

Poetry Series

Charles Bernard
- poems -

Publication Date:
2012

Publisher:
Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Charles Bernard()

Trapped in my thoughts. Africa is my home.

African Child

Dark as graphite yet his teeth glitters
Cracked lips yet his smiles radiates
Empty belly yet he is laughter filled
Under the burning sun he lives
Burning with zeal and hope
Bleak future dream at its peak
Magnificent walk on cracked feet
From dirt a rose spring fort
Black skin and a pure heart
He is African and happy

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An African Mother Advice

Tonight witches shall gather
Soon the sun will go to bed
Ndubisi my son come home
Come lay in your mother's arm
Let my love protect you
Under my bosom you will dwell
Till dawn in my warmth

Come my son
The moon is full tonight
Let me tell you stories
The morals you must hold
Close to your heart all your life
Let them guide your thoughts
Leading you through life's path

My son
You're a prince
Like an ant be wise
Let your judgment be sound
Let your heart be filled with mercy
Give alms to the poor
Give food to the hungry

Son
Fear the woman
Her love is sweet
Her heart is dark
Keep your strength
For the love you shall find
And you shall be fruitful

My dear son
I have watched you grow
Your temper is quick
I fear it would destroy you
Hold it in check
Say but a few words
Let them be your bonds

My son
You are my strength
Do not forget me when am old
Remember the breast that fed you
Let my old bones cling unto you
Let my dry skin feel your warmth

My son soon
I will be gone from here
Uphold your father's name
Let not his legacies die
Do me proud in your deeds
From the spirit land I will smile
For even in death I will watch you

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Fgc Maiduguri "The Castle Of The Great";

How can i forget
The early morning raising bell
The chill of cold water down my skin
The long cane chasing me to the dining hall

How can i forget
The ever watery tea and paltry loaf of bread
The urgency of Tuesdays and Thursdays egg
The neatness for Saturday pap and akara
The frown when break fast was at 10 am

How can i forget
The oil stain on our white tops
The littered pieces of food that showed we had enough
Though hunger chewed at our cords
The running around to keep the morning laws

How can i forget
Mondays assembly and the neatness for it
The ever unending roll calls
The punishing of the faulty
The urge to be the best

How can i forget
The golden sweet voice of E J Kadala
The speech by the press
The head prefect warnings
The show of academic excellence

How can i forget
The rush to the canteen during breaks
The quick cup of cereals before lunch
The hush whispers at lunch tables
The delight in every scooped spoon

How will i not
Celebrate when she is honoured
Lament when she is troubled
Stand up for her when she is dispersed

Walk with pride as her product

Posted with WordPress for BlackBerry.

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Forever

When this love grows old
And our feelings go cold
Every passion we shared gone
Our everyday now a memory
Let the sun you fade from sight
Out of reach to the great beyond
My heart still would glow still
From beautiful memories of us
The plenty words spoken
The many fantasies we created
The plenty dreams we shared
Youthful energy these arouse
A lot would happen between us
Yet we shall never be truly parted
Not even death can do any harm
For it is in my heart you dwell
Forever there you shall live.

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Free Spirit

Kwashum my fairy
What troubles thy mind so much?
Have you not learnt a thing?
From the trees of the island
Peacefully swaying with the gently breeze
After a raging storm had shook their roots

Lover of my heart choke not thy spirit
Flow with the sway of life
Let not its worries burden thee
The rise of sun is certain
So is the beauty of sunset
Love nature with your heart

Be nude with thy thoughts
Free her from sentiments
Let thy imaginations soar high.
Kwashum have thy beautiful eyes
Taught thee nothing all these years
Why mar her sparkling nature?
Only wrongs do you choose to see

Where is thy believe in nature my love
Have you reached the borders you set for love?
What is this confusion thy emotions deal thee?
Stop hiding behind those veils I see thee clearly
The perfection you desire roams free in the wild
So free thy spirit and roam from coast to coast

Time races against thee kwashum
The memories thou behold tomorrow
The stories thou write now
Flee the castle of sanity beautiful maiden
Dwell in the drunken spirit of love
Dance to the tune of thy heart

Cast off all shackles sway to sound of freedom
Drench thy silk gown with sweat
Charm all the men of thy court

With thy full hips and yarning lips
When the wish to possess you flees
Roam wildly with carefree steps

To the sea front along the sandy shores
Set thy feet into the waters
Swim with possessed energy madly and wildly
To the shore beyond where your lover waits
From the cup of freedom drink to thy fill love
Nothing holds thee but thy spirit

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Mother

Teach me how you endure life
The pains and misfortunes
With a knowing smile on your lips
Even in the darkest moments
You stood steady supporting me

Share me your deep secrets
The understanding of it all
Even when life's hope is bleak
Wisdom to outwit life's cunning
Even in failure you're my champ

O mother caress my ears
With sweet words from your lips
Unite our hearts with words
Your love is a spell cast at my birth
Enchanted all lifelong by this myth

My mother is a goddess
For me she stands strong
Nature's forces moves her not
I am her most prized treasure
She is my priceless jewel

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My Childhood

Like a great artisan I carved my heart on the wild woods of the forest
With so much carefree I played my heart out on dada's old xylophone
In my mud houses after rain I found great delight
The sight of wild flowers along farm paths cheered me on

I found so much in my little belongings
Every little act was filled with much love
Every little gift filled me with much gratitude
Each little hurt tore me apart much tear flowed

Every little step into adulthood was intriguing
More knowledge of life killed my every joy
The great expectation lost in the mystic expedition
All dreams of a simple love filled world gently disappeared
My childhood was forever lost.

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Northern Ghosts

Hate hate the screamed with so much energy
The marched destroying all values in their path
With blood shot eyes the touched their cities
A beautiful arson they have perfected

The soothes settle on the empty roads
A silent town of wandering ghosts the have created
Ghosts of the hundred that litter the street
Their crime their fate, their predicament their root

The crying ghosts of the north i call them
Crying for vegence and revenge
Wispering to the dumb leaders, cries of oppression
Silently the world watched while they died
The ghost in the north are left to wander forever

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Sunset

Come lady let me take you on a cruise
To a peaceful island called fantasy world
Let's walk the sandy shore on bare feet
Feel the peace of nature surround you
Sit with love lets watch the sun set
Surrounded by scented candles
Roses scattered all around your feet

I long to see your beautiful eyes reflect
With the beautiful image of the sun
Gently striking the water surface
Penetrating its depth yet reflecting
Soft harmless golden rays that
Choose to shine on your lovely hair
With you across my sunset is complete

Lean on my shoulder dear one
Let me tell you a wild joke
For I long to see you smile
It perfects your adorable face
So refreshing is your breath on my skin
The warmth of your skin on mine
So comforting is this aura of you
As the sun vanishes your face illuminates earth
Nature forces embrace your whole movement
In perfect harmony everything flow
The gently breeze caress your hair
As they in turn caress your face
You transform into this beautiful goddess
I can't grasp the magic of this moment

Come closer complete this fantasy
Fill the waiting space between ma fingers
Part my waiting lips with yours
Melt your tongue in my mouth
Drive our minds through wild passions
Hold nothing back as we roam free
Let's go wild and free

The God Of The Yellow Sun

The lion eyed god has lost a battle
He had fought a thousand before
With the monsters of the north
For freedom he lived his life

□

Blood flowed beyond shores
He could have turned a blind eye
He could have grown a pot belly
He refused he stood for equality

Darkness he chased with a yellow sun
In the east our sun rose to freedom
Hope was restored through our god
Our burden he bore our pain he endured

For years he fought demons
Victory was the only option
In marshes, dark forests, tricky waterfalls
He took war to protect our lands

Blazing was rays of our yellow sun
Treachery arouse to blunt its shine
He made a pact with his enemies
Under the shade we fought our way
Years have gone by
Youth energy had fled him
Dawn has come to bless him
In peace he slept when life light dimmed

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What Granny Would Say

I watched her oiled lips as she spoke
Her bright eyes glowing as a flame
Stories of kings and queens
I was told under the moonlight
The morals she stressed
When life twists so badly
I think of what granny would say

The night often runs deep
I lay at her feet sleeping
Silent clasps of rosary
Cutting silence in the dark
Hushes of prayers hover
Heavenly bliss envelope us
Nights granny would pray on

With her eyes alone
She rebuked all my wrongs
Her anger screams to my heart
Without a word without a Cain
Often praises she whispered
When sadness looms
I think of what granny would say

The eyes that rebuked have dimmed
Her hands bonny and dry
Her back bent from years
Her hair all white
Her skin wrinkled
Even in her silence
Nourishing old age
I stare Longley at her lips
I wonder what granny would say.
□

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Who Will Speak For Them

Their hands tied behind their back
Swollen eyes from heavy beating
Their will to live broken with torture
To ease the pain they long to die

Accusations shouted at them
No one cares to hear their plea
In silence they suffer this great pain
Waiting eagerly to escape the misery

Who would speak for them?
Fate has left them no choice
Injustice has taken their voice
In silence they wither away

Now they are free from bondage
Ghosts flying around in agony
Seeking vain vengeance at mid night
While the world sleep away without remorse.

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