

Poetry for Peace



A COLLECTION OF POEMS FROM NATAL

***Poetry
for
Peace***

***Editors:
Nise Malange
Shaun de Waal***

April 1994

Published by: Poetry for Peace Committee
P.O. Box 48996
Qualbert
4078

Editors: Nise Malange/Shاون de Waal
Cover Painting: Cassandra Gabriel/Cara Walters
Illustrations: Judith King
Typing: Wright Thabo Raboteng

Printed by: Art Printers
73 Beatrice Street
Durban
4001

© Poetry for Peace Committee for the publication in its entirety.

Individual contributors retain copyright over their work/s. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without prior written permission from the copyright-holders.

ISBN: 0-620-18508-2

Table of Contents

Foreword	5
A Plea to end Violence — <i>K. Barclay</i>	9
Toleration — <i>K. Barclay</i>	10
Principles not Promises, The Solution — <i>Vusi Bhengu</i>	11
My Heart is Crying — <i>June Blake</i>	15
Peace Gospel — <i>E.M. Creswell</i>	17
The Flame of Peace — <i>Shaun A. de Waal</i>	18
Ngelikabani Lelicala? — <i>Bongumusa Dlamini</i>	19
Ukuthula Ma-Africa — <i>Bongumusa Dlamini</i>	20
Anger look back — <i>Betty Emslie</i>	23
Violent Prediction — <i>Greg Hudson</i>	24
Ukuthula Noxolo — <i>Mantsukela B. Kuzwayo</i>	25
Izithandwa — <i>Mantsukela B. Kuzwayo</i>	26
Xolo — <i>Thulani Madlala</i>	27
Is this the freedom for which we died? — <i>Zithulele Chriss Mann</i>	28
Uxolo E-South Afrika — <i>Mbongeleni Obed Majozi</i>	30
Ngiyazisa Ngomtakahaba — <i>D.V.J. Makhunga</i>	31
Listening is Healing — <i>Nise Malange</i>	33
I cry sing peace — <i>Nise Malange</i>	35

Injabulo-Enosizi — <i>K.P. Maphumulo</i>	37
Maluvume Kimi Nakuwe — <i>G.H. Mdalose</i>	38
Xolo — <i>Bheki Mkhize</i>	40
Masibuyele Kuyena — <i>T.V. Mlotshwa</i>	41
Ma-Africa — <i>P.S. Mncwabe</i>	43
Shwele — <i>P.S. Mncwabe</i>	44
Yeboke Maqhoboza — <i>Linda G. Msimango</i>	46
The time has come — <i>Sbongile Mvuna</i>	49
Living Together — <i>Laban Nadioo</i>	50
Maluju — <i>Sbusiso Ngcongo</i>	51
Hamba! Hamba! — <i>Gladman Ngubo</i>	52
Asiphane Lesisipho — <i>Lweyakhe R. Ntombela</i>	54
Attractor — <i>Maria Victoria Perreira</i>	56
Boipathong — <i>Maria Victoria Perreira</i>	57
Taste our kind of peace — <i>Tiki Phungula</i>	58
The Cure to all Disease — <i>Lucky Sefatsa</i>	61
Amagqubu Nenzondo — <i>Nomvuzo Shabalala</i>	62
All Quiet — <i>Dave Wright</i>	64
Thula Ulalele — <i>Anonymous</i>	65
Kazi Kungabanjani — <i>Anonymous from Mtubatuba</i>	66

Foreword

Poetry is a dynamic form that can be used as a force for change, as well as for healing and this book is an effort to do just that.

The book contains poems by aspirant and experienced writers. The criteria for selection was not literary, but based on peace, as well as the commitment of the person to aiding the peace process. The poems have been written in Zulu and English and represent the earnest attempts of the writers to express their vision in the best way that they can.

This process began last year when Nise Malange, Shaun de Waal and Dumisani Phungula, formed the Poetry for Peace Committee. The aim was and is to try to contribute through the use of the energy of poetry, to help bring about peace and healing in our land. More specifically the idea was to commit poets to the peace process, to publish poetry for peace and to present workshops that would help writers. This book therefore is one of the fruits of the aims.

An old Chinese saying says that: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Such a step has been taken, yet it something unique and individual, because never before in South Africa, to our knowledge, has such a book been published.

As such this is a groundbreaking affair.

It started when the Poetry for Peace Committee organised the Poetry for Peace Day, on the 11 December 1993, yet it is the result of something the people who form the Poetry For Peace Committee have been doing individually for quite a while now, since last year collectively.

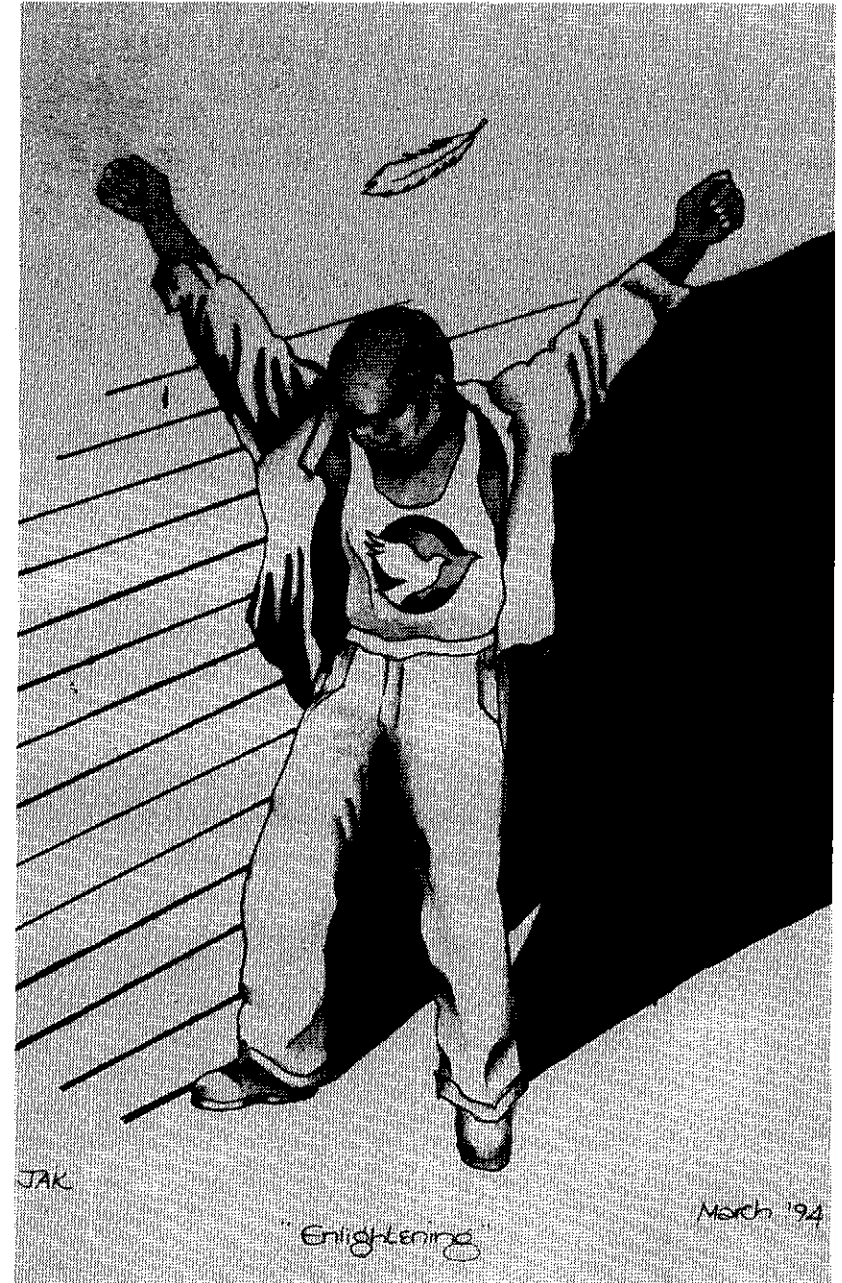
Since the idea was sent out, many others have imitated the above efforts in various ways. To imitators and all who support this work in any way, we say that we hope that this will only be the beginning. The aims of the Poetry for Peace Committee are that the proceeds from the sale of this book will help facilitate the presentation workshops to writers for healing, peace.

We hope that you will enjoy the poems presented in this book. Poets from all walks of life are reflected here, including those who have never been published before.

We invite readers of this book, to make use of the book in public readings, in schools, in workshops, in speeches. Help us to spread through these means the message of Peace.

Then, as this goes wider and wider, Peace will become a reality in our land.

The Editors
April 1994



A Plea to end Violence

Take away shadows from our hearts,
Let there be no darkness in our day,
Let the winds of change blow through our land,
To wipe away the tears of yesterday,
Sweep away the hurt and wounded pride,
Make new understanding be the guide,
Take away the shadows from our sun,
Tell the world... a new day has begun.

Take my hand, and join, one by one,
Feel the warmth and gladness there will be...
Let the wind of change blow through our land,
And wipe away all trace of lethargy,
So join hands, and make the circle grow,
Make our world a better place to know,
Make the effort to reach out this day...
Make our world a better place to stay,
For the winds of change blow warm and free...
So now it's really up to you and me.

K. Barclay

Toleration

There's a new word out today,
A word we all, must learn to say,
It's Toleration ...

We may not all be the same,
May not play the same game,
But we're a Nation....

So when you're in a crowd,
You can sing this out loud,
Sing Toleration ... Toleration.

To tolerate means [to allow to exist without
annoyance],
In other words ... in peace.

K. Barclay

Principles not Promises, The Solution

PUSH me no more,
Promise me no more,
Pretend to me no more,
Persuade me no more,
Principles not promises, the solution.

Convince me no more,
Correct me if I am wrong,
What about your attitude?
Oh! what about mine?
Am I crazy?

May be, check the balance,
Are you?

Your eyes are blazing,
Hungry for my flesh-he?
Can't eat my flesh.

I am humane,
Principles not promises, the solution.

Born naked,
Cried loud, emanating,
From my mothers womb, I touched the South
African soil,
No card in my hands,
No flag blazing above my head,
No badge on my head,
Where were you?

Where were your politics?
 First and foremost,
 I am humane.
 Sure-sure-sure,
 You are also humane.

There is an organisation I respect,
 A natural organisation if not original,
 Human race.
 All colours of the soil,
 Colours by Almighty,
 Colours for the world,
 For building,
 Not for destruction.
 Colours not for label
 Colours not for classification, nor privilege
 Hey open your eyes,
 Be steady,
 Be cool.
 I'm AWB
 I'm Inkatha
 I'm Azapo
 I'm ANC
 I'm DP
 I'm NP,
 First and foremost, I'm human, I'm humane,
 hold my hand.
 I'm proud.
 You're responsible,
 I believe,
 Show me and let me pay tribute
 You've a purpose,

I respect the purpose,
 Respect mine too
 Principles not promises, the solution.

Treat me as humane,
 I will also,
 He will follow the suit,
 Everybody will for peace,
 Respect me,
 I will.
 Respect my beliefs, yours I will,
 The dumb has his story, so respect.
 Can't touch a gun anymore,
 Can't set a trigger anymore,
 No assegais in public,
 Keep safe,
 I also will keep,
 Everybody will,
 Harmonise,
 Priority,
 Peace our priority today, our priority tomorrow,
 Peace you make,
 Peace we make,
 Principles not promises, the solution.

Principles not promises, for Africa,
 For South Africa,
 For my motherland,
 For my people,
 For our generation,
 For our future generation "the above".
 Stop this war,

Manufacture the guns no more.
 Good in technology,
 Build a sky satellite,
 Good history you will make,
 Principles not promises.

Vusi Bhengu

My Heart is Crying

Hush, hush, my heart is crying,
 Before I write "peace" across,
 The banner I carry,
 I must teach you to read it,
 How will you know its meaning,
 If you have never known it,
 I must explain and show you how,
 To create it.

Hush, hush, my heart is crying,
 How will we build the foundations,
 Of peace together when others do,
 Not know its meaning,
 We must work together to teach,
 Them,
 Giving strength to one another,
 And drawing on GOD's strength.

Hush, hush, my heart is thinking,
 How can I tell you of the feeling of,
 Love when you have cradled,
 Only in the arms of adversity,
 Love must be shown and taught,
 By example in order to live in,
 Its warmth and security.

Hush, hush, my heart is thinking,

I must help to build up your,
 Trust in me,
 Together we must help a nation to,
 Trust in themselves and their,
 Ability to work together,
 Learning to care for and understand,
 One another is as important as,
 Learning to read and write,
 There have been many who, without,
 Academic knowledge have taught,
 Led and saved.

Hush, hush, my heart is swelling,
 For peace is not acquired or bought,
 Peace is earned, sometimes with,
 Hardship and desolation,
 But the reward of achievement,
 Rings out across the nation for,
 All to hear, especially the children,
 The past is reflected in the future,
 Of the young.

Hush, hush, my heart is singing,
 It has heard the words of the,
 Anthem of peace,
 And shall sing it loudly until,
 All other sounds have ceased.

June Blake

Peace Gospel

Hope is a clean page,
 With pen poised,
 To weld the heart into words,
 That spill like lava,
 Consuming white space,
 And wiping out pangas, spears,
 R4 rifles, 47's and 38's, all
 That discharges sense and defaces us.

Let these words become flesh,
 Let nails pierce the crossbars,
 Of new roof trusses,
 Let our young be nurtured,
 In ubuntu's outpouring,
 Let the wonder of a starry night,
 Upturn our gaze,
 Let the once great rock,
 Be rolled from our empty tomb!

E.M. Creswell

The Flame of Peace

In ancestral trails we tread,
Our footsteps,
Wearing grooves upon the soil,
Day and night we walk ahead,
Our future and our past,
Weighs us down,
Until we moan for peace.

Surrounded by darkness,
As a starless night,
We see a small flame within our hearts,
Steady and hot, it is the flame of peace,
A seed of fire,
Which we throw like spears,
Causing darkness to flee,
Our hearts' atremble,
As a sun is born.

Shaun A. de Waal

Ngelikabani Lelicala?

Bobaba nani bomama base AFRICA,
bafowethu nani bodadewethu base AFRICA,
ngitsheleni nakhu kukhula nokhula.
cala lini leli elingasaqulwa, lithethe,
elimthethayo lilahle elimlahlayo.
yimpicabadala lena.
kanti ngelikabani lelicala?

lelicala elihlula abamijivajiva.
lelicala elehlula izanusi,
lelicala elehlula abangqondo kujula,
kukhala ndoda, kukhala mama, kukhala ngane,
kanti ngelikabani lelicala?

cala lini leli eliqukwa ngenganono?
cala lini leli eliqukwa ngemikhonto?
nawe thongo lamathongo akithi,
noDUMEHLEZI KAMENZI bhula nangu umlilo,
yinsambatheka lena okwehlula amadoda kuyabikwa.
kanti ngelikabani lelicala?

ma-AFRICA amahle kuhle siqwale imimango,
siyocela kwidlozi lawokhokho unomkhubulwane,
abengumeli wethu lapho selithethwa.
lithetha elimthethayo, lilahla elimlahlayo.
kazi mina ngothi weba!
ngolibashuza ngonobhaqa ngifikephi?
nina enisendulele sichathazeleni kwelenu igula,
nanti limuka nezikhukhula izwe lokhokho,
kanti ngelikabani lelicala?

Bongumusa Dlamini

Ukuthula Ma-Africa

Koze kubenini sikhombana ngeminwe
singebantwana?

Koze kubenini izizwe zomhlaba zinqakisana
ngathi?

Koze kube nini sigwazana sodwa, sidlana sodwa?
Sibulalana sodwa,
Sizondana sodwa.

Kungani singaxolelani njengabantwana abamzali
munye?

Kungani sibanga ithambo elingenanyama
singezingcanga?

Kungani sibhekana ngeziqu? MA AFRICA
AMAHLE kuhle
Sibenoxolo nokuthula ma AFRICA.

Sesiphenduke inhlekisa kuzizwe,
Izizwe zilidla silubuka ubhedu.
Thina sincela izithupha zempela
Themba sesilahlwe nayithongo
Lamathongo okhokho.
Sinkenkethwa yiminkenke yenhliziyi,
Siyizimpabanga kwelenkaba ezinuka—
Siwujokajoka lokukhwela izizwe.
Simpogoloza mihla namalanga.
Nyoni emaphikophiko noxolo
Ndizela kwi AFRICA kube nokuthula E AFRICA.

Ukuthula okunoxolo.
Ukuthula kwenkululeko,
Ukuthula kokuthobelana,
Ukuthula okunenhlonipho,
Sidle ngakhezo lunye, ukuze sinqobe.
Simunye njengembumba.

Madodana nani madodakazi ase AFRICA
Masivume mvunge yinye, ngomhlomunye
Siyotshakada kusivumele sijabule
Sinoxolo nokuthula E AFRICA.

Bongumusa Dlamini



JAK

'Just Before Dawn'

April '24

Anger looks back

To a loved one's death,
Battered life, demolished shack,
Hate masters us,
Anger looks back.

Peace beckons forward,
Faith, substantiated by hope,
Points beyond the smoking ruins of loss,
Claps brute pain to its heart,
Transformed by alchemy of love,
Calms hate's most bitter throb,
Insist the inescapable—
FORGIVE.

Without forgiveness,
There will be no peace,
Life's laws require,
An exorcism of hate's past,
A new engendering of love,
Peace partnered by justice,
Will birth the longed-for time.

Betty Emslie

Violent Prediction

Yes now little South Africa you are growing tired of war,
Take a look what you are doing to the rich and the poor,
Well, South Africa you stop killing around.

You will create more damn bloodshed in the township at night,
I've seen the crystal ball, and it aint a pretty sight,
You will loose all your money, as you have been told,
Dear country, I hate to see you loose all your gold.

The evidence, the hatred shall spread all throughout,
One by one we will watch the prisoners sneak out,
The mad and the maddening multiply in their tribes,
The township street-dog, accepting no bribes.

I see you backed in a corner, caught up in the race,
Means to an end of a black and white chase,
I see barren land that once filled a need, sparked
By the fire that gets fed by greed.

The youth's of tender years and weapon-hardened hearts,
Scavenging the country for power and for arts,
I hear the Savannah cry as another body hits the dust,
Please lay down your weapons and leave them to rust.
GIVE PEACE A SECOND CHANCE.

Greg Hudson

Ukuthula Noxolo

Nhliziyo yami xola.
Nhliziyo yami phola.
Nhliziyo yami thandumtanami
Nhliziyo yami thandumyeni wami
Mphefumulo wami thandudadewethu
Mphefumulo wami thandumfowethu
Mphefumulo wami thandizihlobo zami.
Nhliziyo yami thandumakhelwane wami
Nhliziyo thandizwelakho
Nhliziyo yami luqalekise udlame
Nhliziyo, mphefumulo nomqondo wami
kungani niganene nodlame
waze wamubi ludlame
waze wabhidliza ludlame
ludlame phanuxolithubagiye
ludlame phuzuphumesidina.

Mantsukela B. Kuzwayo

Izithandwa

Ngivumele ngizicabangele [ngigombele kwesami]
 yebo ngizicabangele
 ngikhulumele esami ngedwa isithandwa
 ngithi yamukela owakhe umphefumulo
 ngithi uxolele nezakhe ezimbalwa izono
 ingani wamtshontsha kwawami amehlo
 yebo awenyama phela
 neze, neze kwawomphefumulo nawengqondo
 kwakobanqala ukunginxusa ngangisamdinga
 kujule kakhulu ukuvuma nazo
 singathini-ke ngesela elinezincwadi
 umphangi onamatayitela
 mpha maphuce sengibonge izinkumbulo ezimnandi
 ngiyazibona zimamatheka
 zimamatheka ngamehlo
 zimamatheka ngobuso
 mazimamatheke ngenqondo
 zize zimamatheke ngezinhliziyo
 kukhona okwedlula yikho
 ngaze ngayisicebi mina
 hayi ngonile ngokuzicabangela hleze [funa] ungikhiphe
 endleleni
 hleze [funa] ungikhiphe endleleni lomhobholo
 ngiyekeleni ngicwile ngenanele lomnotho
 lingekayi kunina
 angithi nalolugqozi lususwe
 yizinkumbulo zezithandwa
 laze lamnandi ilifa lezithandwa.

Mantsukela B. Kuzwayo

Xolo

Xolo akusabele themba lethu.
 Xolo akusabele themba lesintu
 Kungani ujabulise ukufa,
 Lokhu unabalandeli abaningi
 Buya siyakudinga.

Usegiye kakhulu ukufa,
 Ugiye ngesihlangu sikasankahlu.
 Ugiye ngesihlangu sezichwensi.
 Ugiya nje kasimethabeli,
 Sithi uphi owakoxolo?

Buya xolo sihlangane.
 Buya sixolelane
 Buya sixoxisane ngeqiniso.
 Giya xolo!
 Giya njalo, njalo.

Thulani Madlala

**Is this the freedom for
which we died?**

(translation from Zulu)

When I think deeply
During these days of violence
I meet up with the martyrs of freedom.

I see Steve Biko again
And Achmad Timol,
And David Webster,
All of them killed by deeds of hatred.

I also see Nelson Mandela
Who was buried alive in prison
But stepped from the tomb still living
And is the Lazarus of our times.

These are the heroes I thank often
That knock at the doors of our memory
That travel around this country of ours
Looking about them and talking
Like ancestral spirits of the new South Africa

Going into the home of a drunkard
They see him beating his wife and children
Says one of the heroes, look at that!
Is this the freedom for which we died?
Entering the townships

They find the skies full of flames
And people running confusedly round the streets
Like termites whose homes have been kicked over
Another says, "Oh! what a disgrace!"
Is this the freedom for which we died?

Going into a school
They see two boys stabbing each other,
The pupils overruling the teachers
Says another of the heroes,
And look at that!
Is this the freedom for which we died?

Walking the streets at night
They find the homes locked and barred
As if the people had built their own prisons
And lived inside them huddled in fear
Another of them says, "I can't believe it!"
Is this the freedom for which we died?

These are the heroes I think of often,
These are the shades of the new South Africa
And this is the freedom for which we died
And shall there ever be jubilation
And shall a golden Africa arise?

History with its portents
The near — past with its prophets,
Like the derelict phone on the station wall,
Crackles unanswered in the dark.

Zithulele Chriss Mann

Uxolo E-South Afrika

Kungabe kukhale nyonini kwamhlabuhlangene
 mhlaba, nyanga, nawe langa
 kwasa singalele ngenxa yengxabano
 kwasa singalele ngenxa yombusazwe
 kanti South Afrika ungekabani?
 kuyoze kube nini sikubanga
 yilowo nalowo nalowo uthi ungumama kuye
 zihlanga zonke zasezweni
 kungani singahlangani sibe munye
 sonke singamaqembu ngamaqembu
 singafakani amathemba ngekusasa
 engani izinyoni ziyatshiloza
 zihlokome ngezikhathi zasehlobo
 zihlokomele ukuthwasa kwehlobo
 pho yini singabumbani
 sonke ngesikhathi kuntwela ezansi
 sibambane ngezandla ekugcineni
 sonke sisho ngazwi linye
 sithi, phansi namaklwa, namajozi
 phansi nemibhobho yezibhamu
 South Afrika sisingathe sonke
 South Afrika singabakho sonke.

Mbongeleni Obed Majosi

Ngiyazisa Ngomtakahaba

Qhawe lamaqhawe ngiyakukhulekela
 nkosi ebusa izinzulu nomhlaba
 ndlovukay' phikiswa ongumaqhobozela
 ume njalo wena weqhawe phinde!

benginethemba ngomfowethu
 kumame ngingumuvo namuhla
 kanginalwazi ngekusasa
 kusakusa ngenxa yakho silwa esingenadosi.

ngiyakhala ngiyalila
 ngokuphuka kwenyam' enyameni
 ngingenakulufumana ndaw' usizo
 alishoni lingenandaba sif' esingenakhambi.

eseminden' isililo siyezwakala
 esami sona sibang' umunyu
 awusenaluzwelo nasihe nje?
 kuf' okungenambhekeli, ushaya indiva nje.

ingani yimina namhlanje.
 ngenxa yakho thunzi lobumnyama
 wena ongakhethi bala nazinga
 siminzi ndini uyaminza nje!

D.V.J. Makhunga



Listening is Healing

Listen to our voices
 listen carefully
 listen you will be healed
 listen we sing, we sing
 melancholy songs
 we sing about our pain
 we sing about reconstruction
 and reconciliation
 we sing for peace

listening is healing
 listen to your voice
 when you angry or happy
 bereaved or jolly
 listen to the difference
 when it echoes or
 when it chimes
 listening to our voices when we sing
 listen to the music
 poetry and stories
 listen you'll be healed

listen to the birds
 they sing
 they talk
 listen to the trees
 when their leaves

swerve and dance
 listen to the wind
 when it whistles
 listen to the nature talking to you
 pleading for peace
 listen to your voice

Nise Malange

I cry sing peace

I cry sing peace
 I cry to myself
 I sing to the mankind
 over the roof destined for ill-fate
 in the dark night embraced by death and pain
 I cry peace I sing peace

Between the crimes and violence
 the gun and the assegai
 amongst the hippos and soldiers
 burning homes and vigilantes
 still my heart bleeds for peace

Oh! those faces pleading for peace
 Oh! those faces crying for peace
 the flames and smoke of homes and people
 those widows and widowers
 orphans and homelessness
 but still cry for peace

Please! stop that music
 stop that song
 I want to hear that voice
 that calling for peace
 Oh! mother earth,
 Oh! mother God,
 the sons and daughters of the soil

are crying for peace

Let there be everlasting peace in our country
 let there be harmony in our continent
 let us all join hands for peace and justice in
 South Africa

Nise Malange

Injabulo-Enosizi

M-Afrika,
 bona injabulo,
 injabulo enosizi.
 lwafika lolosuku,
 akade walulinda.

lufika nakho konke,
 akade ukufuna.
 usizi luphelile.
 injabulo iyonayodwa.

wena awunanjabulo,
 unembeza uyakuhlupha,
 ubaqedile abantu besizwe,
 ubabulala bengenacala.

impela awusoze wakhululeka,
 uyohlala uyisigqila,
 isigqila sikanembeza.
 injabulo yakho inosizi.

K.P. Maphumulo

Maluvume Kimi Nakuwe

Kuwe nakimi sobabili
 Kungani singavuli izinhliziyi zethu
 Sivulele umoya onesiqhili
 Okumele ubuse kimi nakuwe
 Bese uchitheka izwe lonke,
 Isivungungu esinempumelelo
 Nenqubekela phambli komunye nomunye.

Uyazi mfowethu impilo
 Ethokozile iphakathi kwethu sobabili,
 Kepha umasingavumi ukuba ibe kithi
 Sobala, sizohlala lapha
 Esivunguvungwini solaka,
 Sokushisa, phezu komhlabathi obomvu
 Kanye nase malahleni abomvu klebhu,
 Kungekho ukuthula nentokozo kithi sonke.

Mina ngithi maluvume
 Uxolo kimi nakuwe kuphele
 Ukufa kwabantu, kuphele
 Ukushisana, uphuza igazi lomunye
 Nabanye behalela elakho.
 Luvumele mfowethu ngiyazi kunzima ngoba
 izinhliziyi
 Sezahlala zibomvu, kodwa uma
 Uvumela ukuba bomvu kwayo
 Ngekhe kwasiyisa ndawo

Ngithi ngeke, ngeke kwasiyisa ndawo, vuma
 nawe
 Unqabelani vula inhiziyi
 Kungene isivuvu somoya
 Woxolo sipholise leyondawo
 Enamanxeba ukuze kusuleke
 Izinyembezi kubo bonke abantu
 Ngithi, ngithi! maluvume kimi
 Nakuwe, vuma Zulu kanye nawe futhi

G.H. Mdlalose

Xolo

Xolo ngabe ukuphi na?
Baphel'abantu bebulalana.
Baqedana nje ngoba benganawe,
Xolo mlawuli wezinto zonke.

Abantu sebephenduke amabhubesi.
Unembeza kawuseko.
Izingane seziphenduke izintandane.
Baphela abafowethu nodadewethu,
Beqedana ngento engekho.

Xolo uya kulaba abangadingi lutho,
Abazihlalele ngokuthula.
Noma sikuqhweba, sikubiza,
Kodwa wena awusinaki,
Uhambela le kude kunathi.
Noma sikuncenga sesikhala ezimathonsi.
Kodwa wena awukushayi ndiva lokho.
Xolo siyakuntula.
Xolo siyakudinga.

Bheki Mkhize

Masibuyele Kuyena

Uyena owasidala,
Uma singabuyeli kuyena—
Pho singabakani?

Sonile kuyena,
Sone kwanele manje,
Ngakho asibuyele kuyena,
Sizithobe kuyena sonile.

Lomhlaba udunguzela nje—
Yithina sonile kuMdali
Sithe sonile sambalekela UMDALI,
Yingakho esesijezisa kangaka.

Bheka manje umbus' uvukel' omunye,
Omunye uhawukela imbongolo—
Kamakhelwane wakhe,
Qede kuvuke inzondo kufiwe.

Kumanje umhlaba ugcwele igazi,
Umuntu ufisa okwenyoni,
Ngoba sonile kuwena,
Siyajeza kumanje njengezoni.

Akekho futhi akekho!
Phinde atholakale lutho!
Ongehlisa ukugobhoza kwegazi,

Abombangazwe nochwepheshe bahlulekile.

Bezombangazwe nochwepheshe bolwazi—
Asikhumbuleni emuva,
Okwethu ukwazi nokuhlakanipha kuphelile,
Kumanje akekho ongabuyisela—
Ukuthula ngaphandle koMDALI.

T.V. Mlotshwa

Ma-Africa

INDODANA esiphambanweni
Ijezela thina sonkana
Ama-AFRICA, ama-AFRICA agazi linye
Ma-AFRICA, ukuthula, ukuthula ma-AFRICA.
Ligobhozile, ligobhoze kwanel' igazi
Wo! ukuthula, ukuthula makwande
Makwande ukuthula.
Ma-AFRICA bhekani phezulu KUMVELI NQANGI.
Ze kwehle ijuba nomoya wokuthula.
Ongenaqhwa, ongenamfudumalo, ongenabusathane.
Onofefe, onofefe, onofefe lobudlelwane
Ze kube yinqanawe yama-AFRICA.
Phendulani izinhloko ma-AFRICA
Zibheke ekuthuleni, ekuthuleni kwejuba.

P.S. Mncwabe

Shwele

Nina baka baba
 Nina baka MVELINQANGI
 Izinhliziy' ubulukhuni satshe
 Phezu nithe te-zinyembezi
 Nimayoyo-kwenkukh' iphume sijingini ligazi-
 shwele
 Kepha anisikwa namasiko?
 Shwele ma-AFRICA.

Mphakathi wase-AFRICA mphakathi, ngithi
 shwele
 Izinseko na "izinseko"
 Ziph' izinseko miph' imisiko?
 Ubuntu, izimilo, unembeza.
 Konke lokhu kuphi! kuphi-ma-AFRICA?
 Wo! kazi kwashonaphi?

Sabelani, sabelani zihlobo, mizwa, nembeza
 sabelani
 Niyamenyezw' e-AFRICA nimenyezelwa ukuthula
 Wwo! ukuthula makwande e-AFRICA
 Iphelile imindeneni, izihlobo.
 Kwazingane, ezingazi liphuma lishona
 Nina ma-AFRICA, nibophe ngabhande linye.

Kazi niyothini kuMVELINQANGI, kodwa
 niyothini?

Ngobubi nobulelesi obungaka.
 Maluju-maluju ma-AFRICA.
 Dlanini ngakhezo lunye ma-AFRICA
 Okwentando kaMVELINQANGI,
 Ohlisele izono zoyise kubantwana
 Kazi niyolemukela yini leloholo
 Uyashesha ukuzwa uyephuza ukuphendula
 Kupheleni kwezinsuku, ngamunye ngamunye
 Wo! kazi uyombheka kanjani.

P.S. Ncwabe

Yeboke Maqhoboza

Izindawo eziningi azisabuthi
 Quthu ubuthongo, ngenxa
 Yomculo wakho othi
 Ungawucula kunyante,
 Igazi kolele, kungehli
 Ukudla kodlayo, kuthule
 Umsindo kuthi nya.
 Wena maqhoboza.

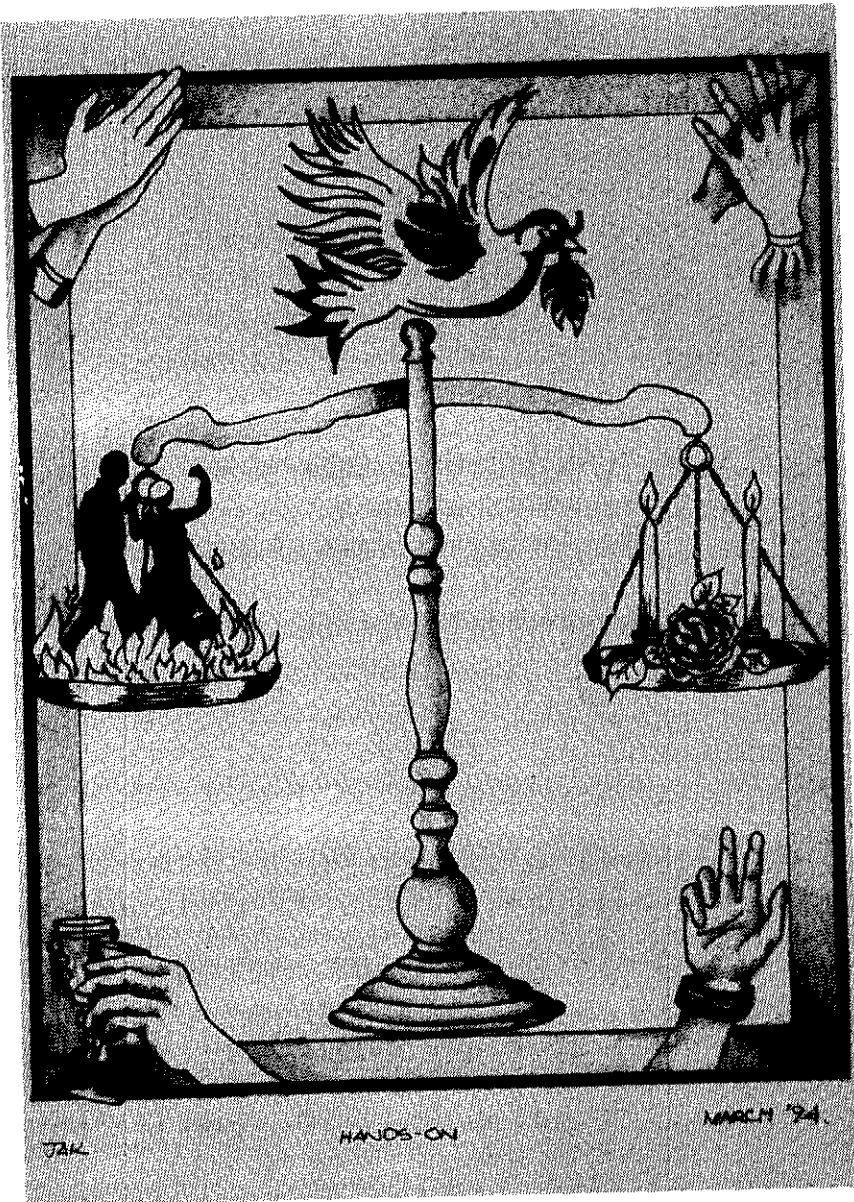
Lapho kufinyelela amazwi
 Eculo lakho, kusala
 Isililo, ngomuso kubonakale
 Imoto emnyama, noma amadoda
 Namapiki, umculo wakho njalo
 Odlala silaza udle fumuka.
 Wena maqhoboza.

Ngikubukile uqhobozelela
 Amaqhawe akithi
 Usaphethwe nguyihlo
 Undlebe zikhanyilanga.
 Manje usuphethwe
 Nangomnyama, naye
 Umculo wakho uwubhekise
 Kuwo amaqhawe akuleli.
 Inhloso yakho ukuqeda
 Amaqhawe akuleli?

Ulwa nentuthuko yabansundu?
 Nena maqhoboza.

Ukuba wawuyintombi
 Kungabe unegama elikufanele
 Aweneli, awukhathali,
 Nesizukulwane esizayo
 Uzobe usasiqhobozelela
 Namandla akho esekhuphukile.
 Nababhidisi bakho abasenaluzwelo
 Nasililo leso sesaphela komame
 Ingani umphumela womculo wakho
 Usuyinsakavukela umchilo wesidwaba.
 Usungumdlalo weziwula
 Ukuba unengqondo ngabe uyenqaba,
 Ubuze ikusasa le-AFRIKA.
 Wena maqhoboza
 MALUJU.

Linda G. Msimango



The time has come

The time has come,
For South Africa,
To share ideas of peace,
We need love in this country.

This segregation,
Between Black and White,
Has been created on the table,
It was in the form of Tricameral,
That created malice on account.

Now the time has come,
For South Africa,
To go to that table,
To enter in the Tricameral peacefully.

We need peace in this country,
This blood spilling in our land,
For valuable and prosperous people,
Will only rouse feelings of hatred,
But the above can make us ignore,
And talk about peace.

We need love in this country,
In order to respect it,
We need to examine every doctrines,
We come across with.

Away with fear! It enslaves us,
Peace we respect you,
Violence we honour you not.

Sbongile Mvuna

Living Together

Sometimes our lives are different,
 Because of what we learn,
 But when we live together,
 Soon they change,
 To appreciate each other,
 Black or White or even Brown,
 And then seen being together,
 Is not so strange.

Hand in hand we strole,
 People turn to look at us,
 And they whisper,
 Trying to make us feel so strange,
 But our love keeps us together,
 Not the colour of our skin,
 And if more people join us,
 Things will change.

Can the colour of your skin,
 Ever stop the love I have for you?
 Can the laws of this country,
 Stop my love?

Living together in peace and harmony,
 We are a christian family.

I'm that neighbour
 So often preached about,
 I am that one another too,
 If I am to love you,
 The way I am supposed to,
 Why can't you also,
 Love me too?

Laban Naidoo

Maluju

Lalela m-AFRIKA,
 Leli yiphimbo nemizwa yom-AFRIKA,
 Izintaba zakho zonke AFRIKA,
 Zilila isililo sabafelokazi,
 Ziwohloza izinyembezi zezinkubela,
 Zikihhla esikanandi ngawo ndingasithebeni.
 Impilo isibonwa ngokusa,
 Nokuphepha kubonana ngokushona kwelanga
 Bashonaphi onembeza nesihe?
 Maluju kweyezikhali ma-AFRIKA,
 Masibambe eyengqondo kugqame ubuhlakani.

Salunjwa ngelumbo labelumbi
 Sathi sibheka bona sibavivele,
 Saqothana sodwa kwalala uyaca,
 Amaqhawe akithi alele kobandayo,
 Ochwepheshe kwezemfundo balele obafuthi,
 Izihlabani zendlu yamandla sezamuka.
 Zamukelwa kuleliyilizwe elingefaniswe nomhlaba
 Laph' ezafica kuthule khwathalala,
 Nathi kwelengabadi ma-AFRIKA
 Masibafunze ngokuthula noxolo simunye
 Bayobona nabezizwe balahle ithemba.

Ngivumeleni ngilihube ihubo lesizwe,
 Hleze ophezulu asikelele i-AFRIKA
 Ayibek' entendeni yesandla sama-AFRIKA
 Le-AFRIKA yokhokho eyifa lethu,
 Ngithi maluju ma-AFRIKA akithi
 Makuphele ukuphalala kwegazi kulengabadi.

Sbusiso Ngcongo

Hamba! Hamba!

Kudala sisho sithi dlula,
 Indawo yakho asinayo
 Esakho isihlalo asisilungisanga
 Olwakho ucansi asilwelukanga
 Isitsha sokudlela wena asinaso
 Owokungena wena umnyango awukho
 Leligceke onyathela kulo
 Lilungiselwe abalifanele,
 Sewusixove kwaze kwagamanxa
 Ngakho-ke dlula, usishiye noxolo.

Onjani lomkhuhlane ongasadluli
 ENyakatho nase Ningizimu
 Bakhala ngawo.
 EMPumalanga nase Ntshonalanga
 Bayawubabaza.
 Izwe lonke liwushayela izandla
 Ngisho nemvelo imbala ixwayile
 Injabulo nentokomalo ayisekho
 Ngenxa yakho sikhondlakhondla ndini,
 Sewusixabanise saze sacikeka
 Ngakho-ke hamba, usishiye nokuthula.

Lapho ngithenga iphephandaba
 Ngiqale ngibe manqikanqika
 Noma ngivula umsakazo
 Ngisho nomabonakude imbala
 Ngiqale ngishaywe uvalo
 Ngizizwe ngimadolonzima
 Ngoba isihloko sezindaba sengiyasazi
 Isimemezelo sesibalo sezidumbu
 Umunyu nosizi nezinyembezi

Sekuphenduke indlela yokubingelelana
 Ngenxa yakho siqalekiso ndini
 Newusiqathe sabhuqana saphela
 Ngakho-ke hamba manje
 Sifuna ukuzihlalela njengakuqala.

Izintaba sezigcwele izindunduma
 Amaliba abadala nabancane
 Abalwa ngezinkulungwane
 Amathafa asephenduke izinkangala
 Emizini kukhala ibhungane
 Ezindleleni kuphithiza abafelokazi
 Izintandane nezinkubela
 Ziyehla ziyenyuka
 Indawo yokufihla ikhanda ayibonwa

Elihle kakhulu seliphenduke iGOMORA
 Ngempela sewusishaye sayivuma
 Ngakho-ke dlula, usishiye nokuzwana.
 Impi yomhlaba yahlasela yedlula
 Neyesibili yagalela yagudluka
 Nesikhonyane sabhubhisa sasithela
 Nolandapense wabhaxula washonela
 Nawe sewugadle kwabonakala
 Vele kakade sasingakumemanga
 Wawuvele uyimpukan' emasini
 Lowo mhlaba awukufanelanga
 Lenkundla ogida kuyo inabanikazi
 Goqa yonke imigodla yakho
 Uma seyikuxakile sizokusiza
 Sikuphathise sikuphelezele
 Hamba! hamba! phindela kwabakini
 Hamba! hamba! kade sisho.

Gladman Ngubo

Asiphane Lesisipho

Ezikhathini ezithile zonyaka
Siyenama sijabulele izipho
Eziqondene nezinto ezithile
Ziphuma kubantu abehlukene.

Kunesipho esikhulukazi
Esidinga isizwe sonke
Ukuba siphane ngaso.

Njengemini idinga ukukhanya
Nobusuku budinga ubunyama
Nesizwe siyasidinga lesisipho
Isipho soxolo nokuthula.

Lesisipho sidinga umuntu nomuntu
Omunye aphe omunye nomunye kanjalo
Lesisipho sokuthula noxolo
Ze kubekhona oXOLANI noXOLILE.
Emva kokuxakazisa isixakaxaka soxolo.

Ukuzithoba nokuzehlisa ubuqhawe boxolo
Uyiminyezane yokwenyanya uchuku
Ekugcineni egujelwa imikhosi yentokozo
Lapho uwonkewonke esemamatheka
Esethole isipho soxolo nokuthula.

Hlabani imikhosi iye ezinhliziyweni

Iyoxegisa amaketanga abophe uxolo
Iwathathe iyobopha unochuku nonontukuthelo
Ibaphonse kwatatalambu ojulile
Lapho bengayikuphuma naphakade
Ze uxolo lubuse isizwe esihle.

Hlomani izikhali zobumnene
Nifune uxolo ngempi yoxolo
Nifune ukuthula ngempi yokuthula
Niphane uxolo ngoxolo
Niphane ukuthula ngokuthula.

Lweyakhe R. Ntombela

Attractor

Prophets in the night,
 Prophets of light,
 ...of doom... of light...
 In the night.
 Sharp insight,
 Twirling,
 Pierced by spikes,
 Misperceptions,
 Rash judgments,

The strong... the powerful
 Straightforward...
 "realistic"
 The activists...
 Shortsighted?
 Education... transmigration
 Still... so long
 Still... so far!
 Noosphere... the Cosmic Christ
 The great attractor
 Are we prepared?
 Are we tuned?
 The great attractor
 The Cosmic Christ...

Maria Victoria Perreira

Boipathong

[come don't cry]
 how can you judge?
 were you there?
 how can you judge?
 the cause...
 do you know it?
 how can you judge?
 did you see it?
 and if you saw it...
 what did someone else see... instead?
 is what is seen... seen
 or made to be seen?
 how can judge?
 love. forgive.
 construction of facts to fit
 theoretical frameworks...
 consuming hate fires
 destroying being destroyed
 to no end
 to no avail...
 love forgive reconcile.
 oh! so many cries...
 pain... bitterness...
 frustration...
 revenge...
 the dark angel opens its wings
 cant' you see?
 [come...don't cry!]

Maria Victoria Perreira

Taste our kind of peace

Illusions may obscure your perception,
Pollute your grey matter with distortions
Make you rebel against deliverance.
Masters blindfold your vision,
Corrupt your innocent being.
Be more shrewd than your master,
While swimming in oblivion.

A spark may shed light,
But illusions surpass the reality,
Make you destroy yourself.
You strike with all your might,
To vanquish the spirit of liberty,
Fighting against your freedom.
My brother you are a slave.

Our mission is about love and peace,
Light we wish to share.
Our sacrifice might confuse you.
You may kill the flesh,
But the spirit lives on.
Greatest love will thrive,
In the spirit of the struggle.

T'is dawn, come and celebrate,
Reminiscence of your atrocities,
Might make you avoid us

We are bound by one umbilical cord.
Share the fruits of our toil
We also struggled for you.
Freedom is for all.

Come don't shun the invitation,
Our struggle will deliver from evil.
You will be free from mental slavery.
Taste our kind of freedom,
Taste our type of peace
Have our version of passion.

Tiki Phungula



The Cure to all Disease

I recommend peace,
 Cause peace is the cure to all disease
 Cause peace can,
 Heal wounds of the past,
 Rehabilitate the mentally and physically molested,
 Victims of violence,
 Teach reconciliation and reconstruction,
 By loosing racial and ethnic tension,
 Hence creating a climate of,
 Sisterhood, brotherhood,
 And neighbourhood in South Africa.

Hence I'm a canvasser for peace,
 Cause peace is the cure to all disease
 Cause peace should be voted,
 Cause peace should govern South Africa,
 Cause peace will provide,
 Democracy and freedom,
 Law and order,
 Security to human rights,
 Equal opportunity for all,
 Employment for the unemployed,
 Houses for the needy,
 Free and compulsory education for all,
 Lots of best things in life,
 Cause they are free,
 so, if peace is so free and constructive,
 Why can't we choose peace,
 Cause violence is expensive and destructive?

Lucky Sefatsa

Amagqubu Nenzondo

Amagqubu nenzondo
 Awanayo indawo
 Ukunethezeka ukuhlala
 Kahle wukuthokomala,
 Komphefumulo ukuthula
 Nenhlalakahle ukukhululeka
 Komphefumulo.

Amagqubu nenzondo
 Awanayo indawo
 Ukuthula nenhlalakahle
 Kusekujuleni kwenhliziyo
 Ukuthula kusemphefumulweni
 Okhululekile.
 Ukuthula ekujuleni kwemicabango
 Ukuthula emoyeni ohlukumezekile
 Ukuthula kubo bonke basemzansi
 Ukuthula ezweni lawokhokho.

Amagqubu nenzondo awanayo indawo
 Ukunethezeka ukukhululeka komphefumulo.
 Ubani onethezekile?
 Ubani othokomele?
 Ubani okhululekile?
 Ukuthula nenhlalakahle
 Ukukhululeka komphefumulo.

Amagqubu nenzondo awanayo indawo
 Ukuthula esiminyaminyeni
 Sasemadolobheni.
 Ukuthula esiphithiphithini
 Semigwaqo.
 Ukuthula ezinzulwini zobusuku
 Ukuthula esiminyaminyeni samahlathi
 Enzondo.
 Ukuthula ekujuleni kwenhliziyo
 Ukuthula kokukhululeka komqondo
 Ukuthula kokunethezeka.

Amagqubu nenzondo awanayo indawo,
 Indlala nobubha umsuka wobugebengu
 Nodlame, udlame umsuka wenzondo
 namagqubu.
 Amagqubu nenzondo awanayo indawo.
 Ubani osuthayo ngodlame?
 Ubani elimnandi kuye iphunga lofileyo
 Ubani ophumelelayo ngokubulala?
 Ubani ozuzayo ngezintandane ezigcwalise
 Lelizwe.
 Ubani ophumelela ngokuhola amathambo
 nezipoki?

Nomvuzo Shabalala

All Quiet

Sleep-so soft, so warm, serene,
All night through way lost in dreams,
Of pastel days and star lit nights,
A world removed and far away.

Wake-in time, in thought, relaxed,
To wade through time and pain,
The stillness of surrounds draw in,
And beams away when threatening.

All is quiet in the land,
Peace is all around,
The roar of hate is deafening,
But love knows no bound.

Dave Wright

Thula Ulalele

M'ARFICA hlala phansi uthobele umthetho.
Yehlisa ulaka ubuke phambili.
Vuma masithethelele ukuze nathi sixolelwe
phansi nezikhali sekuzolunga.

Selidumela emasumpeni.
Uzabalazile utibila ulwa nempisi.
Amazinyo ayo asenqindiwe phansi nodlame.

Intombi isilukhiphile ucu.
Umgcagco ususeduze.
Hlala phansi uthathe ikhefu.
Thokola themba amathunzi ayewukela.
Zizongena inyath' ezimashoba ePITOLI.
Sebese duze basemmome.
Ubutatata kubacindezeli phansi-phezulu.
M'hla zifika ePITOLI kojikiza.
Ziza noqanduqandu lom'shayeli.
Umakade kwasa ebona.

"Ngisho ithambo lisehlula mpisi".
"Yehlule zithi ziyayiqhobozela".

Vuma moni ngikutshele phansi umoya.
Uxolo malwande enhliziyweni yakho.

Anonymous

Kazi Kungabanjani

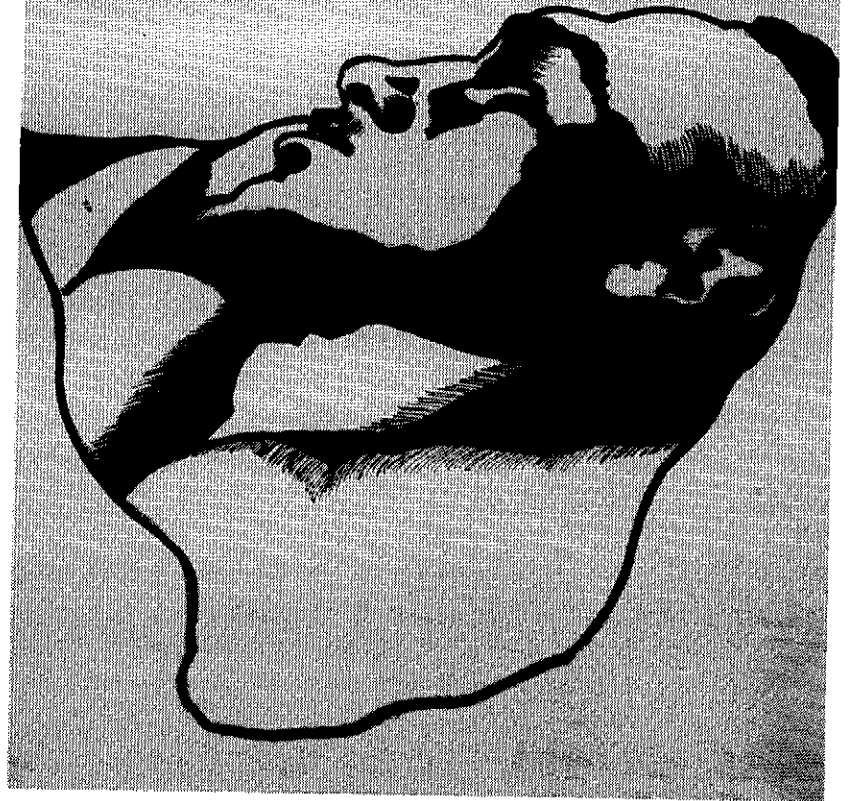
Bayacula abafowethu ngokuthula, dwe
 Bayabhala ababhali
 Bayashumayela abafundi
 Bayancenga abaholi
 Ngisho nomsakazo ukhozi.
 Akuphatheleli
 Bayabulalana abantu.

Sekwanele zidalwa zenkosi
 Kugwele abafelwa, abafelokazi, izintandane
 Ingane ibathanda bobabili abazali bayo
 Kazi inkosi iyobusani
 Ushonephi unembeza
 Ngoba lelizwe seliyobuswa amaqe

Kazi kungabanjani
 Uma singayeka ukuphuza
 Siyeke ukubulalana, nokuntshontsha
 Siyeke ukuthenga izikhali
 Amaphoyisa ayophelelwa umsebenzi
 Ngoba abakhona ukugada ubunswelaboya
 Ingawa ifemu yezikhali
 Nezibhedlela zingashoda ngemali
 Izwe lingasimama
 Nkosi yehlisa umoya wakho
 Alele amaqhawe
 Kuyothiwani lapho
 ILEMBE eleqa amanye ngokukhalipha
 Selifuna amabutho kothiwa aphi?

Anonymous from Mtubatuba

Oh Lord, bless our
 nation that it may
 sleep in peace



Nise Malange

Nise Malange is Director of the Cultural and Working Life Project at Natal University. She is an accomplished poet and writer. She is Vice President of the National Arts Coalition and executive member of Speak Women's Magazine. She is also the National Vice President of the Congress of South African Writers and is very much involved with community work and helping aspirant writers.

Shaun A. de Waal

Shaun de Waal is an educationalist and poet. He is a member of the International Society of Poets and was recently nominated to serve on the Advisory Board of the Society. He is a songwriter and is a lifetime member of the Songwriters Club of America. He helped writers through work with the Congress of South African Writers. He lectures part-time on poetry for Culture and Working Life at Natal University. He has published poetry in America and recently launched his first book of poetry in South Africa in October 1993, entitled "Healing Africa".

Dumisani Phungula

Dumisani Phungula is an accomplished artist and poet. He was Regional Co-ordinator of the Congress of South African Writers. He is Vice Chairperson of the Natal Regional Committee of the National Arts Coalition. He works with Community Building Incorporated - a management structure for the Arts. He works extensively with aspirant writers at grassroots level.