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SIX POEMS

By

Morena Kgutlang Monareng

METAMORPHOSIS

*I have seen
Someone I know
Stabbing stonedead
Someone I knew*

*I witnessed the hokum
With cud bitterness
Without understanding.....why?*

*But brother
That day*

*I saw
Someone I don't know in camouflage fatigues
Shooting to death
Someone I knew*

*And brother
That day*

*I flew
A flag*

TIMES

*These are times of times
times when one
vomits scorpions
times when one
sweats fire
times when one
shits thorns
times when one
writes verse with
the blood of the oppressor*

AFTERS

after the thunderous thunder,
the cloudy clouds calm calmly.
a rainbow runs reluctantly
across crisscrossed segregated skies...
down downy downtowns
floods furrowed forgotten faces,
screamless shouts stormed stubborn silence,
buzzing batho¹ buzzed busy
bilious business...
but,
after the rain
a voice, a child
ah! the rainbow

MUCH IN COMMON (to palestinians and azanian students)

wha kinda man are you?
writing; her or no one
when at home another in the long list
of casualties is registered--ELSIES RIVER²

wha kinda man are you?
screaming at the world; not without her
when at home the kneset
endorses the flinching of EAST JERUSALEM

wha kinda man
am i?

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE (To Mpai)

daybreak, afar
a far face...
the day,
remembrance of this life...
the blue of the sea, the
green of our days; distant happiness.
hands, your hands, my hands,
our hands; distance usurpers.
comradeship
an embrace of tomorrow
and tomorrow and tomorrow...
our homeland, our love
the red in the rainbow.
happy birthday!

TO FUNO, FOR AZANIA....FOR YOU

*Our kisses, wet simple kisses
Have been an inspiration and respiration
To township izimbongi³*

*Our embraces, warm embraces
Unforgettable to birds, to man
As life...*

*Yet made short, by man
By teargas, by gun, by exile
As human breath...*

*Yet my love, your love
Home in my eardrum
Precious, registered as my people's resistance*

*Yet your tears, my tears
Flicks in my eye's retinae
Long, salty as my people's struggle*

The people will...

¹batho = people (Sotho).

²Elsies River is a black ghetto in Cape Town.

³izimbongi = poets (Zulu).