

Poetry Series

ADEKEMI BANJO
- poems -

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ADEKEMI BANJO(7th of June)

Adekemi Banjo was born in Lagos, Nigeria in the late 1970 to Stephen and Grace Banjo. She was brought up with several other children and had her early education in Lagos metropolitan. She later grew up in the sub-urban part of Lagos called Epe after her father's retirement in the city, and then started writing poems and short stories.

Adekemi developed her writing skills especially during this time and have ever since continued. She later on studied accountancy from The Polytechnic Ibadan, Nigeria, and moved to United Kingdom to further her education in 2004.

Adekemi is presently living in the United Kingdom.

Another Year Gone

I walked around the room
My life in despair
Wonder if this was me
Or just nature's gloom

My unattractiveness
Caused by my insecurities
My curiosity
Caused by my naivety and piety

Yet another one
Slip
Another night alone
Still

Yet another year
Gone
Another liar
Lost

ADEKEMI BANJO

Beautiful Land

Altitude of snow, Wonderful
Indiscreet gray colour, Brilliant
Vast terrain of landscape, Beautiful
Pebble stones everywhere,
With blue rivers, flowing endlessly
My love for you endlessly

Beautiful land, I cherish you

ADEKEMI BANJO

Behold She Is

Behold She Is
Archaically Old Fashioned
Wearing Her Loose Straight Dyed Clothes
More Plain in the Eyes of Common
At All Not Pretty

Yes She Wears Her Hat to The Back of Head
And Shave Her Legs Not
To Many an Unbecoming Unfortunate Creature
Considered Fair Bait For Teasing And Torment
But To Me, a Rare Person to Cherish

ADEKEMI BANJO

Did I Tell You?

Did you not know the day I talked about?
The day we first talked and endlessly it went on
A stranger he was and a good one he became
Longing and wishing there could be more
More than just the words
And wishing all the troubles could go away

Did I not tell you of the day we met?
Right in the crowd he stood and beckoned from afar
Hoping and wishing I could come close and have a lengthy talk
My heart pounding and chest going up and down
Praying and wishing all would go well
Better than what it was and ever been
The mystery of the unknown overwhelms me

Did I tell you I fell in love with him?
He did not know and in my cynic ways I try telling
But there are too many words to be said in a long time
And yet very little was said
He was a friend and a lover
How much he loves me I do not know

I do know he cares
I know he is good
I know he tries loving me once
And I will not tell you how it all went

ADEKEMI BANJO

Just One Of These

A text

A call

An email

A time to chat

Will all go a long way

Just one of these will
go a long way

Your voice

Your laugh

Your support

Your devotion

Will mean a lot to me

Just one of these will
make my day

ADEKEMI BANJO

Live

The roaring sound emerge from every where
Hurl black space outside on a winter night
The sound erupt feelings of despair and loneliness
Distant, yet so very close

The crying voice embedded in my head
Flushes of emotions buried long ago
Emotions long hidden and yet to be unwrapped
Eager to be released, yet difficult to let go

I long to cry, shout, yell and bellow
But deep down I feel safer in my quietness
And lost solitude of myself

Above all seclusion, I crave for one thing
I crave to be known, discovered and cherished
By those that know me but never able to understand

The darkness of life is not in living it
It's in experiencing what life itself brings your way
And how much you are willing to pass by
My past depicts my present and future

I have learnt my way through everyday
And dreamt through every hour
I realise life is what life is
And can only be lived once

Like a gift; yet to be unwrapped
A flower; yet to blossom
A beautiful song; yet to be sung
A dream; yet to be achieved

Love; hoping to be accepted
And life; full of miseries
My life, my life
I want and need to LIVE

Maryam O'Darbo

She is the least
A good person
Broke rules
She has been everywhere
A surface full of straws
That I share with him
Her little playground
Not ready to depart

I care tuppence not
What they do
I hang to every word
Those said by I
And those of his
But one thing
I beseech thee Maryam O'Darbo
Begone from here with your mooring

ADEKEMI BANJO

Maybe

If I can run a little faster
Faster than my legs could take me
Or even fly
If my wings
Could take me far away
Away from where I am

My legs feel heavy
The heaviness
My stomach slows me down
Filled with shepherd's pie
Made and served by my nana
But now weighing me down for a good run

I heard the Whoosh of the strong wind
And felt the coldness on my cheeks
Coldness from the tears shed
Tears of how this could be the end
Cars swooshed by as I cross the roads
Harkening not to the honking of horns from cars
In order to save my life

Maybe
I should have said no to the pie
Maybe
I will feel lighter to run faster for my dear life
Maybe
I should be sleeping on my bed now

With mum and dad
Watching TV in the living room
And my little sister
Sleeping next door

Maybe I could have said 'no' to Jamie
And no to the set
Maybe there wouldn't be this war
And big shining blade
Held by Wayne chasing me

Maybe there are things to be changed
Changes in school
So that I need no protection from any clan
Changes at home
So that mum and dad would stay home often

Changes in my neighbourhood
So that I would not be judged by whom I am
Changes to the community
So that I can spend time doing what I want
Changes to the system
So that what is by the people
Can actually be for the people

Maybe things could change
When, I do not know
But right now, I need to run for it
JUST MAYBE I WILL MAKE IT

ADEKEMI BANJO

My Jealousy

I heard laughter
A strange one
Not in my heart
And I am not dreaming

I heard music
A beautiful one
Not in my mind
And I am not wishing

You do not know very well
What it means to be jealous
Because you do not know
What it means to love
To feel the bitterness
In your heart
As it beats hard; frenziedly

ADEKEMI BANJO

My Land I Crave

This is my country
Of her, much I can say
This is the land of salient creatures
The fewest Africa ever had
A battle field of strive and survive
A wind-torn graveyard filled with mysteries
Faintly intimidating and not cosy in the least
A gaily place, but not for those who know her not

And that is my town, a beautiful place; Epe
Winds blowing with special feel to it
Bringing to it a special sound
Of tranquillity booming with life
A land brightly illuminated
By nature bulb with scarlet ribbons
My sleepy little town with peace environs

This is my father's house, a rare cut stone I must say
A life-size in the midst, at corner of the four roads
Centre of all, with nothing to miss
Atop I stood looking down to singing and dancing
Men and women, young and old laughing and smiling
A sight so stunning, nothing more beautiful to behold
The house that sheltered princes and princesses

My mores I hide not
It is my richness and identity
My natural beauty I hide not
It is my poise and individuality
I have seen the far end of the world
But my country, my town and father's house
I crave.

ADEKEMI BANJO

My Tsar

You and I,
Under the blanket
Of stars

You and I,
Holding buckets
Full of Asters

In your arms I will fly,
Be assured and don't forget
U is my Tsar

ADEKEMI BANJO

To Want Is To Can

On a foggy night that was when we met
dances here and there, different faces all around
It started though he never wanted it to
I gave him a chance because i wanted to

He helped me, a lot of things i achieved
I trusted him because he's all i've got
He loved me how much i don't know
I loved him because i wanted to

He lets me down for a book that compares no love
169 nights was all it took
Depressed, shambled, i was left alone
Though my heart bleeds, yet my spirit's unbounded
And my love and focus unnarrowed

I wanted to trust him and i did
because i beleive in the spirit of TO WANT IS TO CAN.

ADEKEMI BANJO

Where I Play

There Is a Chat I Like To Visit
I Spend Some Minutes Every Day
To Say I Have Fun Is Implicit
To Make Money Is Why I Play

The Clan It Deals With Shooting Stars
Perhaps From Pluto Perhaps From Mars
The Name of The Clan Is Titled Star-Find
It Has Some Rules If You Don't Mind

Don't Enter Thinking Only To Take
Consideration Is What You Must Make
Find Out the Terms Before You Ask
Or Else Be Treated Like an Ass
Report the Star Each Time It Changes
With These Few Rules You May Remain

ADEKEMI BANJO

Yes! ! ! I Am Hurt

Do you see the pain
The pain in my eyes
Do you see the hurt
Hurt borne deep into my heart

Did you search to know
Know what I have been through
Or do you just wish
I let go and never look back

Yes I have pains in my eyes
Caused by hurt inherited
And those acquired
And yes I am hurt

But one thing you must know! ! !
My soul seek for one thing
That you know what I have been through
And help let go and never to look back

ADEKEMI BANJO