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TALES OF THE OGRES

All the marimu
grandmother used to tell us
have two mouths,
one at the front
like everybody else's
and another at the back of the head.

The mouth at the back
of the head
is kept covered
always
by long thick hair
which the irimu
flings hurriedly away
to swallow flies
when he is hungry.

The front mouth has a tongue
that drips words
sweeter
than the honey of bees
inviting, calling, luring
softly, gently, friendly
while the back mouth is all the time
dripping saliva
in anticipation
of devouring
fresh human meat.

While the teeth
of the front mouth are bared in an endless smile
the mouth at the back
the real mouth
grimaces
snarls
teeth clenched
especially at the sound
of a NO !!

There is not one
not one single ogre
that survives
the people's anger
and vengeance spirit.

Sometimes brave warriors
stab and slash
ogres to death,
at other times
the monster's own greediness
destroys them
as they try to feast on
burning hot rocks.

And out of the dead irimu's
stomach
walks out
all your relatives
all the clansmen
the greedy ogre
has ever devoured.
yes, no ogre survived
a people's anger

And how else shall we fight
the monsters with two mouths
except by growing two more ears
to catch the faint but constant
growing rumbling of the ogres'
hungry stomach?

How shall we learn how
to fight the ogres
except by sharpening
our eyes on the stone
of HISTORY ????????

By Wanjiki Matenjwa