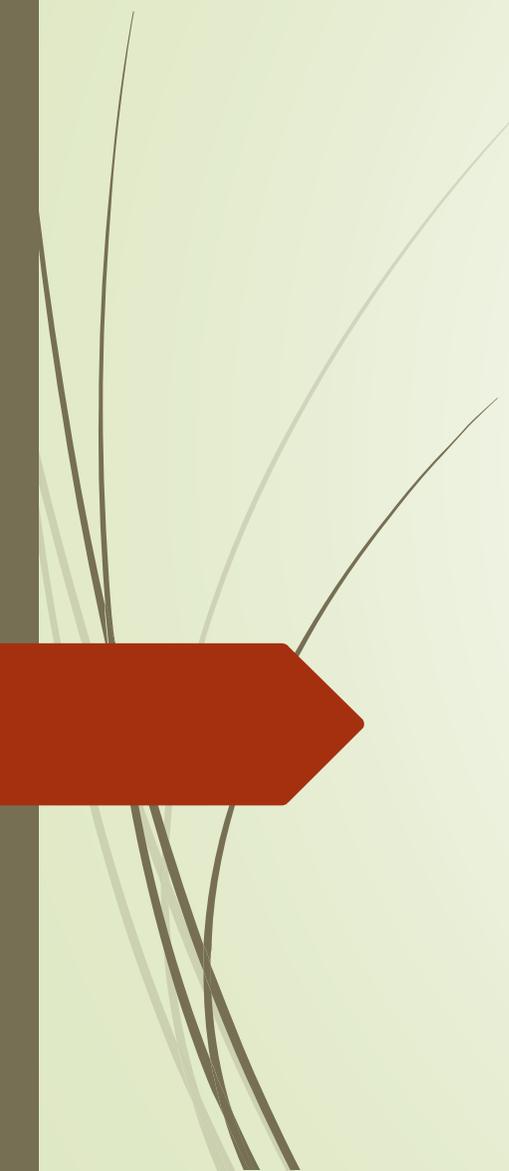


# Gugulethu Siziba Memorial Lecture

## In Lieu of *ChiRungu*: Mimicry, Symbolic Power and Figures of Alterity in Zimbabwe



Jeremy L. Jones  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

## 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 the out  
'Ara' me I shouts  
No! It's 'R' the teach shout  
Repeat after me  
And this time properly!  
I saw a bird in the sky  
Me I says, 'I saw 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  
What I can't read with proper cadence and flow?  
Teacher says 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 the tongue of my forefathers  
Sing praise songs of my clan's heroes and warriors  
When I recite the folk-tales I learnt from my 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 heartbeat 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

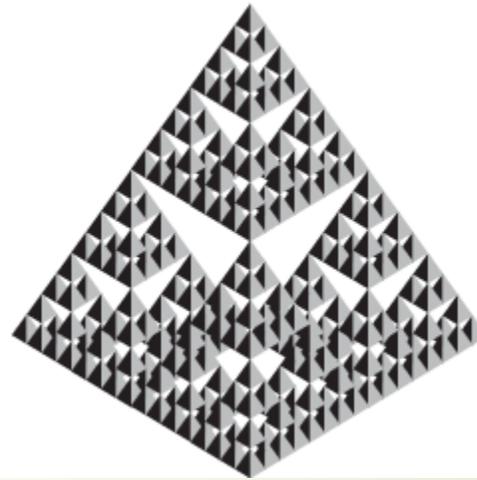
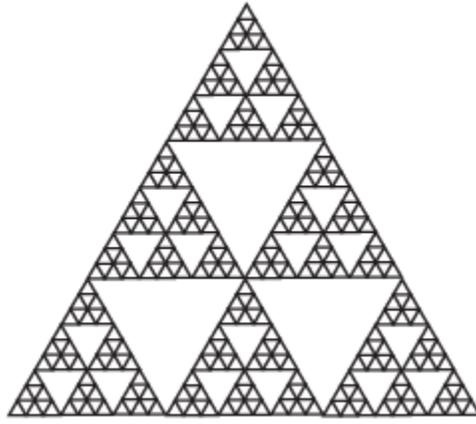
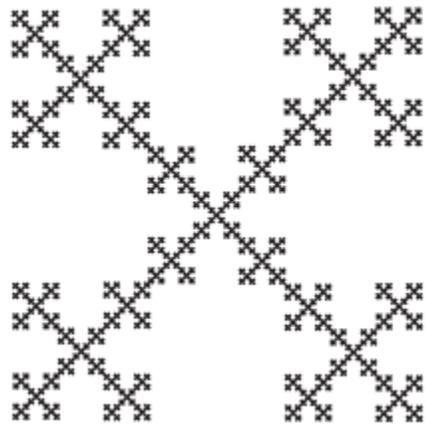
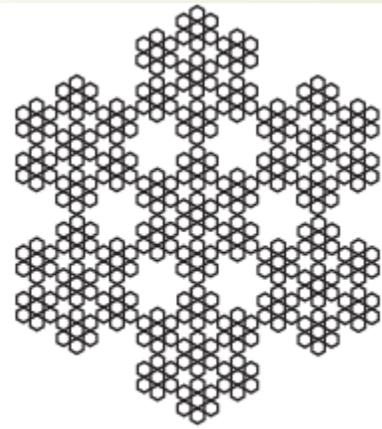
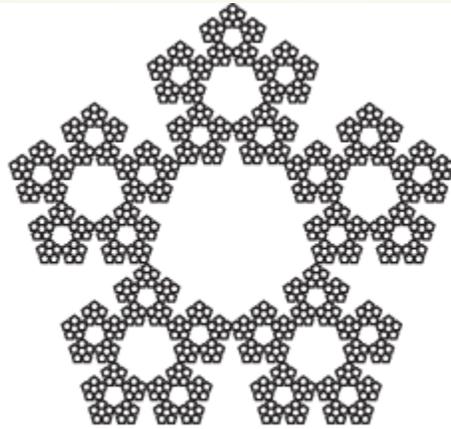
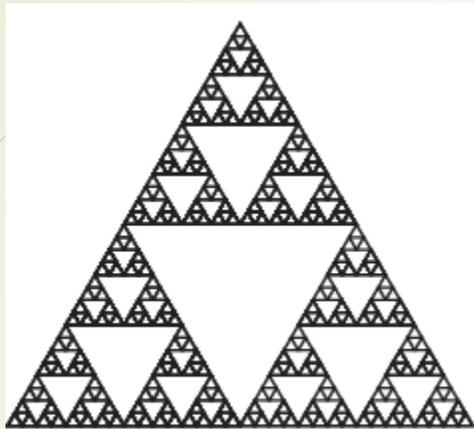
# Surviving in South Africa



Kuti munhu anzi munhu aifanira kuita somuRungu, kufunga somuRungu, kufamba somuRungu, zvose kuti zvive zvechiRungu. Kana nanhasi unonzwa vanhu vachiti nhingi muRungu pachake vachireva kuti munhu akabudirira anofanira kuremekedzwa. Vanhu vazhinji vakarasa mazita avo echivanhu vachida mazita echiRungu anoratidza kuve munhu wamazuva ano. Vamwe vanoshandura rukanda rwavo namafuta anonzi orunako kuti vanzi maKaradhi vane ropa rechiRungu mavari

O.M. Kabweza, Pasichigare 1979







# Chave ChiRungu

Gender propriety/impropriety

Elder/Youth

Black/White

Rural/Urban

Vernacular/English

Ancestors/Christianity

Sobriety/Drunkenness

Past/Present

Manners/Rudeness

Proper speech/improper

# DON'T SELL YOUR COUNTRY, QUIT THE SELLOUT AND RETURN TO THE PEOPLE.

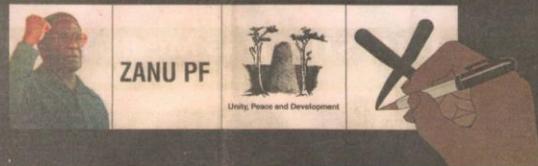


*This is how JUDAS ISCARIOT - the traitor of traitors - sold out.*

- Some white people, the British Government and all traitors say: "If the MDC had not been formed, the land would not have been returned to the people."
- What they are saying is similar to what JUDAS ISCARIOT, the traitor of traitors said, "If I had not betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver he would not have died for you!"

**DON'T BE A SELLOUT, RETURN TO THE PEOPLE!**

ON MARCH 9 AND 10 VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE: VOTE FOR MATURITY, EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM



Tel: 753329 Fax: 752388 Email: [zanupf@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:zanupf@africaonline.co.zw) Websites: [www.zanupf.com](http://www.zanupf.com) [zanupfpub.co.zw](http://zanupfpub.co.zw)

# Tsvangison anofunga kuti Zimbabwe iTea



- DON'T LET HIM SELL YOUR BIRTHRIGHT
- DON'T LET HIM SELL YOUR HERITAGE
- DON'T LET HIM SELL YOUR SOUL
- DON'T LET HIM SELL YOUR COUNTRY
- DON'T LET HIM SELL YOUR LAND

ON MARCH 9 AND 10 VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE: VOTE FOR MATURITY, EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM

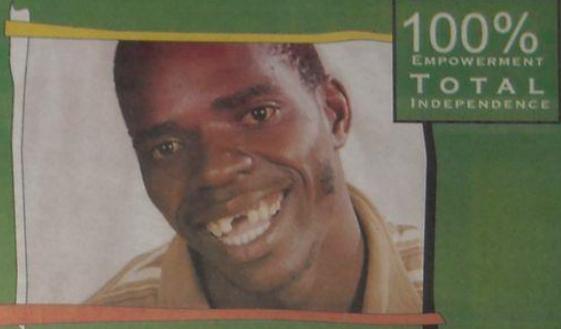


Tel: 753329 Fax: 752388 Email: [zanupf@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:zanupf@africaonline.co.zw) Websites: [www.zanupf.com](http://www.zanupf.com) [zanupfpub.co.zw](http://zanupfpub.co.zw)



Cde Chinx, Hondo yeMinda (bold marks English in the original)

Yah, let me tell you guys  
You don't know *anything*  
Let me tell the little boys [*vapfana vechidiki*]  
Here in Zimbabwe  
Of course, you're "**born free**"  
But when you say you're **born free**,  
What do you think that makes us? What were we **born**?  
These **boys and girls** of the **nose-brigade**  
You're playing with fire with white people  
What do you think you'll get from them?  
Most of the time they're devils [*dhiyabhorosi*], **Satans**  
Like you hear about in the Catholic church  
**Satan!**  
They have **barbed wire** tails  
When they twirl them  
Watch out! They'll spread blood  
Bad blood  
They don't love you  
They'll trick you into selling out our country.



**100%  
EMPOWERMENT  
TOTAL  
INDEPENDENCE**

**Ndini Zimbabwe**

"Ini ndinoitwa Chiratidzo Matinyanya ndiri mwana wevhu. Ini ndakapihwa simba naVaMugabe vakandibatsira nemari yokutanga business rangu rekugadzira zvekurimisa zvakaita semapadza, magejo uye mabhara nengoro.

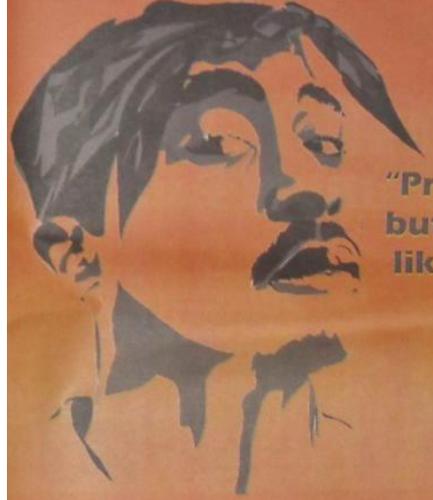
Inini ndinoti kwamuri mese maborn free hande tinovhotera vaMugabe kuti tive neupenyu hwakanaka neupfumi wakawedzera nerusununguko ruzere."

**VOTE FOR  
CDE.R.G.MUGABE**



**PRESIDENT**

**CALLING ALL  
100% ZIMBABWEANS.**



**"Proud to be black  
but why do we act  
like we don't love  
ourselves"**

**2pac Shakur**

**We need to break free from dependency on the West.  
We as a nation need to determine our own destiny.  
Vote with the future in mind. Vote for 100% Empowerment and  
total Independence.**

The Revolutionary Movement

*Power to the people then and now*



...  
Straight salad  
ExQ baba  
Mm humm  
I'm a salad....  
And you know what I mean  
I woke up with some things to do  
But mom was like, "son, go to the rural areas"  
Man I didn't wanna go  
Too bad, though  
Because grannie and grandfather were waiting for a parcel  
So I packed video tapes and CDs  
It pained me  
they say there's no tv, vcr, [a brandy?] or electricity  
What? You know...  
Mom was like, "put down your chisalala"  
So I bought my tablets nespring water  
I don't drink well-water, water with frogs  
because if I do my stomach hurts  
Man you know who I am  
I'm a salad....  
So I grabbed all my things [settled?] on 11:30  
I got going  
and headed for Mbare [Harare's main bus station]  
I'm a salad....  
I'm a salad [I won't stay in the rural areas]  
Straight salad [I got my hands up]  
To all you salads  
The bus I got on...

They were playing museve/sungura [local] music  
...I listen to rap  
Cause I was born salad  
An I'm a die salad  
It ain't hard to tell  
That I'm a "nose"  
[on the bus] they were selling maize and buns  
They were like, "peanuts, groundnuts, everything fried"  
But of course masalala they don't eat all that  
I pulled out a box with pizza....  
A Cascade drink next to me, it was scrumptious  
So what you say  
Of course I was living it up  
When I got to the rural areas, I already missed home  
Grannie was like, "what's the problem?"  
I said, "grannie, I'm a salad"  
first of all, a salad won't chop wood  
because if I chop wood I'll get blisters  
second, a salad won't light the fire  
If I get smoke on me I get a rash  
third, a salad won't herd cows  
because a salad doesn't do that sort of thing  
salads always stay in fancy neighborhoods  
and grandmother was shocked  
She couldn't believe it  
that her grandson was a salad  
I'm a salad, I won't stay in the rural area

Straight salad  
I'm a salad  
And I got ma hands up, uh  
To all you salads  
This song is dedicated  
To all my salad  
Stay cool, stay true, salad for life  
Straight salad  
I stayed in the rural area two days  
Then went back home  
That's where I belong  
I went straight to the doctor's office  
To have my checkup my healthy checkup  
Why not, man I was living it up  
Because living in the rural area is like...  
No clubs, no rap man, I won't survive  
[More cheeks, more weed?], well I will survive  
What can I say?  
What's up?....  
Despise me, love me  
I'm still rocking in it [in there?]  
Masaladi all the way, they're [?]  
I'm saying this once don't ask about it

