**Poetry Series** 

# Matthias Pantaleon - poems -

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# Matthias Pantaleon(August 24,1984)

Matthias Pantaleon (born 24 August, 1984) is a Nigerian poet, playwright and lyricist. He embraced the whole sphere of contemporary studies and distinguished himself as a man of letters.

# Abiodun

We'll meet again, sometime in the future I hope to see you grow more flesh on the cheek We'll reminisce, discussing popular culture I hope you find in abundant, the good you seek

No termite will eat from your basket of harvest Your field will know no drought in dry season No tyrant will lord over you, not even the fiercest Your field will be green beyond comparison

They'll watch you bloom those who seek your ruin Heaven saves; you'll be immune from untimely end They'll show hate, whereas their fate will rot like coin Heaven sake, do not hate your enemies, don't intend

Riches born of Heaven are yours for keep Malice born of jealousy are theirs to steep

#### Andoni Islands

As the wind blows toward to my homeland my heart melt a thousand times From afar I could hear the waves whispering on the river bank

Sun smiles more beautiful on water surface Blue sky merge where earth meets heaven Palms sway this way and that Homeland is greener than ever

The pulse of my heart increases As I draw closer to the shore This is home to many sons afar Sons who may never see their motherland

As I thought of sons who have fallen in distant land tears pour plentiful How foolish we are to think We will ever be happy in strange land

Here I am in the grip of my mother The embrace of my father The kiss of my grandma The pat of grandpa speaks volume

I feel the love in the air Felt the warm in the people Saw the care in their eyes And I vow never to leave home

# Andoni On My Mind

Home is in the mind We never truly forget home Though we prosper outside her shores Home will always be endeared

The beauty of being a tourist Is that we know where we came from Serene isle, surrounded by lush green Mangrove compliments our view

We never lost sight of her seascape Men never truly forget the creek That leads to their father's hut Home summaries our sojourn

East or north, this ship is homebound West or south, home is closer to the heart

# Andoni: The Nativity

There are times when I feel emotional About my nativity and I think of home I've cross too many rivers to be irrational About my home but I think it's awesome

Many sons journey into the west In search of honey and green pasture They travel deep into the forest With nothing to protect their stature

Alas we leave our prints in the sand Where there was thirst we found Krest Fortune favours us in this strange land We are homebound with our treasure chest

This lonely path will remember our name Because we teach her how to handle fame

# Change

Change is the clarion call, we desire most The change is here the mask remain the same Three masquerades with nine heads and one eye Siege with complexities, blur vision, short sighted

The change is here the mask remain the same Dancers with weak limbs and unresponsive neuron Who dare call a spade a spade risk being pierced I risk it, subtract one from five lines to get a stanza

Dancers with weak limbs and unresponsive neuron They neither change steps nor follow the band leader A troupe of sorcerers experimenting with old magic They dominate the dance floor with tired achy feet

They neither change steps nor follow the band leader With every step forward they pull us down the ladder

# Childhood

Peeping through the window of life I figured how happy we use to be As children playing naked in the rain The pebbles of raindrop does magic to our psychic Who dares to hold grudge Childhood is full of innocence and profound memories The good hearted friends we had Times we shared which will never return The Little troubles we stirred, Empty errands we run for ourselves with childish glee And of course, bedtime stories and poems As the years go by, Childhood remains the one moment that stands out With time, men will always make reference to their childhood

# Chiquitita

I hope to see you sometime soon Try not to miss me too much I hope you still wish upon the moon Times are so tough without your touch

I will send you roses in december A gardenful of sweet smelling firefighter I'll have them deliver to your bedchamber Hopefully they will blossom in water

A day will come when I don't Have to leave you for the world You should know that I wouldn't Trade your love for all the gold

Chiquitita is verse in my favourite song Like the resonant of a fine Africa gong

### Cockroaches

They arrived in different attires Each symbolising enormous corruption Pot belly, overweight with titles They have become an institution

With scholars who will never graduate Their arrivals is greeted with siren A bunch of never-do-well and ingrate Who'll stop at nothing to maim the wren

From afar, they form a parallel line Drawing close, I see where it curves Into the arena with under laid pipeline They sell their conscience for a few loaves

The consequence of our actions will last the night While silence spreads dark cloud over our plight

# Come A Little Closer

Don't judge from afar, come a little closer And you will be amazed by my sweetness Don't worry about tomorrow it'll be brighter One day at a time life is full of freshness

Don't be bothered, come a little closer Life is too short to worry all night-long Don't listen to his malice, he is a loser Love, to him hurts, so he makes hate-song

Don't cry in the rain, come a little closer My arms are wide open to you anytime Don't be too sober, it will only get better Take a chance, life is a lottery sometime

Don't envy them; you've a soul of your own They can only show off; just don't look down

# Do They Dare To Care

So many times I woke at night Afraid of what life has become I'm worried if I'll ever see the light So I can find my way home

I'm not concerned with their tale Their truth is coated with thinner Don't be deceived by their smile They don't care about you either

Who do you know that care Many men fall by the roadside No mercy, all they do is stare While we rot in the countryside

We swung around our eyes twinkling But nemesis is a shameless weakling

# Every Legend Has A Beginning

When we were boys we acted like one People call us names behind our back We were silly but we don't throw stone And the girls, they love our six-pack

When we turn adults we acted like one People who know us as boys don't argue With us; they're afraid we'll throw stone And our wives, they love us like sky-blue

When we became elders we acted like one People consult us; we give them advice heartily When they ask for bread we don't give stone And our grandchildren, they love our pot-belly

When we die which we all know is inevitable People will refer to us as the most-venerable

# For The Love Of Christ

Learn to say the impossible - you are forgiven Don't let grudges ruin your live, you only got one Apply the sixth sense - they have got only five Do the unthinkable, outlived their lies with truth

Remittuntur tibi - you are forgiven Pro amore Christus - for the love of Christ Remittuntur tibi - you are forgiven Pro amore Christus - for the love of Christ

I understand their eyes drips with burning hatred You got to put out their flames with sprinkle of love Tame nicely, the monster that lures in your heart Heal the world of hate - for the love of Christ

Life is a prayer, it keeps us on our kneels With closed eyes and a open heart to our enemies

#### **Forever August**

If you wait for me you will meet death alone Because I will never be caught dying with you Keep moving, don't look behind your shoulders There is nothing behind you, but mere shadows

Don't tell anyone I had been with you lately They'd never believe a single word you breathe Don't try to convince them, they'll get infuriated Wipe off your sheepish grin and follow your heart

Don't stop listening to your heart - not once If you do, your heart will stop beating forever But you'll not die anyway, you'll stop existing Like the shadows behind you, you'll diminish

And if you wait for me you will meet death alone I'm forever August, I'll never be caught dying with you

# Friday's Child

I was born at night tall like swagger cane A Friday's child - delivered with muse That was fortunate enough for my parents Oral poetry poured plentiful in the morning

That's what Saturdays are good for Teachers worn their loincloth lose As wine and fish soup flowed at ease While farmers set out to burn in the sun

Now you'll understand why I chose not to be a Saturday's child, I dread to be a farmer Heavy drinking may not be my fate as well It sure sets the mood right for what's right

I took sides with either of the two vices I pitched my tent where grace and virtues lies

# Friendship

It's been a long time anybody fuss over me They have got issues of their own anyway I think we are too busy to chat as old time That is the problem with friendship today

Back in the days we were closer than these We use to appreciate the quality times spend Together, we were young and free like geese Without fear we do it all; we don't suspend

As the years go by, we love each other less We don't even stop over; we were too busy Distant has put distrust in our heart like illness Even on the phone; we became very bossy

Now we're old and as I think of our childhood They bring happy memories of our boyhood

# God Watches The Sleeping Child

There is no such thing as morning star Stars are beauties of the night The eyes with which God watches the sleeping child Don't tell me you know when you know not Say you don't know when you actually know The stars know a lot of secrets Yet, they twinkle at us, with lots of innocence I remember, as a child, I use to call them beautiful Shame! They're not as beautiful in words As they are in my soul in my heart I see them as the eyes of God Watching the sleeping child

# Haiku

Time tickles into the night My heart wrinkles like the old anchor History dwindles, fade into oblivion

# Humility Is A Virtue

Heaven bestowed upon thee good grace A fortress to house your priced treasury That you may strive with legendary pace Your enemies will be sore with injury

Prudence is divine, folly is eternal Foolish tongues will be plucked in closed-ends Stripped yourself of pride, humility is cardinal Keep about your wits; it's slippery where it bends

Foolish choices are easy to come by Because men are in a haste to pass judgment In the end, they're shamed like passerby Justice is poisoned by sentiment

Their arrogance makes us ill and we groan It wouldn't be long before they're bemoan

# Ida Obolo

See what we have done to earth Can't you hear the widows scream See what greed have done to men Can't you see the mutilated corpses

What have we done to mother earth I see the rivers overflow with toxic waste What have we done to the creed we pledge I see dead bodies decay in the farmlands

Who will account for the Odi massacre How many more lives will lay waste in the creeks Who will account for the genocide in Jos How many more death before Armageddon reign

Where is Mudiaga, tell him to light me a touch I cannot see from here, not with all the crouch

# John

They said you are wealthy now Some said you rewrite your story I'm not surprise; it's the seed you sow You deserve it John, you made history

I tried to reach you last night But I never make it pass the gate The guard sees through my plight I was scorn like a child with ill fate

I'm miserable; where nightfall Meets me, I sprawl and lay I cannot do otherwise lest I fall Into a dungeon and be slay

John, I hope to see the world like a slog If I fall don't let them bury me like a dog

# Lagos

The city of dreams Sparkling aura with awe Ilu ti ina wa - city of light Little bubbles of gold in the sun

They follow our lead They are too blind to see They try - there is no contest They make fuss - we make the buzz

Standing atop the pinnacles There is no glory to share Who dare throw stones There is no foe to spare

Lagos - my city never sleeps Because nightmares besiege sleeping cities

# Leave Good Behind

It doesn't really matter the colour Of your blood, if it's made of pink It doesn't matter if you've valour Made of bricks, or a mixture of ink

When you walk away; leave good behind Many people will hate you for no reason Be sweet; let them breath love in the wind Liberate them from hate; life is a prison

You don't have to fight your enemies Their conscience will judge them anyway Don't forget those you call families Life is like airstrip with broken runway

Remember to spread a little cheer Life is an aircraft with little steer

# Life At Thirty

At thirty I look at the world differently I have fewer friends, thousands of fears I envy my childhood even more Wish I could take off some years

Here I am, dreams turn cold New aspirations to keep me warm A son to protect, a woman to love Aged parents to care for

At thirty am surrounded with sixty obstacles Each takes its toil on me And even though i was born strong I think the load is not proportional

Here I am, thirty feels sticky Looking back All I see is my childhood smile The future seems to frown at me

At thirty I don't feel older Because my son looks younger I can't tell him all my story He should write his memoir

Here I am, no one to talk to The walls are tired to listening The tongue can tell no more The spirit wouldn't stay quiet

At thirty I feel like a rockstar Though the rock is taller than me Thirty feels like a milestone The miles ahead feels like stumbling block -Poet Laureate

## Misunderstood

Nightfall - how much oil is left in the lantern Hurry; let's strive for eternal light of peace Else, we'll walk the night in the same pattern As men who lack the pedigree to set a pace

A people bound with lies and bloodguiltiness Their tongue is synonymous with falsehood All the chanting and re-echo lack tidiness We're short sighted, there is no brotherhood

In the end, we will be the surest victim Nothing that we know will survive the night Only the fist of death coming in seriatim Without gainsay, we will add to our plight

In the onset, we misunderstood ourselves Posterity will remember us as toothless wolves

# **Ninety Nine Problems**

Have you heard about the man With ninety nine problems He survives the many demean And delicately tugged the emblems

Have you heard about the man With the countless tale of woes He pulls each string with mean Now he lives free without foes

Have you heard about the man With paranoid and identity crisis He has learn to live without bemoan In the desert of life he finds oasis

The wisdom of the poor the rich call rubbish Here, they reign among kings without blemish

### No Throne

On the other side of the hill awaits vengeance Men who strive tirelessly to multiply in iniquity Will be squeezed and whip for such impudence All the fortune we acquire amount to vanity

Nothing that we hold dearly will ever count Not even the figment of our own intelligence Can imagine the sphere of fear that mount The heart of kings for their indifference

The law will be hold accountable for leading Citizens astray, whereas, those who made The law will not be shade from the intruding Darkness whose fate they'll share and fade

In the end, no throne will survive the night Except for the one approved of Heaven in its light

#### Noble Nonsense

Don't save the day to die instead Your effort will be mistaken for folly While they take the glory instead

'Seventy boos to a fool at seventy Portfolio leader with no clear-cut vision These men are crippled in the spirit'

You are fortunate to wear gold bracelet Riding on other peoples sweat to limelight Don't make mockery of my rubber bangles

'Seventy boos to a fool at seventy Portfolio leader with no clear-cut vision These men are crippled in the spirit'

Lame ducks are fond of lazy piglets Together they make the pond swim Not without stirring a little feud

'Seventy boos to a fool at seventy Portfolio leader with no clear-cut vision These men are crippled in the spirit'

Leaders of culture with moral issues They make inflations to amassed wealth Who dare question their nobility

'Seventy boos to a fool at seventy Portfolio leader with no clear-cut vision These men are crippled in the spirit'

Before our time is up and done We will pee down on your grave A ritual to take you straight to abyss

'Seventy boos to a fool at seventy Portfolio leader with no clear-cut vision These men are crippled in the spirit'

#### Petite Amie

A flawless piece of monument Radiant like a sparkling white bonnet She seized the shine for the moment Soft girlie smile like Aja Monet

She got me filled with excitement In the pen it's called heart magnet The type that left you in astonishment I got my hands sterilise in muse cabinet

So, I could put down a few statement Maybe a line from my favourite sonnet To melt her heart and end this segment Together we'll reign, Lady and Baronet

If we come under attack, she'll be the cornet I'll protect the flanks of our cavalry like hornet

#### Poetry

Poetry is more than words It's the art of expression Poetry is rhyme and chords It's an artistic impression

Poetry is an untold story It's a path with many turn Poetry is a natural theory It's a field with much thorn

Poetry is a self-discovery art It's the witty length Poetry is a self-explanatory chart It's the untailored width

Poetry is the soul spoken word It's the beat in each chord

#### **Remember Me**

Sally, do you still remember When we use to play in the open field We dream of daylight and breathe life There is no fear in our world then

Sally, do you still remember How we use to fight over little things You were a little older than me anyway I can't forget our little quarrels either

Sally, do you still remember Tom and Peter, I heard they died They wanted to be Doctors, they died Before living the dream, do you still dream

Sally, do you still remember me Because I think of you always

# Sarah

I heard you lost your hubby They said he was a jolly fellow I heard you cry in the lobby It must be hard on weeping willow

You thought me how to mend sonnet Here is a sonnet to mend your heart You make me write poems like Monet Here is a poem for your over laden cart

Sometimes I wonder what life Would have been without death Life is a journey with much strife I hope you still think of Kath

I heard she died in the hands of her beloved It's a lonely world Sarah, we pray be loved

# Set Fire To The Rain

I see the twist in our path There is just one shadow in the darkness I see you standing in the rain There is nothing more to talk about us

Morning sun will bury our shadows We will dwindle like fading memories Morning dew will frown at our flowers We will never be famous like the sun

There will be no much tale about us All them memories will burn with time There will be no rain to put out the fire All that exist will come to a abrupt end

We put knives to the thread that hold the centre We will have the fortitude to regret hereafter

# Shadows With Steep Sides

All the people I see are blind to the reality All the good in the world, they still can't see All the evil that's not they still fear shadows All the fuss about what's not and narrow ends

They have got plenty of words to describe evil They have got no spine to stand up like real men They have got plenty of time to make complain They have got no balls to die for what they belief

There is no perfect cure to our headaches There is no headache without a cure if we try There is no evil without source from around us There is no humanity without a trait of evil

We are all the hands we need in this world We are the shadows with steep sides, waging wars
### Social Leper

She dares us to live her dream Though society calls her social leper She was scorned in the team Every day they heap blame on her

She was blameless in every sense Society is so determine to ruin her Dream, so they broke her defense Against all odd she stoops to conquer

She was like a cat with nine lives Each time they break her code She stays down only to strives Her legend deserves a Rhapsode

She died living her dream and nice Though nobody gave her the chance

## Spank The Child

I speak of the truth most frankly Like a nursing mother speaks of care It beats my imagination most honestly Why men tell lies or even dare

Truth is soothing like morning sun It hurts listening to a lying tongue Truth is reassuring, telling one can be fun Blue is the tongue that tell lies, forever be glue

Spank the child to speak honestly He mustn't share the fate of his ancestors Let him learn of the future presently And pave way for his successors

Our ears will be open to their cries If our tongue remain dark with lies

### Sunbeam And Butterflies

Do away with darkness, the earth needs light Shine your light, let brightness take over the earth, we cannot continue to wallow in the night whereas morning is full of sunbeam and butterflies

Look up; over there, can you see the sun rise across those mountains, that is mother Africa. The wind is warm and a little carefree today, it's free from the nervousness of the previous night

The obstacle is no more we can see home from here There is no shadow trailing behind, only south wind Giggling and whispering lullaby of old into our ears. Away with dark clouds, they held us back for too long

Over there is a yellow sun, a sign of a new dawn In the end... It reminds us of why we are here

## Take Back The Hate

Don't rise too early Amadou I think you are being foolish The dew of life will soak you Take back the hate it's childish

We may not see tomorrow That's a reality to deal with Men are nothing but shadow We are ashtray without width

Every night I see their face The men who died in battlefield Death is slow with fast pace I wonder if we'll ever be shield

Some things are never truly forgotten Graveyard suffice them than alive and rotten

# The End

It's night and the cloud is heavy with storm Rain will be here soon, my mother hurriedly Put away the chickens in their wooden castle An a few baskets to trap water for tomorrow

The first pebbles drop, hitting the rooftop Like nuts and bolts from the mechanic village We rejoice as Heaven empties her stream And it rains plentiful filling seven big baskets

Then, the hissing starts from a near distance Our windows clap to the rhythm of the wind Then the quarrelling begins, the wind wouldn't Stop hitting our windows and damaging three

Why didn't you shut the windows? My father screamed! That's the end, he said no more, we slept in the cold

## The Old Harbour

I do not want your boat close to here Anchor them away from the harbour Sail away, far from here, go somewhere You have been but a noisy neighbour

I hope to shut down my heart to you When it's too much for you to bear Then we can talk but certainly not thou I never see you have enough to tear

Do not be wishful of your old tricks If you will not move you boat from hence There will be consequence that sticks I will not hesitate to keep my distance

Stay away from this old harbour of mine Lest they quench the light in your shine

## The Saga Continues

Blood on the street; The man who cast the first stone was discharged and acquainted While passersby were jailed

Cabal in the chambers; Making treacherous remarks Lady Justitia is not only shortsighted The silence of her treachery is deafening

Customise looting spree; Men of means are pardon of their sins While men of straw burn in hell A cleansing ritual to appease angry gods

Two mad men fighting without cause One is protected with immunity clause

## The Sonnet

Dear brother, sister, can you see the light Or is it only darkness you can view A wretched ship that sails into the night With only ghosts aboard to serve as crew Each time you wish me ill or show your hate I'll love you more by gift of God's own grace And gain the riches born of future's fate While you will simply add to your disgrace My mind will flourish like abiding sea While yours will darken like the deepest night For I will find the fortune meant for me While hatred keeps you from enduring light

The seeds you sow have prices that are steep When rotten fruit is all that you will reap

## The Unusual Sonnet

West have everything I need Why go north and break a leg When I can easily sow a seed And reap a basket of nutmeg

South is home to many sailors Home to my maternal uncles - good men Who care for me like old tailors They weather the storm for me - good omen

A sign that I will wake early enough For breakfast and fall asleep with no care They make it easy; I've nothing tough Not a single gossip from east, nobody dare

I will not strike a foot against a stone If I do, they'll leave no stone unturn - not even one

## Their Eyes Were Watching God

The innocence of childhood, The joy of motherhood; the pride of fatherhood, Consumed in the peace of the night In one night, death comes to them, naked and unprepared They screamed! Running here and there, helpless, Like a toad in a pond of boiling water Some meet death with open eyes Others were massacred beyond eyesore Life is cruel to the peasants' farmers Men who earn their living without con How unfair life had cheated them In the peace of the night, sleep was murdered, Death comes to them naked and unprepared But, their eyes were watching God

## They Don'T Care About Us

Everyone I know is in haste The world is dying out of neglect Plough by racist and their hate We are in dare need of intellect

Who do you know that care Everybody is in it for a goal I know of nobody who dare They live for the gold or coal

Shame to terrorists and their allies What do they really know anyway Political chieftains are full of lies They wage unholy war Someway

Nemesis will catch up on them Whereas history will uproot their stem

#### Three Wise Men

And they sit on the floor of the shore The wind tosses soft tides towards them Some have their legs buried beneath waters Ankles deep, they smile at everything

Reminiscing of their youthful days They have been terrific as country boys Fortune and necessities took them away While there, they grow old with time

Now, age have brought them home Home is where you return to at will And they accept you without grumbling Time steals all that we have except home

So they sit, quietly, each lost in his thought And the wind makes fuss of their white hairs

## Victory Comes In The Morning

I've been in the cage for too long They really don't care how I feel I'm a bird without a sombre song They don't care if we burn and peel

Every day I look forward to freedom They cannot embrace my victory Every day I limp forward to stardom They cannot rewrite my story

I am a composition they cannot edit They can try but they can't stop me I am a success; I give God the credit They can try but they can't stop time

They can lock me away with indignity They cannot chain my spirit for eternity

### Vote Of Thanks

To the poachers from whose claw I escaped I'm thankful with a kindness that is sweaty To the hordes of hades who had my pride raped You are without stain, a neatness that is cruelty

I would be blamed if I fail to give names Good men who'll spare a snake to kill the pursuers Then they will kill the snake with blames Fair and unbiased, they will make good sorcerers

The last and most merciful of them all is none None grieved me severely with tens of afflictions And a whip to drag me from hell to killing zone Their mercies compound all of my complications

Vote of thanks to Philgonard - the lame duck Who thinks he can ride a wild horse by luck

### We Love You Michael

I think I can afford to keep a secret Or two in the womb of my verses You need not worry about their malice Or the strength of their allies

You need to see how lies curl upon their lips These guys know how to stir controversies But, don't worry about their pile of pranks They've got a heart of stone to worry about

Hundred years from now, you'll still be loved They will perish with undigested grudge Time will restored all that is rightfully yours Their smirking cannot change your smile

Michael, You need not worry a thing Faith has proven handy where fate fails

### When The Head Is Rotten

Can you hear yourself speak, my prince Suddenly your tongue had buried its head You sell your conscience for a miserable price Maybe it's for the right price, still, it's unheard

Very unlikely that a man of your standing Can descend so low, lowly than a pauper To enter into such terms all for a rotten shilling Your actions call for bad blood and distemper

You earned yourself some forbearance Do yourself good to eat your own words Force it down your throat or fortified your defence The people's wrath will match your swords

Chances are slim if you hope to escape There'll be scouts scattered in the landscape

#### William

I have stop dreaming since The day you went away I think of you like science The theories has all sway

Do you still have good ears Can you hear me from above Do you feel the pain in my tears Can you smile back with love

I can't truly forget your smile You're the friend of my youth I still see your face in the mile Like butterflies heading south

William, do you still scream in your dream Because I still hear you scream in the team