

Poetry Anthology

# Rhythm and Soul

**A Spiritual Expression**

**Fezekile Futhwa**

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression



Published by Nalane  
PO Box 1452  
Alberton1450

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First Published: April 2010

**ISBN:** 978-0-620-46380-5

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## 1. Have Mercy

Oh great father  
God of our fathers  
Unto you we pray  
Unto you we submit  
For we are mere mortals  
Who lie in danger all the time  
Our supreme Lord  
Today I ask for the highest of favours  
I nod my head in respect  
I cry tears of sorrow  
With a heavy heart, father of our fathers  
Please, do not desert us  
In this moment of greatest need  
Oh God the highest  
Our children are dying  
Day in day out  
They die like flies  
Was is it not you God  
Who said the child shall bury the parent?  
Today we bury our children  
And wonder who will bury us  
When our time comes  
I ask for our children  
To see the light  
And go astray no more  
For our great nation is fading  
Fading like a mist when the sun shines  
And I am afraid  
That no one will be left  
To sing our praises when we go to the spirit world  
That cannot be, that shall not be  
I call to all the spirits in the universe  
Invoke the sacred shrines in our homesteads  
Appeal to the ancestors  
I even nod to the living gods  
Let all take pity on us  
Prevent the demise of my nation  
Parents dying, to leave infants uncared for  
Children on whose shoulders our future lie  
Dying like there is no tomorrow  
What kind of a world  
Is this we are creating  
Where only the old live  
Where have all the young gone?

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That we do not see them anymore  
That they do not come back  
To take their rightful place in society  
As honourable citizens and adults  
Keeping the light of hope burning  
Paving a way for future generations  
Like our elders paved the way us  
And we paved the way for them  
It cannot be, I refuse to listen  
I cannot accept that this is our fate  
The worst punishment ashured unto earth  
To let people perish from their own sins  
When God the almighty  
Ancestors and all spirits of the world  
Turn their backs on us  
Leaving us to fate, it that knows no mercy  
But thrives in revenge and persecution  
Oh my Lord, people have sinned  
They have abandoned tradition  
Forgetting that tradition taught them about you  
To pay respect and honour to the spirits  
For these were created by you  
Ndiyanqula ndiyanxenzeza  
Have mercy on us  
Is it not you  
Who said we must ask for forgiveness  
Today God of our fathers  
Standing in front of a grave  
Where we bury our children  
Soon to run out of grave yards  
Because there is too much death  
Evil is all over  
Ndiyacamagusha  
Have mercy, hear our cries  
Enough is enough

## 2. I Am Tempted

I sigh  
Ke hula moya  
Ho ntsha letshweya  
Ho imolla se hare maikutlong  
Mme ke phodisa kellelo ke hona

I am transported into a past  
Down memories so great  
Sweet memories, wonderful memoirs  
And a smile bust through the corners of my mouth  
Involuntarily expressing my views  
And how I feel right at that moment

My heart has raced many more paces  
Travelled hills and valleys  
Crossed rivers and climbed mountains  
To reach a place desired  
By all my being  
Dreamed for by my mind  
And longed for by my soul

This heart of mine  
Has gone through all these  
To create a future so perfect  
That we, you and I  
Could be happy ever after  
Willing a future into existence

Rewind, back to reality  
The here and now  
Realising that I still have mountains to move  
Boulders to shift  
And footpaths to establish  
To make this dream real  
Make my heart's desires come to life

I am really tempted  
Was tempted last night when we spoke

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Being tempted for a long time  
Ho phunya seso mme boladu botswe  
Ho nya matsete  
Ke bue nnete sa motho ya shwang  
Ka ha taba ena e ya ntsietsa  
Mme ke imetswe maikutlo ke hona

What will it take  
Darling dearest  
To bridge the gap  
Between the here and now  
And the dream of my heart  
Where you and I sit  
Basking in the face of love

Jo lerato le sehloho wee!  
Ka ha le ntlhokisa sebaka  
Ke dula ke ingamangama ka wena thope  
Ke labalabela dikatatso tsa maikutlo  
Mohla ke tla ho bitswa wa hao  
Mme le wena o bitswe wa ka  
Mmoho re fane lerato  
Lona le tukang malakabe

I am reaching a tipping point  
Right where I can hold myself no more  
Where my being, soul and mind  
Are about to burst  
Spilling the love that I have for you  
For sweet love sometimes  
Can become sour  
When this love is ignored  
Left to perils of fate

So hear me  
Loved one, seilatsatsi  
When I say right now  
This moment, this minute  
I am tempted to say all these things  
Spill the contents of my heart out

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Lay bare all that is inside me  
Hoping to make you realise  
What a struggle my life is  
Constantly fighting and balancing  
These feelings running deep down my veins  
Never giving me a break

However painful  
It may feel  
Loving you that is  
I am glad and excited  
That me, nna enwa  
Has the privilege to feel for you  
That my dear, is my privilege

If the God of love exists  
If she is paying attention to simple me  
Then I know my darling  
That fate is real  
That one day my wish will be granted  
For it is said by the wise ones  
Hore mamello e tswala katleho  
And so patience I shall have  
If only for you, my dearest

I really am tempted  
This moment, wena kgalala  
Ho o phetlela sefuba sa ka  
O tle o bone ka moo kganare e tukang  
Sebupi sa lerato la hao  
Lerato le lefubedu sa madi  
E le sesupo sa botebo ba lena lerato  
La ka ho wena nnake

For the first time ever  
In my long life  
Ke timellwa ke mehopolo  
Find myself lost for words  
My mind blank  
Like nothingness, lefela lamafela

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Ha ke utlwa molodi wa lentswe la hao  
Le duma tsebeng tsa ka sa tswere mohlakeng

Let me retreat  
Recollect my memory  
And continue to tell you  
That I am tempted  
Even though I am not sure  
Whether I have told you what my temptation is about  
For, around you my love  
I loose all sense of being

Temptation is dangerous  
For it steals the mind into overdrive  
Forcing it to see the way out  
To unburden a heavy heart  
Filled with tons of love  
Yearning to be accepted  
Ho amohelwa pelong ya hao thope  
Teng ke dule sa mekoko dikalaneng

### 3. Is It So Wrong?

Is it so wrong  
To feel the way I do  
Every time I see you  
Every time I think about you  
Temperatures rise  
For that is how hot you are

Is it so wrong  
To harbor these feelings  
Running deep down my soul  
While you treat me like I don't exist  
Ignoring all of me  
Dismissing my love for you  
As if love had no value to you

Was it really that wrong  
That it was me who loved you  
Choosing to forfeit the love I have for you  
In hope for the love you seek  
Forever hoping to be loved back  
Forgetting mine is abundant  
For you to pick and choose  
As you please my dear

Have you forgotten so soon  
That love you have seek  
Searched everywhere you thought possible  
And still came empty handed  
With a broken heart as the proof  
That you have not had it easy  
In matters of the heart

But time and time again  
You have not stopped to look  
Never gave a second thought  
At the love staring you in the face  
Begging you to love that which loves you  
And forget about fantasies and dreams

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They guarantee you one thing  
Heart breaks and regrets

Was it so wrong  
That I had to love you  
Of all the people  
Me, totally swept off my feet  
Totally committed and willing  
Only if you could see true love  
It that wears no disguises  
Pure love and simple

In your mind, in your soul  
Is it so wrong to love me  
Even if it is only a fraction of your love  
Is it so hard for you  
To be loved and adored  
For who you are and nothing else  
I love you for love's sake  
And I care not for what the world may think

As you keep searching for love  
Completely ignoring my existence  
When you finally give up on your search  
When finally you look my way for affection  
Remember I may have moved on  
Given my love to someone who will accept  
To someone who will love me back  
For that is the price we pay  
For loving someone

## 4. Let Me Remember

Let me remember  
Great people of Mzansi  
Unsung heroes and heroines  
Dinatla le tsona dikwankwetla  
Amagorha namaqhawe  
I salute you all

I am who I am today  
A proud man with history  
A history written by some of you  
Shaped my life  
Curved my destiny  
Paved the way for me  
And prepared me for the life I live

Is there a greater calling on earth  
Than teaching a child  
That young mind  
Forever guided by these greats  
People dedicated to the cause of humanity  
To teach our children  
Leaders of our tomorrow

Let me remember  
Kgopjane Primary School  
The principal Mme Masejake  
Let me remember  
The stalwart teacher  
Ntate Nkgele  
He who has churned leaders  
Of all sorts, through his hands  
Made us who we are  
Thank you, thank you

Kgothala, o kgothalle thuto  
The marketing gimmick  
Of Kgothalang Senior Primary School  
Where arts and culture rein

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Education is more than reading  
Much much more than the certificate  
But the intricacies of life  
Intertwined into a child  
To produce a balanced life

I start with the head, as an African should  
Ntate Sejake, the late hounorable one  
Your work will live forever  
Ntate Makwa, teaching us sejahlapi  
A foreign language on our young minds  
Ntate Matabane, opening our eyes to white mans science  
To show young minds possibilities  
The two of you unmatched  
In the art of choral music  
You made Bolata village proud  
And we have trophies to prove it.  
That under your guidance, Kgothlang was great

Thahameso Senior Secondary School  
Behold the dawn  
Ha Mphatlalatsane e kganya  
Dingwetsi di tshola Thahameso  
Qaleho ya letsatsi le letjha  
The beginning

Ntate Takalimane  
Proving the critics wrong  
That Accounting can be taught in Sesotho  
You are great, you are great  
Ntate Lesotho  
O re kumela taba tsa moruo  
Showing that Economics is never too hard  
Bobedi ba lona, le tshetse lediboho  
La tshela Lekwa mme la leba thaba di mahlwa  
Ho tla ruta ngwana Mosotho ho kgaba

Ke le rolela kgaebane  
Ke kobotetsa hlooho ka hlompho  
Paying tribute to you

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Great people of my people  
Tlotla le tlhompho ho lona  
Ka tema eo le e kgathileng  
Ntshetshong pele ya tjhaba sa Rantsho  
Re ikgantsha ka lona ke hona

## 5. Mama, We Remember

Mama, your name in me  
Memories of your being  
Visions and dreams  
All about you, Mama  
At times it overwhelms me  
Tears of gratitude fill my eyes  
Tear drop after another  
Down my cheeks  
When I remember you  
Reliving all that is good about you  
In a split second, your life flash in front of me  
I can remember vividly how life was  
With you the center of our existence  
I close my eyes and sigh  
With a heavy heart  
I say this life is cruel  
For having taken you away  
While we sit in the warmth of your parenthood  
Forgetting that this life is but a passage rite  
Leaving us with only memories  
Your memories forever planted in our minds  
Your love eternally alive in our hearts  
Mother's love, the greatest love known to mankind  
I, Fezekile, remember you today  
And so is the rest of your folklore  
Themba, the youngest boy  
Forced to grow up by your departure  
Velaphi, the attached one  
Forever regretting what this life has taken from us  
Yet our hearts are at peace  
Pinky, the only daughter left  
To watch over the many young men you left behind  
Sons who were yet to realise that they are men  
Forced into reality by the cruelty of life  
Mlungisi, Velile and Nzimeni  
All bewildered by your journey  
Into the spiritual world  
Where people go, but never come back

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

With bleeding hearts  
Our world turned upside down  
We remember, Mama  
That our journey we must travel  
Guided by your memory  
As you have guided us on this earth  
Two generations of your folklore  
Strongly entrenched and vibrant  
Your legacy, in us  
From Nombulelo to Zanele  
Granddaughters of you, Mama  
To Mlindwa, the only male grandchild  
Promising to take your legacy forward  
To keep your name alive for as long we shall live  
First generation descendants  
Your children  
Second generation children  
The legacy of the Futhwa family  
The bond between amaKwayi le Bataung  
Forever sealed the day lobola was secured  
Giving way to present day generation  
Of men, women and children  
Fond with memories of you, Mama  
For we will always remember  
That you are uNofine, bride of amaKwayi  
Mother to all above  
And mother, we miss you

## 6. On The Verge of Madness

I nearly fell in love  
No, we fell in love  
Fell over ourselves  
Mind, body and soul  
Captivated by this magic  
Magic, we call love

How amazing  
The way we met  
So unconventional  
So unexpected  
Yet, so fulfilling  
It's got you and I written all over

I can't really put my finger on it  
Whatever it is  
This urge to go extreme  
Do things differently  
Despite our beautiful selves  
Indeed it is true  
That do not judge a book by its cover!

What exactly are we to do?  
With these feelings  
This emotion, so great  
Refusing to go away  
No matter how hard we try  
Like it is fate  
It that determines our destiny

You ran away  
Like you were running from danger  
The moment you saw me  
To stay away from who I am  
But what you feel remains  
It grows on you like age grows on our bodies  
As if a curse has been placed on you  
That your love for me shall last  
Into the midst of the unknown

I walked away  
And vowed never to look back  
Looked forward to a future  
I so wished and prayed

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That it has not anything to do with you  
Beautiful one  
Yet time and time again  
My heart reminds me  
Of your presence  
Into the wills of river time

Is it destiny or what  
That which is happening  
Between you and I  
That no matter what we do  
How far we go  
Our paths continue to cross  
To remind us that  
Matters of the heart remain  
To be worked out and cleared

And now I wonder  
About all the troubles we have been through  
And can't help it but wonder  
If it was worth it  
When today I stand here and reflect  
And see time wasted  
Opportunity slipped  
All because of my stubbornness

Why is it that my love for you  
Grows and grows in bounds  
Conveniently ignoring what I think  
And hence I am enslaved  
My heart enslaving me without my opinion solicited  
Seemingly taking control of the situation  
For my stupidity has proved again  
That man can be so careless sometimes

How much time do we have left?  
How many more chances shall fate bounce our way?  
Before we make our minds  
Accept and do what is expected of us  
For my darling  
It is the higher powers at play here  
This game is not mine nor yours  
We are merely players in the game  
That neither you nor me control

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When all of a sudden  
You invade my sleep  
And slip into my dreamland  
Become one with all that I am  
My thoughts, aspirations and hope

You truly have captivated me  
Deep down where feelings are born  
In the core of what we know as the heart  
Your name, your essence  
All engraved in granite  
To remind my soul that you are a soul mate  
And the soul lasts forever

I ask myself and wonder  
On the kind of love this is  
The kind that refuses to die  
Not even an inkling of smoke  
To indicate hope of a subsiding love  
Only going in one direction  
Growing bigger and bolder  
Every time you come into memory

I must concede  
Give way to what things must be  
I am now willing  
After all the troubles I have gone through  
Ready and able to accept this calling  
That I shall stand by your side  
Love and be loved  
As willed and desired by the powers that be

## 7. Vumani Bo!

Ka tla ka keketeha  
Ka tsheha hore ho be ho hlahe leino la mohlare  
O be o bone lelwana hare maane hanong  
Keledi tsona di tsholoha di lelepela marameng  
Kgopo di opa sa letahwa le titikilwe ke batlatlapi  
Setsheho ke setlhare se seholo

What else is there  
So rewarding and fulfilling  
Making the world such a small place  
Like laughter does  
Taking away all troubles and ills  
Throwing them into the dustbins of I-don't-care  
In laughter we heal

Ndihleka ndimoyizela yintsini  
Taking the art of laughter to another level  
Reaching the state of elevation only laughing can bring  
Better than any drug known to man  
It is the state of happiness only known to mad people  
They who know better about happiness  
Ahoy, natural medicine is the best

In each and everyone of us  
There exists a scientist  
Brilliant in madness  
Medicine people, experts at muti  
Spewing one concoction after another  
Sending us high into clouds of ecstasy  
People, there is wisdom in madness

O ho Modimo  
A ko ntlohele nna ke hlanye  
Slip into the pit of madness and stay  
So I can understand life differently  
Experience a higher state of being  
See life for what life is  
And care not for the complexities of man  
How happy mad ones are  
Today I love madness

Hlathe e lelekisa tsebe  
A marathon of facial expressions

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Only my feelings are spectators  
Twisting and turning my muscles  
Into all shapes conceivable  
Only as the sweetness of laughing can bring  
Laughter is a happiness drug

Who dares contradict me  
When I declare to the world  
That all sad people must smile  
All stressed ones must cry  
For crying is the extension of laughter  
Cry out the pain and laugh out the emotions  
Will the people vuma please

Ndithi vumani bo  
Nothing beats the happiness drug  
No muti is stronger than laughing  
No shrink knows better  
Scientists and the whole lost bunch  
Nothing compares, nothing ever will  
Take the laughter muti, anytime

Have you ever seen anyone  
More happy than a child's happiness  
A true state of freedom for human species  
Experienced by a few of grown up people  
For people have forgotten what it's like  
To be a child and care free  
To laugh without any boundaries

People of the world  
Hear me and hear me now  
Brew your own pitsa of seqhaqhabola  
The strongest of mutis by our native doctors  
In laughter we heal  
Laughter heals

## 8. The Best of Times, The Worst of Times

Many many moons ago  
When this person, in the form of me  
Was brought into this world  
It was the best of times  
Celebrated with offerings  
To the Gods of my people  
It was the best of times

My growth, in the eyes of my parents  
The eyes of society  
My elders, ooTata nooMama  
Was the pride of a hunter  
For I was like game in the sport of life  
Sport played by the most experienced of all  
My elders and Gods alike  
It was for the best of times

Now all grown up  
A man in my own right  
Indoda yokwenene  
For I now am called uMkwayi  
The highest honour bestowed  
To the people of my clan  
It is the best of times

In all of the summers  
Winters and autumns I have seen  
My life has been like the seasons of the year  
Sharply contrasting and negating  
Like lives of strangers into one  
Indeed, some things remain foreign to me  
Like I was dreaming  
Just an actor in this strange sequel

My life has been marred by mysteries  
Happiness and joys like that of children  
Laughter and companionships like that of lovers  
The best of times for a man  
The best of times for any man  
It was for the best of times

At times, too good to be true  
Life blissful, bright and great

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Signifying the best of life  
If all things balance in your life  
Sithi icamagu livumile  
And blessed you are  
The Gods are with you

Only if I could learn to listen  
Only if my ears could hear  
Only if my mind were wise enough  
To understand what the universe  
Is telling me, at all times  
Forget not that I too  
Am of this world  
Unyana womthonyama

In the face of success  
Languishing in wealth  
Ndisitya inyama nomhluzi  
Hunger and poverty unknown to me  
Forgotten who I was  
Lost touch with reality  
It can only guarantee one thing  
The wrath of the Gods

Ndafulathelwa ngamawethu  
My ancestors deeply disappointed  
At this descendant who needs teaching  
On the lessons of success  
At appreciating iziphiwo  
That your success or failure  
On us it rests, nyana waseMakwayini  
Thina izinyanya zakowenu

And so it was the worst of times  
Ukufulathelwa ngamathongo  
Lonesome you become  
Lost, like an antelope marked for death  
Cruel is the laws of nature  
Static yet well understood  
For they have been with us for generations  
Inqumbo yeminyanya indeed

It was the best of times  
This my life  
It was the worst of times  
My experiences in life

## **Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression**

Intertwined and criss crossing  
Canceling each other  
For a balanced life  
Good and bad experiences  
Grounding me, setting the foundation  
Of this life I live today  
For it was the worst of times  
It is the best times

## 9. Toothless Grin

Smiling onto myself  
Grinning by myself  
Smile wide, reaching for the cheeks  
Cheeks outstretched, touching the ears  
Eyes strained, shining with tears  
What a beautiful sight

Giggling, giggling and some more  
Beautiful laughter unto the giggler  
Laughing out all emotion  
Happiness written all over the face  
Clear face, filled with content  
Naughty face of the giggler

How innocent an infant laughs  
How pure is thy expression  
Care free, fully spirited  
The sight of that toothless mouth  
Gums gleaming with saliva  
Reddish, dark brownish gums  
Humming an arrhythmical song  
Only understood by the composer  
And henceforth the singer  
Bouncing, rolling and pushing  
All the while showing a beautiful grin  
A toothless grin of the innocent

I am touched, moved  
Find myself shedding tears involuntarily  
Heart pumping with joy, excitement  
Tears of joy, happiness ecstasy  
At what my eyes see  
Happiness unabated  
This one tooth grin I see

The old wise face  
Lines running down in stripes  
Shapes that twist and twirl in earnest  
Marks of wisdom, marks of age  
Decades and ages of time  
Time lapsed, window to the past  
The laughing face of my intelligent old  
Granny, uncle and aunt

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Laughing off all of life's misgivings  
Displaying one, two or countless teeth  
Scattered over in the mouth  
Diametrically opposed to the science of eating  
Like playful markings of art  
Half tooth smiling grin of my pride

Seeing all this, I am awe struck  
Tears run down my cheeks  
Full with emotion, laughing crying  
Mixed emotions of joy, elation and appreciation  
Crying and laughing at the same time  
Seeing this beauty with my eyes  
Transporting me back to my infancy years  
Day dreaming my old age  
For in them I see two version of me  
The young, the old  
Grinning, laughing mme ba keketeha  
At the sight of a toothless grin

## 10 .Sexy Ways

In this cruel world  
Filled with dishonesty  
Greed and lust  
Loose morals  
I shudder to think  
About the pride the nation

In this universe  
Filled with glamour  
Money and ridicule  
Where sex is recreational  
And intimacy exists not  
I fear for the future

In this space  
When girls shall chase groove  
At any cost, whatever it takes  
Happiness for now  
And tomorrow forgotten  
Fun is their reality  
And tomorrow filled with regret  
I tremble on their behalf

When people are so obsessed with sex  
Sex they think  
Sex they do  
Sex they sell  
Sex they feel  
Indeed, they are sexy themselves

Sex, sex and more sex  
Sex obsession  
Sex lust  
Anything sex will do  
For sex is the thing

How forgetful can people be  
That sex is fun  
But fun is never sex  
That tomorrow will surely come  
But the sex will expire  
And the body shall give up

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Today's pleasures  
Do not guarantee the future

## 11. Beyond Happiness

Eyes twinkling with glee  
Shining with tears of joy  
Dimples drawn on my cheeks  
Like works of art  
Skillfully crafted especially for me  
So much joy, life and sunshine

I possess an aura  
An air of delight  
So much brightness in my life  
About me  
Happiness knows no bounds

My heart is free  
My mind clear  
My soul liberated  
I smile, giggle and laugh  
Spreading love and happiness  
The world needs more  
Of this ancient cure

What exactly is happiness?  
Is it the smiles, painted over my face  
The delight, felt in my heart  
The joy, living in my soul  
Or the peacefulness that reins in my body

What I feel  
Is beyond happiness  
It feels supreme and ultimate  
Like there is nothing above  
No other state of emotion  
Higher or better  
Known to man

## 12. Loneliness

I am lonely  
I feel lonely  
Lone, alone, lonely  
Like I long for something  
Something unknown to me  
Yet my soul longs  
Longs for the unknown beauties  
Beauty only my imagination can dream  
Visible only to my eyes  
The goodness that brings hope  
The light that brightens my spirits  
Spirit high, mood jolly  
Reality that exist only my mind  
While real reality, physical one  
Remain kinky, shaky  
At times unbearable, burdensome  
Like a heavy heart  
A heart of longing  
Lonely heart  
Lone, alone and lonely

### 13. My Worth To You

My mind bothers me  
With this curiosity  
The need to know  
However good or bad  
The news might be

I have a need  
To sort out this  
Nagging feeling  
A feeling I can't shake  
No matter what I do  
It as persistent as a thorny bush

On the surface  
We seem happy  
Very content with who we are  
Our union, cruising on the love radar  
As stable as any economy  
During the bull market

Or is it?  
Our union, as solid as I think  
Or is it just appearances  
We, us, you, me  
Just like the US economy  
Looking so very strong  
Yet so weak  
Crumbling under the pressures of globalisation

As much as I know you care  
I could vouch for that  
You do care about me  
But how much exactly?  
Is your caring about me

Do you care about me  
Or do you care for me?  
For I can't help but feel

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

That you only care about me  
Like a friend cares about another

If I were a commodity  
Like gold or platinum is  
Traded on the stock exchange  
The JSE or whatever bourse  
How much would you trade for me?  
How much value would you attach to me?

Humor me, let's play  
This little game called measures  
Let me understand how things are  
Let me understand where we stand  
Or rather, where I stand with you

Uncertainties are hard times  
As tough as our economic situation  
When our stock market loses its value overnight  
Instantly rendering people bankrupt  
A crash they call it  
Economists prefer to call it a recession

I therefore hope you understand  
My difficulty of not knowing  
Where I stand with you  
Deep down in me  
It feels more than a crash  
More like a tsunami

If love were a river  
How deep would yours be  
Is it ankle deep?  
More like knee high?  
Waist deep  
Or too deep to describe

Your blank face  
The quietness  
Says all the things you can't say

## **Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression**

My answers, written on your face  
How amazing, but sad  
That I learn the truth  
Without a word coming from you

## 14. Who Am I To Judge

Who am I to judge  
People and their people ways  
The ways people do things people do  
And how things are done by people  
The people, people and persons  
All seem so the same to me

Who do I think I am  
To question the things that people do  
When they declare that theirs is the only way  
That they know best, best I listen  
For they are the people of this world  
People of the world indeed!

When I watch in despair  
Helpless, unbelievable  
As my ways of life gradually decimate  
Relegated into nothingness  
A big gaping hole in my heart  
Heart bleeding with grief  
A heavy heart is a purposeful heart  
Be warned and heed the warning

Who am I to judge  
That their ways are not good for me?  
That their speaking in tongues is classy  
That their forced religion is superior  
That their God is truly Godly  
Who am I to judge

I can only look and wonder  
How come civilisation is so destructive?  
I wonder if being harmful to our planet is good  
I wonder if education equate better person  
Can't help but wonder how does science improve the world  
For it is science that polluted the environment  
But what do I know?  
I am but just me

I was raised to respect  
All and sundry, to respect  
Respect, respectable, respectful  
And so I love unreservedly

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Believing in the inherent good in others  
Like nature believed in me  
That I am good enough  
And so I shall be rewarded with nature's love

Beautiful air, to breathe  
Trees, to shade me from the sun  
Fruits, to nourish me  
Honey, to sweeten me  
So I can sweet talk others  
Rain, to refresh and replenish  
Winter and storms to humble me  
To remind me that I am but me

I am wonderfully wondering  
Like wanderers wondering past  
Lost in the wonderings of their minds  
Where this road shall lead them  
For we all seem to be wondering  
One way or the other  
We all are wanderers

From judges affirming my wonder  
Judging differently based on who you are  
A judgment remains a judgment  
So I continue to wonder  
And to ask the question  
Who am I to judge

But as I ask the question  
Who am I to judge  
How long shall it be  
That I am judged by others  
Denounced, humiliated, dehumanised  
Only because I choose to be me  
Me and me alone, without any apology  
As willed by the gods of my land  
As seen by my forbearers  
As decreed by the laws of nature  
That I am I, me and myself alone  
But then again, who am I to judge

## 15. Sally

How amazing  
How wonderful  
How exhilarating  
Truly tantalising  
Knowing you is

Every time I set my eyes  
On that gorgeous face  
Is gorgeous even the right word  
To explain this beauty in my eyes  
With that tanned complexion  
I can't help but affirm  
That God is truly great

Every time you smile my dear  
Ke otlwa ke letswalo  
That dimple, truly amazing  
Like God had purpose  
When you ended up with only one dimple  
Two is too many for you  
Such a perfect beauty spot!  
And my heart races  
Skips beats, my blood boils  
Like I am about to explode  
With excitement

And that voice, oh my!  
I am fixated, mesmerised  
It reaches deep down in my soul  
It awakens my deepest of senses  
Like I could hear it over and over  
To satisfy this my unending desire  
To always listen to you talk

Every time I look at you, dearest  
That body, that sexy figure  
Ke haroha letswalo  
Like my greatest desires have been fulfilled  
Desire to hold you  
Desire to feel you  
Desire just to be with you  
Your presence to me is god like

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

How exciting life can be  
That I am this blessed  
To know ya, to be known by ya  
For what friends are for  
And for what feelings are  
Never playful, never pretentious  
Truly you and just you

How amazing  
How wonderful  
How exhilarating  
Truly tantalising  
Knowing you is

## 16. Subtle Beauty

Blessed is a humble soul  
One which appreciates  
Grateful, gracious  
Contend with who they are  
Full of emotion  
Self conscious

Fully aware of their being  
Eerily alert and observant  
Taking in all that life dishes  
Moving on in strides  
Being who they are  
No pretenses, no half truths  
Selfless, true, human

Beauty hidden, subtle  
Never too loud, never shouting  
Beauty you must find  
Search, seek and figure out  
This beautiful beauty  
Subtle, warm and patient  
In whose eyes this beauty glistens

Such is god like  
Spiritual, spirited and in high spirits  
Only seen by eyes that see  
Eyes that see, insightful  
For this beauty they cannot miss  
They glitter at the sight  
Of this sullen beauty

## 17. The Girl I Once Knew

In my short but long life  
Or is it long but short life?  
However long or short, life it was  
And I will forever be grateful  
Graceful, grateful and gracious  
For this life that I live

This life, took me places to experience  
This life, gave me memories to remember  
This life, given me sight to see and adore  
This life, gave me the imagination to dare dream  
This life, gave me a name to be remembered  
And in this life, people I met  
Ruri bona bophelo bo matono mapesa.

I once knew a girl  
This girl I once met  
The girl I so desperately wanted to know  
Be part of, and become part of me  
She was wrapped in brown skin  
Skin that comes in all textures  
All shades of brown

Sometimes brown as motherly earth  
Sometimes brownie as sweet chocolate  
At times tanned like the sun  
The source of life on earth  
Ba re o butsweditse ka hare  
Sa tlhaku ya tekwane

In her, beauty you can see  
Eyes wide, lips thick and a shapely face  
O maramarama sa poropotlwana ya lesea  
Lebonyo la hae le qhibidihisa pelo  
Like mist when the sun shines  
Ha a panya teng, pelo e ya tebetebela  
Sa ditsomi di behile letsa merebele  
Ruri, she is an Afrikan beauty  
Enwa yena e feela e le kgaitsemi ya basotho

The daughter of the soil  
Brownie as the soil, fertile soil

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Beautiful as the fruits of the earth  
Motherly as nature itself

Pure beauty, beautiful and purified  
Botle ba konyana e hloka sekodi (purity as a young sheep)  
Meno a masweu, mahlo a boleya (teeth white, eyes puffy)  
Mme tshwao la bottle lona, perfect! (and thy beauty spot)  
Botle ba diatla tsa mmopi (beautiful is the hands of the creator)  
Ho wena kgaitsemi, nnake (in you sis, companion)  
Ke bona tsena tsohle, (i see all of these)  
Ho wena, the girl I once knew. (in you)

## 18. How Can This Be

I met a girl, and a girl she was  
Short, plump and stout  
Light skinned, light hearted  
A carefree person, one with so much energy  
Energy that always electrify my body

We talked and chatted  
We laughed and had laughter  
We joked and made jokes  
How wonderful it was  
These isolated moments  
As innocent as they were  
A very big part of my life

I would sit at home and wonder  
Think and imagine  
Dream and wish  
About this girl I met  
And I always wondered  
How can this be?

I have only known this girl  
For a brief moment, for a short period  
Yet she remains in my thoughts  
I sit and think, about this girl  
This girl, who invades my thoughts  
And then I find myself wondering  
How possibly can this be?

This girl that I don't know  
Takes so much of my time  
My thoughts, my imagination  
My beautiful thoughts  
My precious thoughts  
Yet she remains illusive  
How real can this be  
I wonder all the time

How can this be?  
How can this girl, this Nomonde  
Be so bold, and be so strong  
That she invades my space  
My precious memories

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Yet she remains just a girl I know  
I wonder, how can this be  
This cannot be

And then I see her  
She is so beautiful  
So humble and thoughtful  
Teasing me, she likes  
So into my mind I can't concentrate  
Once again, she has dominated my being  
My thoughts and my dreams  
And I wonder once more  
How can this be?

So I must ask you  
You, the girl I know  
The one who lives in my thoughts  
How possible could this be  
That you have invaded my space  
My privacy, my world  
Yet you remain illusive  
How much I wonder about this  
How can this ever be?

So I must know from you  
The girl I happen to know  
What shall become of me  
Of us, thina sodwa  
With this misery all over me  
My mind invaded,  
My space taken  
My happiness in your hands  
How can this be?

I have tried so much  
To reclaim my thoughts  
To garner strength  
To even forget about you  
The girl that I know  
But all seems to be in vain  
For you remain as illusive as ever  
As invasive as I can remember  
And from you I must know  
Once and for all  
For better or worse  
How can this be?

## 19. The Gods Have Spoken

Last night I dreamt  
I dreamt a dream never to be forgotten  
The dream of a lifetime  
For as long as I live  
This dream shall be engraved  
On this my memory  
Like a young child holding selfishly to a sweet, setokswiti.

I could swear this dream was real life  
For it felt like I was awake  
With all my senses alive  
Jubilation nolonwabo  
At what my eyes saw  
Or what I think my eyes saw  
Last night, in my dream

Indeed I am blessed  
Rewarded and splashed  
With all wonderful things  
My life, my health  
My vision, my breath  
My sight with all it sees  
God is good

Was it really sleep  
Or was it vision?  
For I saw all the great people of my clan  
Amakwayi le Bataung  
My mother, grandmother and uncles  
All past and gone  
Gone where people go  
Faces bright with smiles  
Eyes glowing with elation  
Ruri ke tlotlehile today

My dreams took me to places great  
Unimaginable places of tomorrow  
Places reserved for the best of my people  
Indeed, I feel blessed this morning  
I have seen the light  
I have seen greatness  
Blessed is this my day

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

So today I am all smiles and kisses  
Hugging and tickling  
Those around me  
Passing this my energy  
For what we need  
Is good laughter and memories  
And good memories I have seen  
Last night, in that dream

Good wishes  
Be to all I know  
And to all whom I am known  
For the spirits of my ancestors  
Have said to me:  
Nyana, this day is about good deeds  
And your responsibilities to society  
Be a living example to those who come behind you

So today I broadly smile  
To bless those around me  
With this message from the spirit world  
That all it takes is but one person  
To effect change, and change we seek  
Dedicating this my birthday  
To all those I know  
And all to whom I am known

## 20. Bafana Bafana

Yesterday watched soccer  
For the first time ever in my life  
I took interest in our national sport  
To be patriotic, to be a proud citizen  
Whatever my views of Bafana Bafana  
Watched I did

It was the best of times  
For everyone had written them off  
Last nights' match was a formality  
And yet again, we were proven wrong  
Like so many times in our history  
That South Afrika is a country of contradictions

It was the best of times  
To see such passion, commitment  
With which our boys played  
I am humbled  
It was the worst of times  
To lose that game  
A loss is a loss  
Which ever way you look at it

But it was for the best of times  
That a national was made proud  
Brilliant soccer, brilliant play  
Only luck was not on our side  
There is dignity in humility  
Yes we lost, but we remain victorious  
It was for the best of our times  
To witness the match

## 21. Brown Skin

How proud I am  
That I am born of this race  
That my lineage beckons  
On me to acknowledge  
That this nation that I am born of  
Is truly great

How truly boastful I am  
That you are of my race  
This race so different  
Yet so similar  
Shades of brown  
Human skeletons in variations  
Brown shades, Afrikan indeed

Yours is lightly tanned  
Like the rays of the sun  
In the morning when the sun shines  
Or at dusk when the sun sets  
Signifying the start of life  
Or resignation from the days' events

That skin of yours  
So smooth, perfect  
Free from cancer  
Free from sun burn  
Free from blemishes  
Freedom of Afrika  
Afrikan freedom

How gorgeous you look  
My dear, dearest one  
In thy light bright skin  
Or is it tanned brown?  
Or is it just brown?  
Whatever brown it may be  
You are gorgeous  
Like only an Afrikan can  
You, my Afrikan beauty  
Darling dearest

How amazing  
How tantalising

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

That beauty can be this beautiful  
Gorgeously gorgeous  
Perfectly smooth  
Simply the best  
And the best you are  
To this my brown eyes  
Eyes out of my brown skin  
Brown, as your gorgeous self  
Wrapped in thy brown skin

## 22. Black Economic dis-Empowerment

Kuthiwa nibasabe, nibalumkele.  
Ba fetoha sa mampeshe  
Ke maloma fodisa.  
These politicians of it Mzantsi.  
Bathe ngezisu ezinkulu  
Like women waiting in labour  
To deliver that gift, that beautiful baby.  
Only they deliver to themselves  
Imali bayehlisa ngomlenze  
Benza iPEE  
Yona iPersonal Enrichment Entity  
Sold to the masses as BEE  
Black Economic dis-Empowerment  
Bambi bathi yiBBBEE  
Broad Based Black Economic dis-Empowerment  
Lefa la dithoto le jewa ke ba bohlale  
Political honchos, heavyweights  
No lightweights accepted  
For thins amalightweight sibityile  
We are a disgrace to Black Economic Empowerment  
Too skinny, too thin  
Only big boned individuals welcome  
Comrades in arms, comrades in tenders  
Amaqabane, like we used to be  
During the days of the freedom dance  
Sixhentsa, re hobela  
Sicula lelizwe lizobuya  
Only for amaqabane to reign  
Your political affiliation determines isonka sakho  
Counter revolutionaries we are  
For questioning them politics  
And them wayward ways  
Leaving me ndidanile  
Disbelieving what my eyes see  
Whether this is the freedom we fought  
If this is the promised land

## 23. Fatherless Children

Everywhere I go  
I see mothers clinging to their babies  
So passionately bringing up the young  
Alone, in soul  
Alone, physically  
And lonesome the poor woman is

I see young children running about  
Poor things, oblivious to harsh realities  
So innocent, such gentle souls  
Touching even the hardest heart  
Poor cute little things

Kanti baphi oobaba?  
When children run around  
Struggle and suffer  
Never to know what a father is

What happened to the men of this world  
When they all seem to run away from responsibility  
They care not for their children anymore  
They couldn't be bothered  
With responsibilities of fatherhood  
These un-fatherly fathers of today

Children seem to break their style  
Take out all the fun they want  
Like young children learning to love  
Only they are grown-ups  
Parents with kids who know not them  
Parents whose children have never known them  
Though they long to see their parents  
Poor children born of these rascals

And so these poor souls, innocent kids  
Grow up never to know a father figure  
And many grow to despise men  
For it is them the cause of their sufferings  
Just because men are afraid  
Afraid to be men that they are

I see these men having fun  
Attached to a string of mistresses

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Spending and splashing money about  
Forgetting to send even a penny for their kids  
Disowning children from their loins  
And the women who bore them

And society is burdened  
By poor kids with no one to take care of  
Yet their fathers are BEE magnates  
Men of stature, men of status  
Yet men of no honour  
Men who have forgotten what it takes to be a man

My heart bleeds, my soul weeps  
My mind is disturbed  
To see men become boys  
Boys in men's statures  
Men who have forgotten  
The basic law of parenthood  
To love and protect  
Those whose trust lies in you

## 24. I Must Be Guilty

Guilt, guilty  
He is guilty  
He must be guilty  
He looks guilty  
Guilty or not, we find him guilty

So they say  
And they proclaim  
In this land of my fathers  
That a son shall be found guilty  
By public opinion,  
However small that public maybe

People take a look at me  
And decide I must be guilty  
It must something about me  
Something I do, or have  
That makes me guilty all the time

Whether I committed any act  
Is immaterial  
Fact and evidence don't matter  
When this son of the soil is on trial  
It is the commentary and analysis that matter  
Our institutions forgotten  
Our courts accomplices in this injustice  
While the evidence is cooked and supplied  
Just to prove that this soul must be guilty

It must be something about me  
It must be a gift  
Or is it a curse?  
That I shall look this guilty all the time  
I am guilty first  
And evidence must clear my name  
Yet the law says  
I am innocent 'till proven guilty

Sometimes I wish to vacate this my skin  
For the longing to be left alone  
To have my peace  
Just for a day, be treated like a human  
To know justice and just cause

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

That all men are equal before the law  
That all men are equal in the eyes of the gods

How ironic, how contradictory  
That a country so liberal  
Proclaimed the best in the world  
Where human rights are fundamental  
That I, a black child  
In my own land  
Must suffer the indifference of law  
Wickedness, dehumanisation and cruelty  
Just because I possess a guilty look  
Whatever a guilty look looks like

A guilty look, a suspicious look  
All brought about by the fact that I am black  
Black in a black man's land  
Black in a democratic country  
Black and guilty  
For in my blackness there must be some guilt  
I must therefore be presumed guilty  
By all institutions of state  
Until I alone can prove my innocence  
Because as a black man  
I look so guilty  
That guilt befits me  
And therefore I must be guilty

## 25. Londiwe

Teasing she likes  
Teasing she enjoys  
Seems like she finds solace in teasing  
And I am the subject of her teases  
Me this, me that  
I wonder why

I cannot help but laugh  
As hurtful these teases may be  
Her voice always soothes  
I am content, peaceful and appreciative  
Of the fact  
The fact that she is she  
And me just me

Two different people  
Paths crossing, souls touching  
Miraculously affecting the inner being  
Special she is, lovely she is  
She is as simple as they come  
Wonderfully sweet  
Igagu ngempela lentombi  
But humble, and that I like

Down to earth  
Like only African women are  
Motherly, sisterly, a lover  
Loveable, loving and loved  
By me, I and myself

## 26. My Better Half

Time can be so cruel  
It passes by so quickly  
That I wonder if I may have been dreaming  
But then I realise it brought me today  
Another chance to smile and giggle  
All in fond memory of the beauty of my better half  
Your memories that always bring a brought smile  
Warm and kind smile  
Painted on this my face  
Visible by the toothed grin I display  
Indicating the excitement that runs in my veins  
Reaching every part of my body  
Like the speed of light  
When the clouds give way to light  
Like the brightness basking on my face  
Forgetful of everything  
Time frozen, life paused  
Taking a screen shot of the present  
The present moment, my reality  
The real memory of you and all you represent  
And for once I am victorious  
Victory over time, the clock  
My victory, my heroic moment  
Lingering on forever  
To make this moment real  
Forever cast in my life  
The present of today  
And the future of tomorrow  
Fond memories of the one  
The one who brings this smile to this face  
That one who is my better half

## 27. Paying for the Sins of my Father

Indeed this world is cruel  
It dishes me with most foul  
Of things ever seen  
All because of what happened before me  
Things I can bear no witness to

Why must a son pay for the sins of his father?  
I am me and father is he  
Yet the world judges me by the deeds of my father  
He who abandoned his responsibilities  
And left us to our peril

Me, my siblings and my mother have suffered  
Experienced the worst of life's happenings  
Because he who I call father, had disowned us  
He had left and forgot about us  
Those he call his family  
Abandoned and left to the whims of fate

I too have suffered  
In all this cruelty dished by he I call father  
Yet society see in me what my father did  
Forgetting that I also suffered  
In this cruel deed of he I call my father

For how long will a son pay  
For the cruel deeds of his father  
Was it not enough that he also suffered  
Like every member of his family  
Went through high and low  
Just because a man was not man enough

When shall the time come  
When I, son of the father who abandoned me  
Be remembered for who I am  
And not for who my father is, or was  
For a man is a man in his own right  
Never living in the shadow of someone else

This life is a double edged sword  
My life, dishing double sufferings for me  
First it was he I called father  
Now it is the society

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

That continually denies me my rights as a man  
For in me they see the cruel deeds of my father  
Forgetting that I too am a man

All I have ever wanted in life  
Was to be seen for who I am  
And never judged by other people's standards  
Or what they did in their lives  
But be seen for the person that I am  
For I am my own person  
I am a man in my own right

## 28. What They Get They Deserve

Waking up from this dream  
Life they call it  
Full of mysteries  
Full of surprises  
And full of life

I can't help but wonder  
If all things I get in life  
All I see and feel  
My experiences  
Are meant to be

When things go awry  
All blurred and bleak  
Like there is no more hope  
I can't help but wonder  
If what I get I deserve

They say life is a blessing  
Like a great gift from the gods  
Sun the god of light  
The Moon, god of darkness  
Like the Stars, trusted servants of Moon the god  
What we get is what we deserve

As things shine and sparkle  
Like your life has taken a twist  
Trapped in success and greatness  
Reaping the rewards of good harvest  
As enshrined on you by the high spirits  
I can't help but wonder  
If what you get you don't deserve

Right in the middle of mayhem  
Tensions running high  
People intolerable of indifference  
Brothers up in arms against the other  
As if the world has come to an end  
I stand up wondering if  
What we get we don't deserve

**29. Remember Someone**

I woke up sad, with a troubled face  
Breath heavy, wounded soul  
Thoughts troubled, mind slow  
I could tell this was a bad day  
On days like these  
It helps to remember someone  
That someone special  
So special they make you smile  
Make your day shine with happiness  
And on this brim day  
I care to remember that someone  
You

### 30. My Heritage

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder  
So says the prophecy  
So says the wise men, and women  
Proverbs, wisdom of past  
Wiser than wise  
True to form  
Truly true and forthright

The beginning, the start  
Creation, genesis  
Pure, unhampered  
As original as the word origin  
Originating from the beginning  
And starting from the origins  
Pure is pure  
It requires no qualification

My people are the people  
The people are mine  
I am one of them  
I am a person  
Creature of creation  
Deeply rooted in custom  
Culture and norms  
Only like my people are

I am of a rich past  
Heritage so great and historical  
One to be told by historians  
Like my grandmother telling night stories  
Sitting warmly by the open fire  
Reciting stories of greats  
My people, her people  
My hereditary

Mine is ever lasting  
Passing from one generation to another  
Creating bonds among my people  
Bonds of family, relationships  
Bonds unshaken, made in blood  
Bonding my people together  
Sharing all of life's treasures

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Speech is revered by my people  
Voices of wisdom, of knowledge  
Grey heads our sources of pride  
Passing their knowledge, teaching us  
What the meaning of life is  
What life means, to us, to me  
Wise people of my clan

Telling me that history is important  
That your past makes you  
That my pride is my heritage  
And that knowledge is my wealth  
Knowledge of who you are  
Me, you, us  
Our rich heritage beckoning

## 31. See The World Through The Eyes Of A Child

A child is the most grateful of all  
Of all creatures that occupy the world  
No pretences, no shortcuts  
A child sees things in simple terms  
And for that, there is no apology

Food is all a child cares for  
A full stomach means the world  
And for this, you shall be loved  
Unconditionally, wholeheartedly  
A full child is a happy child

A care giver is like God to the child  
In fact, God the Highest is unknown  
For only the care giver matters  
And is God like in the eyes of the child  
Representing the ultimate  
The source of life

A child cares not for your profession  
Doctor, engineer or billionaire  
To a child, you will always be a person  
A person that provides for them  
A child sees only the person in you  
Never the professional that you are

One who is loved by children  
Is a loveable person  
That you can trust  
For a child is the highest being  
Their senses of intuition greater than of men  
Love what a child loves

The world is simple  
Our planet, the planet earth  
For the child sees only  
What gives life on earth  
And nothing else

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

And cares only for survival

## 32. The Rough Road

I thought they said time heals  
I thought kuthwe all in good time  
Time, inyanga yazo zonke izinto  
Kwathiwa ithemba nalo alilahlwa  
And so I find myself sitting comfortably  
Hoping and expecting  
That in time, me too  
Shall be healed, like the prophecies declare  
They were wrong!

Only if I knew  
That this of mine is timeless  
What I feel, right inside of me  
Timeless, like the river time itself  
Only I can feel its effects  
Day in day out  
Heart beats that are faster than fast

I am a mixture of emotions  
Just like a bag of mixed veggies  
Feelings pacing up and down  
Deep down in the valleys of my heart  
Right in the chamber of my feelings  
Emotions that drive me crazy  
Like I could rip out this heart of mine  
Hold it in my hands before my eyes  
And command it to never again  
Never shall it torture me like a slave  
While I remain its master

Such is the hash reality of being a man  
Noxa kusithwa indoda ayikhali  
Kunzima ukuba yindoda  
Sometimes crying seems so right, so appealing  
Kodwa ndizothini, yimeko!  
I wish you could see the walls of my heart  
See the winds and whirls down there  
Ripping and toring me apart  
For even my words can't explain  
Kodwa I try

Ngezinye iinkathi kuthi mangikhale  
Ngikhale okwengani encane

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Ngikhale ngize ngiphelelwe zizinyembezi  
Hoping to cry out what I feel  
For the worst form of torture known to man  
Is feelings, emotions  
They eat away at my soul  
My peace of mind and happiness  
Constantly reminding me that there is unfinished business  
Unfinished business with one voluptuous lady  
Whom I have bid for time

But time it seems  
Is fast running out for me  
For I can no longer hold myself  
Any more pain and I would die  
Die a slow death  
Death from heart break  
Death from diseases of the heart  
Feelings running deeper than the ocean  
Habe, ngikhulule we ntombazane!  
Ngizwile yilento, kwanele  
For it is peace I want  
My heart longs  
Let things be  
As nature has decreed

One day while sitting blissfully  
Minding my own business  
Oblivious to all things and everyone  
Focusing all my attentions to this and that  
Whatever it is I was doing  
Suddenly tears roll down my cheeks  
They pour down like heavy rain in summer  
Involuntary tears of longing  
Reminding me that I have this unfinished business  
With one Nqobile ka Mathebula!

Suddenly I am disoriented  
Thoughts come rushing in abundance  
Like I am having a war of thoughts!  
All thoughts fighting bravely in my head  
For my attention, for me to recognise them  
Thoughts reminding me that Fezekile uyindoda  
Kumele wenze okuthize about this situation  
For we cannot afford this suffering any longer  
Enough is enough!!

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Phakama mfondini uqonde eThekwini  
Khona uyolungisa iindaba zakho  
Ze uxelele le ntombi  
Izindaba zobudoda  
Utsho usithi kuye:  
Nxe nkosazana  
Yiba nozisi torwana  
This poor soul has had enough  
Have messy on me  
What more shall I say to you  
To express this that eats away at me  
Like ants eating away at prey  
Only I am prey to matters of the heart  
It that knows no boundaries  
Longing for what it longs for  
And you are a constant reminder  
Of what this heart seeks

### 33. Happy Birth Day President Thabo Mbeki

#### Tedu Putswa wa Heso

Ndiyacamagusha, ndiyanqula  
Kule mini yanamhlanje  
Praise be to those great  
Tlotla be given to our Wise Ones  
I see you Tata, I see you Mkhulu

Blessed we are  
We, descendants of Hintsa  
For this greatness upon us  
Greatness so great  
Greater than great  
Unyana wase maXhoseni  
uZizi, uDlamini

The high laws of my tribe says:  
Elder people are revered  
For the grey heads symbolises  
A Godly stature  
Only as Africans can  
Pay tribute kwiziNgwevu zakowethu

My spirit is elevated  
Higher than the highest of the worlds  
Both living and dead  
Planet earth, worlds of the Spirits  
To witness this day  
Day of reckoning  
Day of remembrance

When Afrika pays its respects  
When Mzantsi observes  
The world watches in complete awe!  
This day shall always be remembered  
By me and generations to come  
As the day our Greats walked the earth  
Like the higher Gods, Gods of good  
Ewe kaloku, zona Izinyanya zakowethu

Sir, you are truly great  
Like our proverbs declare:  
"Hlonepha moriri o mosweu"

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Today I am humbled  
For me, just an ordinary me  
To pay my humble respects  
Ndisithi o hole o be o kgokgobel!

Wena Qheku la ha Motsitsi  
Wena motjhana Basotho  
Re roka re re uZizi uDlamini  
E le ha re boka re bile re tlotla  
Bokgabane le dintle tsa hao  
Wena monna mosepedi

On this great day  
A symbol of your coming into this world  
Many many moons past  
We salute you  
Re ema ka motlotlo  
Re bile re hoa re re eo ke motjhana rona  
Wena Zizi Dlamini  
Tsatsing le na la hao la tswalo

Meokgo ya ka e ya keketla  
Dikeledi tsa me di rotha sa metsi  
A lelemela mohla pula ya ditlwebelele  
Ho mme e na ya ka meokgo  
Ke sesupo sa teboho  
Ka mpho eo re e filweng ke Modimo le Badimo  
Ka wena Qhekwana leso le masene

Ke re le bo Phokojwe ka sebele  
Ba ingola meno hle  
Ka ha Tedu Putswa o ba feta hole hole!  
Ka mahlale le ona maqitolo  
Thanks be to the gods  
For giving us this great gift  
In the form of your person

### 34. Mampharwane

My head spins with rhythm  
My mind sings a song  
A song rings in memory  
So hard to forget  
Totally unforgettable

No matter what I do  
No matter where I go  
This song just keeps buzzing  
So attractive, so appealing  
I just wanna let my head down  
To sing and get lost in song

I remember the days  
When I was a young boy  
A care-free soul  
Running around in song  
Song sang at great gatherings  
Thanksgiving and the like  
What a song, what a rhythm

I can resist no more  
The words of joy, words of beauty  
Listen to these words  
As they ring in your ears  
Flow with memories  
Delivering me in dreamland  
Where memories become reality

Mampharwane mampharwane  
Suwasuwa lekoko  
Sang delightedly by elders  
Women, mothers, sisters and daughters  
Dancing rhythmically to the song  
Drawn and transported in song  
Remembering the great reptile  
Mampharwane the old one

In dancing is ritual  
In song we pray  
In rhythm we communicate  
Riddles upon riddles of wisdom

## Rhythm and Soul – A Spiritual Expression

Spoken to both young and old  
Carrying with it the message  
An appeal to the great old reptile  
To transform, to adapt  
For change is a constant in time

Mampharwane the oldest of known reptiles  
Tough, resilient and a survivor  
It has lived in pre-time era  
It lives today  
It may never be tomorrow  
Mampharwane the symbol of legacy  
Of old yet strikingly familiar  
A contradiction of being  
Riddled in riddles of the wise  
Riddles, encoded messages of elders

Oh I remember this song  
With a heavy heart  
Happy memories of beautiful voices  
Female voices singing in harmony  
Producing sounds so divine to my ears  
Music so soothing, revitalising  
Song of Mampharwane the great

### 35. Shit I am Good!

I have lived a long life  
This life I have lived  
I have seen many things  
I have heard many things  
Tasted, felt and experienced  
For that is what they say life is about  
The ups and downs  
Them which make us who we are  
What a load of nonsense!  
I am who I am  
This I have been since I was born  
This I will remain till my departure  
Me me and me  
And there is no one like me  
I am me, take it or leave it  
I don't bargain  
Shit! I must be good  
When God created me  
Ensuring that no one is ever like me  
Shit! I must be good  
Like I just woke from a dream  
The realisation that I am unique  
I am me and nobody else  
I live my life by my standards  
I see things my way  
God, am I great or what?  
Given a million choices  
Of things I could become  
I choose to be me  
Damn, I must be good  
That I don't desire anything else but me  
Shit, I am good



ISBN: 978-0-620-46379-9