

## Poetry of Regeneration: Reflections on the Waning Morality, Corrupt Education, Fading Love and Human Hypocrisy

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### I. A Hypocritical Faith

1 Your Mercy, Divine Mercy, Heavenly Spring

That waters Africa, the universe in all;  
Mercy, your Mighty Mercy has revived the weak  
Humanity in jubilation

5 Your Mighty Blessing has relieved Ruvumu and Bucumi

From the bottomless pit of despair.  
Your Mighty Hand has redeemed Bukirasazi  
Your Mighty Sight has saved Gitega  
Your Mighty Love has rescued Burundi

10 Your magnificent and grandiose Presence makes us rejoice.

But human ungratefulness dumfounds and startles.  
Mankind came to know You through You  
Adam and Eve learned Your Amity through You  
Despite their ungratefulness that followed

15 To tarnish Your Goodness

To stain Your Divine Holiness.  
Sage Moses, Abraham, Solomon saw You from none, but You.  
You are the master;  
You are the Unique precept;

20 The Uncontroversial Holder of the universe in its holistic grandeur.

But man's ingratitude creates a paradox.  
Christians—the Christ's brothers in the second birth  
Populate churches, fill the choir, squeezing the altar.  
Catholics, rosaries around neck

25 Protestants, bible in hand

Rush each Sunday to church to kneel.

Yet, crimes grow, ignominy more and more.  
 Why endless bloodbaths,  
 Why endless mourning of brothers' assassinations  
 30 The spirit of hate and revenge to fossilize,  
 Stiffening immorality, social immorality  
 Devastating social and cultural values.  
 The ignoble crime of rape brings curse to society,  
 Debases the agent and demotes the victim  
 35 Sacks the heritage of civilization.  
 Houses are broken day and night  
 Banks vandalized full sun, guns in lumbar and bibles in hands.  
 Tyrannical monarchs instate political exclusion  
 To marginalize the Other, to subjugate the leftist  
 40 To silence and wipe out the voice for change.  
 Racism stems there  
 Sows chaos  
 Gives rise to tribalism  
 All evils ending in a horrible bloodbath  
 45 The commons being the first to endure the venom of the monsters.  
 Paradox, paradox, paradox  
 We have been doused in deep waters  
 We have been baptized all  
 Baptized in the name of the Celestial Star of Nazareth.  
 Sacraments we pretend to live  
 50 Communion we daily receive  
 Commandments we preach and teach our progeny:  
 No adultery, no killing, no thieving, no hatred, no plotting.  
 Yet wickedness expands at fabulous speed.  
 Gurdwaras open ev'y day full at maximum  
 55 Sikhs at the top, Adi Granth<sup>1</sup> in hands imploring God  
 But human envy devastates the world  
 And lust threatens human survival  
 Making the world's destiny unpredictable.  
 Mosques gather immense assemblies worldwide

60 Quran and Tasbih in hand, Burqa and robe falling on foot

But scamming, warring, homicides going high, the Four Corners bleeding  
 The best mantras rolling on rock to disappear in mist.

Christians—Catholics and Protestants—covering the Four Cardinal Points  
 Recite prayers, give tithe freely, fast day and night

65 Reciting Ave Maria On pilgrimage, glorifying God, adoring Jesus

Yet the feared felons are Christians.

The Tripitaka<sup>2</sup> enlightening the Buddhist in his spirituality

The Talmud<sup>3</sup> guiding the Jew in the synagogue

The Vedas<sup>4</sup> resonating in temples calling Indians and the world to unity

70 Yet the evil plagues the community infinitely.

The nonaligned, the atheists and the irreligious,  
 Insignificant as they have been

Minority as they still

Cannot ignite the evil at global level

75 In the way it is ravaging the world.

Faith in hypocrisy or hypocrisy in faith?

Hypocrisy is worsening mankind

Hypocrisy in faith has birthed faith in hypocrisy

A new order that is establishing anarchy and disarray

80 A wrong dogma that is instituting hell on earth.

Has the Church failed?

Has the Christian redemption lost its mission?

Have Vatican and Makkah ignored their duties?

Has the Guru wasted his time seeking to save souls?

85 Has the monk resigned and the temple shut doors?

Has the Roman priest orated the wrong?

Has the Hindu Priest preached the false?

Surely not; all have surmonized the good.

They have orated love and forgiveness.

90 But human nature is indefinable

Always floating between the good and the evil.

The sermonizer champions for the good

The monk advocates for the principled

The Guru campaigns for the right

95 The priest sides for the just.

Krishna and Christ have remained the same, unchanging

Unchanging through an ocean of years.

But human nature is versatile

Seeking the best it doesn't make,

100 Receiving the worst it doesn't want

To condemn itself to eternity.

Up, Up, Up for the right

Up for the right thought

Up for the just

105 Up for the just cause

Up for reason

Up for reason to build.

Up for love to uplift the downtrodden

Up for love to transform humanity

110 To transform human reasoning.

Up for communion

Up for rationality in divine faith.

Up for realism to save the world.

Up for truth to rescue the drowning souls.

115 To boost the pillars of humanity.

Notes: 1. The Sacred Book used in Sikhism

2. The Sacred Book used in Buddhism

3. The Sacred Book used in Rabbinic Judaism

4. The Sacred Books used in Hinduism

## II. When Love Waning

1 Wait, wait Tom

The storm is rushing  
 Taking unprecedented speed to stand firm.  
 The halting might dwindles

5 To stop, to stop, to ban the vampiric specter.

Love  
 Of your dearth families crumble  
 Households vanish  
 Communities shake  
 To result in a fuzzy imbroglio.

10 Leave me not, Love

Remain with us—your lovers,  
 You, our greater beloved!!!  
 Honesty is leaking  
 Down at cross agonizing.

15 The heart-willing converted into trivia

While scoundrels are crowned kings  
 To become masters of the universe.

To find a life companion  
 Has become an equation

20 Of bank deposits

Of partnering the luckier party-body politic  
 An operation that irrationally  
 Simulates love with money  
 A function that groundlessly

25 Parallels love with fortune.

The Bahanza<sup>1</sup> caving in, honing the sword

The Bavumu<sup>2</sup> sharpening the spear

Both unable to contain the anger

Brought by the bitter cup of cupidity

30 The bitter divorce of Joseph and Aline's two-year wed.

Bahanza swearing to tear down the Bavumu

Warring against the invisible

Now on the wrath—one to bury the other alive

To destroy what nature has intended to build.

35 The bridge to Karemba<sup>3</sup> has fallen down

Has been cut and fell into Namiko<sup>4</sup>

Solitude devastating Ruvumu<sup>5</sup> and its adjacent old friend Karemba

As no more nexus.

Community ablaze

40 Securing douse nowhere

To quench the devastating flames.

Modern Bride hunting for groom

Is flooded by shadows of wealth, money, diamond

Flooded heart, inundated body disintegrates.

45 The aristocratic bosom tracks the aristocratic chest.

The aristocratic smile hunts down the curls of the aristocratic mane.

The insolvent lover, the good hearted soul

Loses passionate intensity to win the dignified hand.

Groom tours world to find one

50 Ends in sorrow to wed a serpent.

Under door paucity slides

Debases wife who glides

To quit husband untold.

Moving far to never see her again

55 Leaving family to disintegrate

Bringing curse of divorce and disintegration to her posterity

Opening doors of rootlessness and homelessness to offspring

Doomed to perish.

Poor boy dispossessed, robbed

60 Affluent girl decoyed, duped, misled

Tracking the footprints of Cain to die errant.

Love, love, come and restore the lost

Come and water the dry

Come and germinate the dying seed

65 Interred in the ground waiting your grace to rise.

The rampant material spirituality<sup>6</sup>

Has far away outgone the spiritual materiality<sup>7</sup>.

For a corrupt mindset, blinded

Only money matters

70 Only wealth weighs

The rest being a silhouette to overtake and progress

Unquestioned, uncaring!!!!

Reason locked into a decaying loft

Rationality under carpet,

75 Buried into the annals of the brain and the self

To condemn our blindness in the decades to come.

No love, no stability, no move, no progress, no societal visibility.

Avarice destroys

Rapacity uproots

80 Cupidity shakes the strong and shatters the weak.

It closes doors to happiness

Crushes the potential to grow

Annihilates hopes to develop and have a voice home.

Wife pokes around husband

85 To insure the wage Adam earns

Even in perfect relation of good master and loyal servant.

Yet the opposite happening less

When Adam pokes Eve to spy on the monthly asset.

Love, get your seat;

90 Money, join your sit, rise when due

Perturb not, disturb not.  
 For love participates to your procreation.  
 Dowry—home and out—considers no longer the intimacies of love.  
 To become commodity to negotiate

95 The value of a fostered bride.

Mugamba8 has lost the taste of the past  
 Has lost the spirit of ancestors.  
 A cow, no more a totem of fecundity, prosperity and blessing  
 But a commodity to trade

100 A product to amass wealth.

What on earth human dignity would cost!!!  
 The toast to love we exchange  
 The tot to unity we exhibit to feel the nice taste of love  
 Has grown into a test of price

105 That came to profane the value of prize

To desacralize the ancestral heritage  
 Whose vestiges still back man to stand and move, though crippling.

The material spirituality atomizing the rock of the social tent  
 Poor boy Sentarara—in his twenties  
 Full of potential, with a promising future ahead

110 Got an accident, a road mishap

On Nyarurambi downhill riding  
 Leg broken, tibia cross-fractured,  
 Painfully groaning  
 Yet a groan transformed into a scornful laugh.

115 Denied of hospital admission

Due to lack of financial advance to pay.  
 Helplessly is he returned home unassisted  
 Leg decaying, rotting, stinking, pus running down  
 Left alone, moaning, unattended

120 Leg to result in a later awful amputation.

Out of man's cupidity lies self-destruction.

Sentarara's leg cut off, his future buried.  
Convalescents discharged are forced to experience  
Distressful internment if unable to settle hospital bills.

125 The once revered Kabuye Clinic

Now converted into prison for the have-nots  
A jail for the peaceful insolvent healed citizens  
Dispossessed by disease, in need of assistance.  
Yet they are denied home where they grew

130 Yet contributed to its welfare

To make the clinic what it is today.  
Immoral Kabuye, heartless managers  
Money matters not in all matters.  
Pity the pitied,  
Hear the cry of the destitute

135 Nurse the unfortunates

Assist the unassisted even in perfect health  
Count not on the diseased body to amass money  
To fill your coffers upon the groan of your sibling.  
For the pockets you fill

140 The chests you heap

To dominate the poor and enslave the deprived  
Dehumanize your personality  
And stain your name of Church affiliation.  
Widow Madeleine there, in the Clinic, hypnotized, locked

145 Her baby Ciza on her side

Sucking milk she cannot find  
Now starting developing symptoms of kwashiorkor.  
Baby dying along mum  
For only a bagatelle-bill of sixty thousands BIF

150 Unable to pay off.

Love solidifies, love consolidates, love unites  
To move and stand steadfast, reassured.

Notes: 1/2. In Burundi, the Bahanza and the Bavumu are important clans in Burundian society

3. An administrative locality
4. River between Karemba and Ruvumu
5. An administrative locality
6. An egotistical behavior to own everything
7. Belief in animism often bringing to polytheism
8. A culturally traditional region in Burundi that was known for its strict observation of cultural values

### III. Educate and Transform

1 But every eye was fixed on her sparkling body

Hair up, eyes ahead, heels high

To rob the other sex the prime of life.

Mundane leisure, glowing face, a flaming smile

5 Reflecting the curse-bringing physicality.

What's on earth the germinating millennium

Bogged down deep by your spawn!!

How shall you age deep in this revolving world?

Joseph, Bankei, Hussein , Krishna, Singh<sup>1</sup> burying you

10 While Iratubona, Ali, Jefferson, Mamadou, Cheruto,

Zhi Ruo, Chizu, Obiageri, Verma<sup>2</sup> slice you

Deceiving your worth, profaning your morality.

Traditions, customs—the foundation of your kingdom collapsing

The elderly's tribute gone

15 The taste of your past left to die alone.

School, modern school educates

Opens minds to revisit the invisible of the past

And discover the magnificence of the present.

Planes fly, subways slide, vessels cruise

20 All feeding the Four Corners

In a couple of hours or days

Making the world become a crumb in man's hand.

Yet this is not enough to quench

The thirst of the thirsty

25 The hunger of the hungry

The egotism of the egotists

The ungrateful soul always seeking to ransack the rhizome.

Something still missing

Malevolence, insatiability, ingratitude going high

30 Growing more and more—generation to generation.

The positivism in culture and values

The reason in tradition and customs gradually petering out  
 Leaving space to a barren land devoid of morality.  
 Unwanted pregnancies of children giving birth to other children  
 35 Undesired babies brought into life by immoral mothers  
 Interested in sexual gratification rather than in integrative motherhood  
 Create a realm that sacrifices the kid  
 And victimizes its innocence.  
 This condemnation at birth  
 40 Establishes a latent world of rogues  
 A threatening generation of rascals  
 Who grow with no sense of humanity  
 To ruin society.  
 Unrestrained consumption of drugs  
 45 Uncontrolled and immature drinking  
 Sack the traditional values—the rock of the past  
 That'd perpetuate human dignity.  
 The modern style indecency in dressing  
 Adopted to disrupt culture and tradition  
 50 To contrast the values of the past  
 Seeking to exposing body's nudity  
 To heap world's admirations  
 Brings decay and propagate curse.  
 The wronged thought of tradition into the outdated, into the old-fashioned  
 55 Shadows the sight and blurs the mind.  
 Fog and mist cover up decorum.  
 The young girl no longer cleans pot,  
 No longer lights fire,  
 No longer peels banana  
 60 B'cause of a flawed mindset  
 That Mums, maids, servants have to.  
 Unwillingly goes she to the fountain to fetch water  
 Yet, does she aspire to bathe thrice a day  
 To keep her physique glittering.

65 Martine, looking with scorn at mum-a hoe on shoulder

Gets chair and lipstick to beautify her face

Forgetting the pain mother endures.

On vacation with her schoolmates

Joining mother would reduce her reputation.

70 Touring villages, visiting relatives, meetings in bars and theatres

Has become part of her hobbies.

Befriending peers of the other sex assures security.

Redeem, redeem the waning nation.

Words 've been spoken

75 Works 've been done

Prayers 've been wailed.

Education moving at worse.

No more taboo, no more proscription

Implicitly hints at a call to destruction.

80 Eve, Adam disobeyed;

Humanity crumbled.

Tradition, culture dissembled

Resulting in man dismembered.

Tribalism, racism, discrimination,

85 Wronged minds germinate there

To birth an era of tears, an epoch of pain and confusion

Where irrational clashes, senseless conflicts intrude

To expand bloodshed and wipe out brotherhood.

Wisdom, respect, civility come

90 Courtesy, politeness, gentility come

Come to redress the waning

Come to uplift the downgraded

Come to straighten the bending

Come to support the collapsing

95 Come to resuscitate the dead

Come to revive the agonized

Come to strengthen the weak.

Education , cultural education, be revived  
 Tradition, be rethought

100 Be purged of the impurities

Brought by a misleading globalization.

Tradition needs roots.

Culture needs respect and observation.

Absence of culture, absence of identity

105 That condemns man to self-destruction.

The past, our ancestors succeeded

Upon tradition, upon culture

To regulate social dignity

To live a balanced community:

110 Less crimes were

Less scams were

Less rapes were

Less divorce was.

There was less suicide

115 There was less revenge

Less family disintegration.

Culture watered love and unity.

The World to become sweetie and meaty.

We need your sweetness back

120 This sweetness to return

A return to the roots of tradition

A return to the values of culture

To situate man in his real world

Not an imagined and imitative shadow

125 Of a wronged world where

He is constantly penned, grieving.

- Notes: 1. The range of names outlined here personify some of the important religious beliefs that govern the world.  
 2. The range of names outlined here personify some of the nations and communities that populates the world.

**IV. Kick, the Deadly Philter**

1 Looking into ruining callously

Shaking the walls of mankind

Unpitying generations—

Young and adults—to descend into grave.

5 Uprooting the foundations of family and society

Seeking to bury man's entrails

Stunting his posterity to vanish

And hypothecating his potential not to emerge.

Kick, kick, the deadly philter

The bitter potion summersaulting society

10 Go, vanish away

Run away of my sight

An appalling distaste of throwing up runs down my veins.

Kick, give me time to breathe

Let humanity rejoice the splendor

15 And the beauties it is endowed with by the Creator.

You have agonized the world

You have smothered mankind.

The world now needs healing

To restore the lost breath

20 To regain the robbed dignity.

Kick, Kick, the conflagration

Getting pleasure upon your venom

Jubilating on you in a mad ecstasy

Paves a way to body decay

That jeopardizes both an individual and society's welfare.

25 You've orphaned numberless children

You've widowed numerous wives

You've condemned parents to a horror of childlessness.

Kick, the ghostly Kick

Feelings of bitter memory and a sour present

Transpierce the heart of your victims.

30 Hear the endless painful cries

And abate the nauseous scent of irrepressible ailments

The threatening pain of hypo and hypertension

The increasing sorrow of diabetics

The unstoppable speed of kidney failure

35 Leading your casualties to physical and financial collapse.

This man's tragedy, this family disaster and society's calamity

Foreshadows the nation's shatters and the world demise.

Kick, Kick, the evil drink

Children no longer know class

Fall sick and obtain no cure

40 Fathers in rags

Mothers nearly nude.

Nutritional disorders are causing disasters.

Paucity is establishing its kingdom

Bacause, because, because of YOU KICK.

45 No more economic recession, no more social degeneration!!!

We give you a "strong kick"

To get you away our homes

We reject your presence

We refuse you a "sympathetic welcome"

50 To You—the LABELLED, the blended, the evil potion and mortal venom.

Kick, Kick, the Pandemonium on earth

Your blind lovers call you "Queen"

They idealize your colorless color

Revere your eye tears-like appearance

And adore your bitter deadly taste that corrodes gray matter

55 Spikes entrails

To open the hidden Pandora's box.

My voice to you is negative

My judgment of you is condemning

My reflection on you is depreciative

60 My hate to you grows even outside my sight

When I only reminisce your destructive nature.  
 Kick, Kick, toxin beverage  
 Bury not my nation  
 Bury not my generation  
 Bury not my individuation.

65 Bury not my expectations

Bury not my hopes  
 Bury not my success  
 And ruin not my love for my nation.  
 Deadly Kick, remember:  
 Children need parenthood to mature

70 Children need motherhood to grow

Children need fatherhood to imitate.  
 Parents need adulthood to nurture offspring  
 Parents need sonhood for heirship  
 Parents need daughterhood for heirdom

75 Parents need children to get a name.

Kick, Kick the wrong choice  
 Why still shaking my community?  
 Why my village still mourning endlessly upon your lethal venom?  
 The terror you've established  
 The uprooting poverty you brought to shatter my dreams

80 The ignorance you heightened to blind to sighted

The grieving world you've established  
 MUST end its days  
 MUST vanish

No, no, no Kick, no Kick home  
 Get out of our homes

85 Get out of our bones

Get out of our lounges  
 Get out of our villages  
 Get out of my nation  
 Get out of my reach

90 Go away forever

Get forbidden, get forgotten and get buried for eternity.

For we need to live

We need to survive

We need to thrive

95 We need to strive

For an empowering humanity against depersonalization.

Note: The concept “Kick”, which is the core of the poem, is a brand name attributed to a colorless alcoholic beverage that is popular in my village and nationwide (Burundi). Lavish and cheaper in price, with an extremely super strong dosage (~40% Alcohol by Volume), villagers have become addicted to the drink often taken dry. Husbands scam wives; children steal parents just to get money to buy the drink. Social degeneration that is growing nationwide undercuts traditional values and the society is turning into a gangland. A lot of families collapse, children drop out of school, severe diseases erupt and poverty shakes houses, graves lying open. From a metaphorical representation, the drink Kick symbolizes all the supra-strong alcoholic beverages, mostly found in plastic bottles that are sold across the country and which are ruining the health of the poor people who take them.