Title
Anniversaries

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1xt4146w

Journal
Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 4(1)

ISSN
0041-5715

Author
Masilela, Ntongela

Publication Date
1973

Peer reviewed
ANNIVERSARIES
by
NTONGELA MASILELA

We raised our spears to stab the sky
And torrents of blood unleashed a plague.
   No astonishment to memories pregnant with
      Expectancy;
The deliverance was scorched.

And dead metallic bodies stared
At the prophecy of Death.

Their eyes trembling with terror
Gave us light to beam on the
Pleasure Domes of Addis
Where castrated bull-dogs celebrated
The tenth anniversary of their virginity
While suffering devoured a young
Lean land waiting in vain
For the promised libation.

* * * * *

Ntongela Masilela, whose poem was carried in our
last issue, is completing an M.A. degree in Sociology
at UCLA. He is an exile from apartheid South Africa,
and recently had a group of his poems published in
Ba Shiru.