

Poetry Series

JAY EMM
- poems -

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JAY EMM(20-05-1991)

born in 1991, Jay Emm Toboso attended Shiatsala Primary School and sat for his primary certificate exams in 2005. Thereafter, he joined the adjacent St. Stephen's Secondary School, sat for his secondary certificate exams in 2009 and excelled convincingly. He therefore joined Maseno University in 2011 to pursue a degree in English and Literature. Toboso begun writing poems while in form two, but it was after he met his Favorite teacher Mr. Kesesi Eric Jaika, his mentor, friend and model, that his literary eyes were opened. At the university, his writing grew tremendously after going through the hands of literary critics, his lecturers including Dr. Jane Bwonya, Pamela Odhacha and Bryson Omwalo. he has written and continues to write poems and short stories.

A Divorce On My Wedding Day

If on my wedding day
Pain will eat my heart
For entering a cell
Should I make a demand
Make swift a consideration

If past the day
Want for freedom shall
Engulf my heart
Should i place an order
My wish grant me

If after your honeymoon
Dry cassavas will hatch
Into a favorite
pampering fade into
Scratches
Should a request resurface
Your ears may they
Be pricked

If on 'our' day
Should stars grow dim
And your ways germinate thorns
Should I drop your hand
Generously let it go

if past the Day
should the palm of your hands
Loose their suppleness
Should your face grow
Pimples and wrinkles
Of hate and malice
Should I reveal a decision
Prudently do give in

Lover,
If after my wedding
The glitter of your eyes wane

The magic dance of your eyelids
Camouflages into
The frown of preying panther
Should I scramble out
Don't rush for me

If past the day
Your phones get pass-worded
Your inbox ever cleared
Then
Give I
A divorce
On my wedding day.

JAY EMM

A Trek For Freedom

Upon the whistle
We begun the walk for freedom
Trudged on
Passed the thickets
Thorny and bushy
We held hands
Felt for once the warmth
That for ages
Had abandoned us
We blew whistles
As we trumpeted
Tambourines vibrating
Round the freedom field
We held hands
And sat around the mirth
Thirty six gunshots into the fresh air
Marked the thirty six months
Lost away in bondage
At last
As we held hands
At last
Light! Light! Light at last!
Freedom at last!
We held hands.

JAY EMM

A Voice In The Wilderness

A voice in the wilderness
Calling in turns
Our names
The call of a child
In his hands two keys
for my heart for your heart

On the boy's shoulders
Two doves
Each carrying a gold ring
On each a name

The child calls out
From within two children
Wedding gowns glistening in their hands
Cheerfully we put them on

The boy amid cheers
Blows and rings
The whistle and bells
A multitude coming to witness
Singing and laughing and rejoicing
And in vigor dancing
Together we join the dais
Holding hands, dancing to the tunes
Smiling, laughing, playing happily

The boy breaks the dance
Throwing down, two keys
The doves singing, calling out our names
The multitude cheering, clapping
From the multitude our friends
Stepping forward, opening
Our hearts
Written in mine 'A dream realized'
'Reality in a dream' in yours

The doves flying, resting on our heads
Dropping the gold rings in our hands

Picking yours, slowly, descending it down
Planting, adjusting it on my finger
Cheers, cheering, shouting, ululations, songs flowing
Promises amidst
I see you moving, stepping forward

Smiling, laughing, we embrace
I see you pressing, softly
Tightly your lips on mine
Pressing them hard you fulfill the dream
But Alas! Who is calling me out?
Wake up, wake up and then realizing
It was just a dream!

JAY EMM

A Wise Counsel

Young man
You are tenderly tinder
Surely an adventure into fire
Shall consume your manhood

Hurry hurry
My son
No blessing
With less oxygen
You venture into space
Would you not
Prematurely suffocate?

Those fruits
Your hands pluck
Still protruding
Should they untimely
Grow baggy
Would you take the blame?

Those regions my son
Too early to venture
Why bite more than
Can swallow
Should your bullet
Strike a target
Will you take responsibility?

With your bag and baggage
Nothing to brag
Can you feed a chick
If an egg hatches?

Should you slip and siphon
Contaminated juice
From a viral vampire
Will you as usual walk
High held head
When sores swallow your body

Will you bid us goodbye
To take an early rest?

My son,
Listen to my counsel
Old eyes
Have the sight of a lynx
See beyond the present
Spare your struggles
Unhold your trigger
You'll shoot better
Legally in future
My son,
Listen to my counsel.

JAY EMM

Blood Tana

Darkness covers the Delta
as the wind blows Northwards
wind billows
dust drugs eyes
they cannot see beyond

meanwhile, hooting
blasting and explosions
guns fly wildly
and bullets
pierce human flesh

curfews curtail escapades
with bangs and slams
doors disintegrate

thunders roar
rumbling
men in spotted garments
from house to house
untidy rooms
of shriveled victims
in hot pursuit of masked sadists

more blasts
more oozes
as clashes heighten
doubling the trouble
the victims joining hands
with the sadists in slaughtering
human kind

when darkness covers the Delta
matchetted invaders
sworn to retaliate
gain control
survival
for the luckiest.

JAY EMM

Comeback

i come
back with vigor and strength
after a mighty fall
intertwined by failure
emotional deprivation
eating dust and shit
i come back
with vigor and strength

life ever a river
unending as
life goes on

JAY EMM

Confession

I confess,
That deep in my heart
That I'm bubbling with
Excitement!
Having been unchained
From the dungeon of
Loving in secrecy!

I confess,
That i have long admired
Desired and sunk in want
A dream it was
But real as day
That I've fought
Wars and battles
In my heart to unseal
The lid that kept me off
From my utmost desire!

I confess,
That I've labored to discard
Away the feeling
A tough war it was
A losing battle it was
Ending in disarray
For my heart swells with
Pride and joy and affectation
Of nothing but love
For you Sweet Dearie!

I confess,
That upon my whisper
That i did, i do
Love to love
Loving you,
I felt, i sighed
Relief and pleasure and glory

I confess,

That long I've been held
Hostage by the magic and
Mystery, to make known
My cherished desire
I confess, that
Without your word
I was Pulled by the magnetic
And irresistible forces
Could time and time
Twist and turn my neck
Weakly and obligingly
I gave in, surrendered
A glimpse, a glare, a stare,
An insatiable glare
All i gave at you
And gaining the prestige of
Sharing stolen moments with you
I fed on and on
Your beauty!

My love,
Let me profess, let me
confess, the beauty of all
The majesty of my life,

That I have been a swindler
I've surrendered,
I've feasted on
The hazel of your eyes
I've cuddled myself
Every-time i stole glances at
The contour of your body
And i confess,
That I knew,
I knew, i knew and i knew
Knowing that i know
That I knew
That truly, profoundly
Genuinely and undeniably
I loved, I love,
I will love
With vigor and intense conviction and resonance

In glory and in merriment
That in rain, in sunshine
I profess,
Out of secrecy,
For ages for eternities
 I love you,
Dearie my love,
I CONFESS.

JAY EMM

Day And Night

day and night
dreaming and thinking about you
day and night

JAY EMM

Endless Floods

downstream ever
goes the architects
swimming into the dirty streams
as shrivelled oysters clad in worn-out tatters
smear and scrub their rough scales
with the contaminated excrement
piled downstream by these
endless floods

like satanic beings
the gentlemen feast on the carcasses
of the doomed oysters
their sweat and pain and struggles
the source of the dignified swimmers' wealth
floated off and stolen away
just after bumper harvests
that never feel the warmth of the producers

taxed and taxed
even for working on meagre pay
as the dignitaries who never pay
from their stolen lands and emptied public coffers
eat and eat from the sweat of
the doomed oysters

in and out sirikalis
come and go
but the gentlemen never go
all they change is the dress
but they keeping on flooding
the huts of the oysters
with debts and rates
as they plunder and steal
the wealth the oysters strive so hard
to bring forth for their country
endless are these floods

JAY EMM

Flames Of Terror

Mimo lit the fire
Against the wire
Rumo added parrafinated logs
Eliciting devouring fogs
Upon which the sparkling flames
Disregarding the blames
But coloured the night
Multiplying the plight
In the war-torn town
sinking deeper and deeper down
As graves rise high
the end nigh
For the malnourished mourners
Holding banners.

JAY EMM

For Ever

my princess dear, my word i give you with devotion ever
from my tender heart to hurt you never

JAY EMM

For You Dearie: My Day Has Come

Walk me on

For my Day has come
With bright pillows
Of the sun's rays
Which caress fear out
Of my famished being
That scarcely tasted love
Enriched with powerful desires
Of a cherishing heart
But trod on thorns of betrayal
That pierced and hurt
My sincere soul

I say to you my love
My Day has come
To give me strength
Of walking beside,
You, my love
You've granted me my day
Wrapped up by the protect
Of your tender arm's grip
Take this my smile
Singing unto you my song
For my day has come.

My Day which has come
Gives me the precious prestige
To see into your eyes' magic
The sparking galaxies of stars
Spelling LOVE for me by
Filling me with trembles
Forthcoming from my thirst
Just now quenched by
You, my love.

On this platform i stand
To smell the fragrance of love
Diffusing from your smile
That chokes hopelessness out of

The ribs of disillusionment
For my Day has come
Upon which i see you
Offering your hand out
To seal our engagement
Into the realms of love.

Stepping by,
You come, in my arms,
You come
Into my eyes
And into yours i see
The fulfillment of my dream
As you profess your love
For me i shout
 My Day Has Come!

Upon my day
You've let me dream
Realities of meeting my
Feted Luck
Long scampered away

My day has come
To feed me on the truth
And flourish in decency
Your heart engross
That never seeks ruin
But exaltation.

My day has come
For me to smile upon
Your tranquilizing smile
On which to laugh alongside
Your soothing laughter
To be cuddled into
 Your provocative arms
That provokes throbs from my heart
Which flies away
Into your pure heart's center
United we become one

On this day i mark
Your handing over
Of my my day
For my Day Has Come
To be with you Dearie
For you to be with me my love.

JAY EMM

Forgiven?

frozen in the cold
trembling and shaking with regret
all i ask for my crime, forgiven?

JAY EMM

Goodbye

leave i
leave me out
leave me for me
days of torment behind
my back scrubbed
with sandpaper as hard
like a herbalist's pot
sooty and smelly

days of regret bid
goodbye better bid
shinny and supple
my back
as a baby's palm
heralding the era
of the separation
from emotional vandalism

leave i
leave me out
leave me for me

JAY EMM

Hope Never Dies

it is not cold stares
that I breathlessly gave a chase
it was smiles and acceptance
but these slipped away
I still hung on

it was not slaps and blows
that I dreamed for
it was comfort and luxury
but I found myself in prison
I still hung on

it was not insults and rejection
that I wished for
it was love and tenderness
but I was banished from home
I still hung in

it was not poverty and calamity
that I worked for
it was for riches and wealth
but I my investment was grabbed and plundered
I still hung on

I still hung on
for hope never dies
should never die

JAY EMM

I Plead With You

tides have rocked
waves have struck
our love in jeopardy locked
but i plead with you let's track
the good old days
when interlocked in each
other's arms in ways
known to us for our reach

days have gone
nights have passed away
in tears and sorrow never known
to us since we sung promises to at bay
keep obstacles and falls held back
the dream fading
let's grab it back and pack
our wells of love full like on a wedding

torrents of sweat have been shade
emotions flailing high
but let's triumphantly wed
and leave detractors asking why
our love never gave in
to calls of surrender and destruction
mine forever sworn to be and win
your affection let's cling onto perfection

i plead with you
let's award our hopeful relations
like a ewe
pure and divine, let's traverse nations
sing our song of love and loving
missions under the sun let them flourish
in praises and glory for us as moving
in embrace let's interlock for ever our wish.

JAY EMM

I'll Be Back

I've been slapped in the face
spit on with salty saliva
mucus mopped on my morbid face
amidst this
I stand alone

I am all alone
like a barren widow
am avoided
like a leper
my spine aches with fatigue
all day my mind resonates
on desertion and denial

but I rejoice
knowing that not alone
I am not
up in the sky
like the glow of stars
shines my ring
that will restore and rebuild

till then I'll wallow in solitude
and loneliness
when my star shines
my empire shall again stand

and those who slapped me will
fall and beg on their knees
like a king I'll be
surrounded by multitudes
allegiance and loyalty they will
pronounce and forget
the smelly songs sung
to celebrate my mighty fall

then I'll be back
like the Lord
I'll forgive them

for they know not
what they did

JAY EMM

Jaber

Jaber
sweet love
loved you since
you smiled at me
Jaber

JAY EMM

Just Here

it was not in the city
that I grew into a man
it was here in these
gardens that
I spend each day of my life
these gardens you so much
wish to destroy

it was not in crammed storied buildings
that I got warmth and care
it was in this nice hut that
you do much look down on

it was not in filthy streets that
I learnt these noble skills
it was in these green fields that
you do much desire to possess

it was not in elite academies that
I acquired an education
it was in these dilapidated county schools that
you disapprovingly call shanties

it is here
just here then
that I will work diligently
to uplift and nurture
talents and make
many be like me.

JAY EMM

Kenya

kenya,
a land of promise
rain and shine,
in plenty our land blessed
from coast where
sweet beaches abound
to the interior where
wildlife and rich soils and weather
to be found

a people rich
in culture and knowledge
so much similar
in aspirations and needs
so much divided
by language and politics

in prayer we ask
for divine intervention
to guide us to our destiny
fought for in the forests of aberdare
the life shed then and thereafter
let it bind us
never should we fail
to honour the dire calls
of the heroes long gone

in unity let us surrender
ourselves to nationality
in governance let us choose
on merit and weed out
lords of anarchy and corruption

Kenya,
our land
let the promise come

JAY EMM

Last Wishes

if you have to leave
don't leave
disappear in the morn
when i am still tossing in bed

while leaving
don't look back
for your eyes' magic
shall wet my eyes

when you you go
don't bid bye
grow dumb
the memory of your voice
shall blister my heart

as you pack
don't leave behind-
that ring
it'll exhume my promises
let me expedite your packing
to counter the pain
of a hopeless stare

but as you pack
for your endless pity
leave behind-
that veil
as a souvenir
of your purity

before you leave
don't visit the mirror
those scars
i was a panther
shall send you shivers

just before you go
don't bother

to pardon me
the shock apparent
shall my nerves paralyze

although late
i profess at this prime time
that for the bottle
i speckled one
i received pristine.

JAY EMM

Lone Walk

One night
walking with the moon
up in the sky bright
it occurred to me soon
i could not see light
as i had at noon

my thoughts were ablaze
were in a race
felt bitter at the moon's gaze
it did laugh at my loss
my mind rotating in a haze
i blamed Him for giving me less

tears dropped leaving a mark
on recalling how we wonderfully wed
only for everything to turn dark
leaving my eyes red
leaving me lost in the park
all through i followed as she led

if only i could grab death's waist
i could have enjoyed more
but he acted in haste
compelling me to lose the war
my blessing becoming my waste
luck, why did you tell me no?

JAY EMM

Mysterious Sounds

Those sounds deep into the night
Are they clicks or cracks
Rollings or rattlings

Are they crickets' or cockroaches'
Beatles' or battles'

Are they clanking or clicks or cracks

Do they sing or sin
Run or rush

Are they songs or psalms
Weeps or whips
Rejoices or recantings
Moans or mourns or groans

Are they frost's or frogs'
Bombs or blasts
Are they grenades or guns
Coarse or hoarse
Are they
Sounds or mounds
Deep into the night?

JAY EMM

No Surrender

let it not
come to a point
of letting go your hopes
when adversities choke you
out of your deep breath

on those thorns
harden your soles
and glide further and farther
till you see that path
to fly you into your future
never let it go

JAY EMM

Not Me

it's not me
you see falling apart
but the caricature
of my former self

it's not me you see drooling
into a withered branch
but the shadow
of the former me

it's not me you see gulping
bottles of bitter wines
but the cursed body
of the once me

it's not me you see hide away
from this world that never took me in
but the belittled loser
of everything that ever mattered

when you left
I never saw me again
for I lost myself
without you I could never
be me.

JAY EMM

Open Arms

Those dark days
When hearts stop beating
Curious cold jabs skins
Giant gangsters invade
Bursts block our ears
Strange powers-
Shut our eyes...

We run into her open arms
Just a mother's word
Her embrace embattles fear and
Her whisper cuddles

Our chests throb anew
With vitality
Warm air soothes skins
Enemies dissolve in despair
Soothing music fills our ears

And we see that gate
Into our destiny

JAY EMM

Paradise Kenya

I see you
my life
full of strength and vigor
prosperity flowing deep
into the veins of all

roads shining and clear
tar swallowing the mud
standard gauge railway
whirling and snaking its way
in regions simmering with resources

airports beaming with life
tourists in number arrive
our culture and scenery
not a match yet found
the big five in our parks
to feed your eyes are ready

wind and water harnessed
geothermal and sun adding megawatts enough
for industries mushrooming all over

bureaucratic means passed
huduma centres here and there for us
ICT taking us far
schools and offices digitized

loans and grants floated
youths and women granted
interest free for future focus
firms and farms fortified
everywhere it is jubilee

laws and rules passed
a people's constitution in place
lawlessness and crime cracked
inclusivity our strength
marginalization a distant past

child or challenged protected

landlessness and displacement worked on
title deeds issued and ownership proven
poverty and disease cleared

beyond zero campaign
to kick out maternal mortality
free maternal health care rolled out
universal health care accomplished
as forty seven referrals made to bring
health care to the rural

food security our achievement
hectares and hectares irrigated
our lives secured
as operation Linda Nchi intensifies
terrorists frozen out
killed and maimed
our armed forces sworn
to guard our paradise

everywhere the song is rife in the air
Kenya is a paradise
Kenya is singing Jubilee.

JAY EMM

Silent Sirens

so deep and piercing
cries, echoes of groans reverberate
deeper into our clogged ears
we hear what we don' t hear
so we've been made deaf

so crystal clear the sights are
blood spluttered, splashed and spilled
like chickens we are slaughtered
like lambs we die in silence
laments kill us even more

so much to say
words reek in our mouths
our lips shake with volumes of banned statements
we dare not utter a word

don't see
don't hear
don't talk

the three basic human rights
granted us by the system
in exchange
for our fragile lives

JAY EMM

Supplication For Devotion

Let us go by
Move on and walk on
Hand in hand and bid bye
To the days of solitude, all be gone
For in loving you I fulfill the call
That stirred my heart for once
When it had gone on a roll
After being stung and left in a trance

Under the trees and their shades of passion
Let us sit and enjoy the breeze of peace
Blowing from the lake of intimacy and devotion
And may our hearts feel the bliss
And be transported to the world
Of vehement flames of passion in real
May the flame burn till i grow bald
From years of blissful ecstasies and zeal

From end to end in bounteous treasure
Let us travel, see, discover and explore
God's nature hived for us in adequate measure
And may our desire be to restore
The beauty of the Earth as it were
In the beginning of Eden our garden
May we make it and bar
Forces of destruction that make it harden

May we remain forever in love
As pure as the fragrance of a rose
Let us both stand and go above
Waves of envy and vengeance that may grow hoarse
And threaten to attack our boat with boulders
On our great voyage across the sea
May we hold onto each other's shoulders
Pray let us never fail to see

Under the cool and warm roof of our house
Let us sing songs of intimacy and merry
Passion and desire for each other let us espouse

In each other's arms let us bury
Our unflinching want of fulfillment and affection
May our bed bring forth faces of joy
And may they live in perfection
Let us love our blessings whether girl or boy

In abundance or in scarcity and want
Let us cling onto the dream
May we always want to hunt
The dream back and let it interminably gleam
And may you always be my Dearie for eternity
Incessantly heed the praise and bind
Our pure love in glee and jollity
May we cherish and love in kind.

JAY EMM

Tenderest Moment

deeper and deeper
my emotions taken high
higher and higher
your breath so loud
as mine
and as your hand caresses my back
so are my fears
fresh your breath is
softly, gently
they land...
losing myself
my tongue rolling
held hostage
in that passionate union
soft and gentle
am lost
as deep painful pleasures
cut through by being
in that powerful union
i lose myself
do not feel myself
for i am feeling you

JAY EMM

There And Then

it wasn't a lone travel
we were a group of ambitious sojourners
eager to make a difference
along these paths trodden on before
we did
separate ways
different outcomes

undecided as I were
fresh from the grip of my family
and those teachers good they were

peering ahead I saw fire
looking up to you I saw hope
with anxious curiosity I gave you my ear
and for once saw you
I let go your hand

there and then I decided
to keep intact my father's
and our good teachers' counsel
for they never would
teach me to embrace evil
and unto others do harm
as advanced in your address

there and then
decided
I still had to tread on
to meet a friend

JAY EMM

Wages Of Sin

i should pay
for my sins
for the unsealed innocence
for the honey
i swindled from the hives

for the sacred unions
i placed apart
for the braziers
i secretly tore apart

for the pints
i did shed
for the skins
i forced cuts

for the fruits
i plucked in darkness
for the plants
i had to uproot

for the souls
i did rest
for the hearts
i caused tremors

for my galore crimes
like the crucified thief
i demand gallows
wages of sin
death
they say.

JAY EMM

Whirlwind

the river goes
downstream chocked
in hills and ghostly forests
dark like soot
miles and miles contorting
like a snake
snaking its way
through valleys and huge rocks

so is my life
like this river
appearing and reappearing
never giving up the chase
for the entry into
the desired destiny
through rocks and valleys
always rising up

JAY EMM

Whirlwind Drive

round and round bending
deep into the trampled undergrowth
your life is, a sinner

JAY EMM

Who Says No?

when seeds sprout
fields spring
who says no?

when babies giggle
mothers smile
who says no?

when jacarandas flower
nests secured
who says no?

when rivers flow
fish wriggle
who says no?

when tomatoes ripen
soils darken
who says no?

when lights purple
stars brighten
who says no?

when curbs hand-wave
cheetahs peace-dwell
who says no?

when zebras fatten
puppies play
who says no?

when fathers dance
sons sing
who says no?

when birds chirp
eagles vanish
who can say no?

JAY EMM