

Rebirth

A Poetic Journey

By Fezekile Futhwa

Rebirth: A Poetic Journey



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Rebirth: A Poetic Journey

1. Rebirth

I am free
My spirit my soul
Has been released
It flies high up in the skies
Higher up in the universe
Freedom in the skies

I am reborn
I am a new person
My thoughts and imagination
Pure and white
As a fresh snow in the *Maluti* mountains
Giving birth to a new life
Another chance to be redeemed

I am free
Freed from worries
Now I care not
For what brings not happiness
That which complicates my life
I am reborn
Into the world of simplicity

I am free
Like a bird flying in the skies
Cruising like the world belong to birds
They who know not a single *nxal*!
Knows not what a grudge is
Life to them is as simple
As flying high up in the skies
Freedom of the skies
Free as a bird

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2. I Lied

Today I must confess
Pour my heart out, lay all bare
For all the sins I have committed
And many they are
Heaps and heaps of deception
Lying seems so easy

From when I was a young boy
I learned quickly that deception pays
I had to lie to my parents
To get that which I desire
All it took was crying the lights out of me
And my desires would be fulfilled

My soul is blessed
Hymns upon hymns made my day
Singing my life away
To satisfy this my need for reincarnation
Interrupting the preacher in his sermons
With a high pitched song
Just to get what I need
Song, rhythm and beat

Of all the lies I have told
White simple lies
Green terrible lies
And lies that seemed so true
I myself could not tell the difference
Nothing compares
To the greatest sin of man
A lie told with a straight face

I am truly amazed
Completely taken aback
By the amount of pain
Mountains of anger
Piles of sorrow
That my heart has taken
Without once ever complaining
At this burden it carries for me

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When I first fell in love
It was like nothing I have ever known
It was a feeling so pure, so right
Innocence so mature
I compared with the best of purity
For all was true and sincere
And I was truthful to myself

To admit that this girl I loved
With all my being
My soul, my mind, my spirit
Totally giving myself to love
And resting on its wings
To take me where ever it is love takes you

Only I lacked the courage
To take a step towards you
Lacked the conviction to act
Failed dismally to open my mouth
And voice my affection towards you
And henceforth mine was a lost love
Existing only in memory
Forever living with a broken heart
And for you never to find out

Every time I see you
My heart races, skips several beats
Pushes my blood pressure notches up
Ears hot up, like I am on fire
Knees stumble, and become jelly like
And speech impaired, I stutter as a result
How incredible, this state of affairs

Today I am a grown man
Yet I have never stopped lying and deceiving
For it has become easier with time
To lie, cheat and steal
Like a thief rejoicing
On what others have build
Seeing opportunity and possibilities
Failing to recognise own faults

How many people I have met in my life
Those that make my heart jump
People on whom my gaze is lost

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Lost forever, yet relived everyday in memory
Those whose smells I can never forget
Whose voluptuous bodies I dream about
In a million years of hard labour
People I could never forget

Yet I continue to fail dismally
In communicating my affection to them
Just so they know
How much storm they invoke
How much disturbance they cause
In my lonesome heart and memory

I have lied yesterday, yet again
I continue to lie today
Why would tomorrow be different
Lying about my feelings has become a skill
Something I excel at
For I have learned all tricks and tactics
What it takes to suppress my emotions
Yet my heart forever longs
To be released from this cycle of lies

All I wish and pray for
Is strength in your presence
To be truthful to me
To say to you what I feel
Without any fear of retribution
For I am tired of these lies
That I have carried all my life

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3. 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

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Where have all the young gone?
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 ndiyanxenxeza
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

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4. Mpatlalatsane - The Morning Star

Early this morning
Just when night gave way
Just when the morning star was shining
Mpatlalatsane naledi ya meso
Ha baloi ba oroha
Putting to rest their magical portions
Tomorrow is another day
Another adventure
As my eyes open wide
Sleep gone, mind alert
Smelling that distinct morning breeze
Like only the body can smell
Energised, refueled
Ready for yet another day
With a broad smile painted on this face
I stutter outside
Standing right there in the open
In the middle of darkness
Appreciating the late stars
The late moon, shining brightly over my tiny body
Like a lone moon in broad daylight
Counting them stars
Looking and watching
At Mpatlalatsane the lucky star
Telling me that this will be a great day
Bright like this fading moon
Shiny like the morning star
Mpatlalatsane the great one
The beauty of the morning star

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5. Writers Block

In the moment of things
As if transfixed, moved
When my soul is touched
When my eyes adore and admire
And I feel the need
The urge to express myself

Through the only means I know
Writing and scribbling
My thoughts, my imagination
My wave of thought
As passive as the sound of beat
Attracting the ear yet failing dismally
To transform the soul
Into its rhythmic trance
For both to trail in unison

My mind flows with ideas
My soul is inspired
Things I can visualise
Yet my fingers fail me
These fingers cannot transport me
Into the creative juices that flow in my inner being
Where ideas, thoughts and creation reign

How disconnected can I be
Disjointed like a three legged pot
With so much juices running
Like umqombothi, the potent beer
Simmering in the open fire, in the three legged pot, mmadikotwana
Juices running down my veins and up my head
Even blinking creation and ideas
Yet I cannot put these down
Into any readable form
Into any poetic rhyme
Rhyming words and flawless rhythm

Like I suffer from the writers syndrome
The dreaded spiritual emptiness
Shallowness that beckons
Just when my soul yearns for creativity
Blocking my creative juices

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Like clouds giving way to the hottest sun
Following the darkest of clouds
A mental block
Something undefined
Simply known as the writers' block

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6. Passionately The Arts

My mind races
So fast that my speech cannot keep up
I stutter as a result
For there is too many words
Words to be spoken, with this my mouth
One lousy mouth, so slow it's antiquated
And so the mouth is overwhelmed
At this flooding of the words
Words yearning to be spoken
To be heard, and listened to
How my ears long, for these soothing words
Words of a poet, poetry
Rhythmic and flawless
Smooth, sa lejwe la moralla
I therefore surrender myself
To the written word
The one so captivating
So well written, so perfect
Perfection and purity
As words fly and letters work miracles
My soul is freed, a sigh of relief
From this overflow of ideas
Ideas crying to be born
Rhythm in my heart, pushing through my vocals
To be made speech, words with sense
For people to listen
Listen and be moved
Like dancers in a rhythmic trance
My passion for rhythm
My love for words
My like for speech
I rhyme in the spoken word
Creativity can never be silenced
Freedom is a natural right
And speech is free
As free as the air I breathe
This is my speech
That my passion shall grow
Be let be, and flow
For art is my passion
Passionately the arts

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7. Yesterday Is My Reality

Yesterday I was so happy
Over the moon with joy
Rejoicing and dancing
Jumping high in the air, feeling like the clouds
Joyous moments, happy moments
Sitting firmly in my mind
Memory I shall treasure forever

So I remember yesterday
When all seemed bleak
Nothing going right for me
Hurting, crying
Over what today brought for me
Hoping and wishing
That tomorrow comes
And for today to disappear into the past
To remain buried, forgotten
As memories never to be remembered

As long as I can remember
As much as I care to remember
Past events are significant
Yesterday is reality
For I can feel all yester events
Like I can touch them
With a sense of what they mean to me
Their effect on this my reality

Today as I sit and dream
Reflect back to what has been
And perhaps what could have been
All missed opportunities
All stupid mishaps and oversights
I can only but imagine
That today is just a myth
For it does not exist in memory

My reality is formed by my past
Yester events and memories
With today only a distant glimpse
Only to become real when tomorrow comes
When tomorrow is today and today is yesterday

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Remembered as a past shaping my reality
Yesterday, today and tomorrow
Expertly intertwined by the memory
That spans the future, present and past
The future of tomorrow
Today the present
And yesterday the past

Tomorrow that is dreamed of
The tomorrow that never comes
Tomorrow shall remain tomorrow
With today defining my past
The memory of today, soon to become reality
My past, my history, my yesterday
Boldly attached to who I am
Yesterday is my reality, tomorrow never comes
Today remains a glimpse, a taste of things
Possibilities, a shot at life
A moment in time
But yesterday is real
Yesterday is my reality

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8. Where Do People Go?

Where do people go
Every second and minute
In full glare of our eyes
Only we do not see
Our eyes see only what they are meant to see
We do not notice what we are meant not to see

When I am fully awake
Senses running high at full speed
Totally sane and conscious
Yet my mind transports me
Into places unknown to me
Places only remembered in subconscious state
So I can bear no witness to their existence

Where do people go
At night when we go to bed
Or when overwhelmed by spell of deep sleep
Causing us to abandon all
And give way to the needs of my other state of being
Ascended to deep sleep
Only we call it dreams
For this is too much
For anyone to understand

Where was I last night
In that deep snore and turning around
My body completely defenseless
Unguarded and seemingly neglected
While my spirit wastes in Lala-land
Some call it Dreamland
Kanti abantu ba ya kuphi

My body seems possessed
Fully alert yet fully dead
Driven by an unknown force
Zombie state, but fully functional
While the mind is far far away
Only it knows where
Like this is a conspiracy
My mind and soul together
Ganging against my conscious state

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And when this body has had enough
Or is it in response to a higher calling?
I drop dead unconscious
Only alive in shape and form
Yet totally incapacitated in the human form
Where exactly did I go?
That my body cannot respond
Until my higher calling has been answered

Na batho ba fella kae
Ho na teng ha maotwana finyela
Teng ha mofu mofunyetsa pere
Into the unknown, yet the understood
Like the brain is mysteriously communicating
In a state beyond my conscious understanding
Yet subconsciously conversing
In this language foreign to my awake state

How exactly does it happen
That I am here now
But in another space at the same time
With the godly state dominating my life
Spending most it dreaming, thinking, dozing off
About things I can never remember
No matter how hard I may try

Where do people go
Somebody please tell me
Where do I go everytime my mind rescends
Into this state of the unknown
My soul departing from my being
Going to no mans land
A place higher than a human can ever understand
Where on earth is that place?

How many states do I have
How much of my life am I aware of
How sure am I that even now, as we speak
That this is not a dream
Or one of life's mysteries
Never to be revealed to me
As I continue on this life

One moment I am
The next I transcend into a world

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Far far higher and bigger
Than my present state can endure
I hence remain oblivious to my transitions
Moving from one life to the next
Without ever noticing my escapades

How many lives does a human live?
And how many does a man remember?
With absolute certainty, that indeed this is my life
Sometimes betrayed by slipping thoughts
That turn my life upside down
Leaving me doubting if I was awake or dreaming
Yet some things remain crystal clear in my mind
Only I can never prove them
They remain a distant distinct reality
As my different lives cross paths

Where do people go
Ngithi bayakuphi kanti abantu
Na batho ba ya kae
In this Lala-land of mystery
Where conscious people do not go
And those who dare do never return
Mysterious is Lala-land

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9. Pinning for Tomorrow

Hope builds the nation
Hope builds the future
For life is hope
And in hope there is life
Life of hope, hope for the future

I cannot but wonder
At the energy that people possess
So energetic, so lively
Waiting eagerly for tomorrow
For the promise of better things
Tomorrow the saviour
Tomorrow the future

I cannot help but wonder
At how life goes by
Passing by like a dream
A dream people cannot catch
An illusion, the pacifier
With people pinning purposefully for tomorrow
For tomorrow shall bring with it a good life

Sitting idle and wasting a good life
All in the hope of tomorrow
When plans and ideas will come together
Like a dream, like mist
Forming in the nicks of things
Coming and going
Only life does not come and go
It goes, like yesterday when I was dreaming
Dreaming of today with great hope
That today will be better than yesterday
That today I shall reap the fruits of my hope
For hope is the source of success

My curiosity has got the better of me
Seeing people purposefully pinning
Waiting and expecting
For tomorrow to come
The tomorrow that promises better things
For people have waited and waited
For this tomorrow to come

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Day after day, hour after hour
Minute by minute
But tomorrow remains pinned for

People can pin and wait
Plan, expect and wish
But tomorrow will never come
For tomorrow is a future never to be seen
A future never to be experienced
Just like a dream, illusive
Tomorrow can never be touched
For today is all we have in this life
And it is today that shapes our future
And I hope people shall pin and work
For this today that is real
Tomorrow never comes
Tomorrow is an illusion

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10. Painted Faces

Beautiful faces, painted faces
Illustrations, carvings
Superbly depicting life
Life of beings, life of things
Things of life
Lively and living life

Carvings shaped, twisted
Shaped like life's mortals
Animals, objects, people
All living in peace and tranquility
As only art can depict life

Shiny eyes, gleaming eyes
Full of life, full of beauty
A reflection of life's beauties
As only art can depict
As only an artist can imagine
And give life to memory

Smiling faces, faces of beauty
Beautiful smiling faces
Faces of smiling beauties
Bountiful beauty, depicting life
Whose faces shine with life
Cute fabulous smiles of beauty
As if they are works of art
An artist's creation

Pear shaped breasts
Pointing out, fully ripe
Breasts full of life
Pure beauty of the gods
She god, the god of beauty
The god of life
God of reproduction

Beautiful bodies, painted bodies
Marked with beautiful colours
Colours from the garden of life
Life's gift to the eyes
Soothing colours of life

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Full of life, like flowers
Flowers the givers of life

I see faces I see pictures
Pictures full of beauty
Smiling faces so real
Showing life's beauties in second life
Seeing life through pictures
Through the eyes of the artist
Art the work of wonders

I see beauty I see wonders
Wonderful beauty, beautiful wonders
I wonder how wonderful life is
Beautifully carved by art
Fully captured by this image
Like a moment frozen in time
Like an imagination in my thoughts
Clear, crisp and bright

I see life I see paintings
So real, so serene
Full of life
Full of promise
A wonderful reflection of life
Seen through the eyes of the artist
Seen through paintings
Carved in my thoughts
Like eternity, like life itself
Never to escape my imagination

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11. 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

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12. Sleepy Eyes

Walking alongside a busy road
Cars rushing through
Speeding like eye sight
All in the quest to be the first
The first on everything
But first without meaning

How fast paced this life is
All sundry, moves forward
Without ever experiencing the present
Understanding the purpose of being
True meaning of now
Time has lost its meaning

Life is no longer enjoyed
Nor felt, nor embraced
We live life not
All in the quest
To be the first
First on everything
But first without meaning

First with problems
First with heart aches
First with hunger
First with all and sundry
All in the quest to be the first
First hand experience of misery
First without any meaning

Being first creates competition
It necessitates that there must be
A winner and a loser must emerge
In this quest to be first
The first winner of contest
Also the first loser of life
In this quest to be the first

As I strive and carry on
In this biggest race of all
Race to be first of everything
I stumble and fall

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And hard I fall, on the life that I ignored
In the quest to be the first
The first to fall, it seems

In the fastest pace of life I lead
It is also the fastest danger to my life
This life I race with
For I have only one shot at life
On this earth, soil and planet
The shortest fastest life I know
All in the quest to be first
First of everything but nothing

One day my race comes to an end
Hurry and urgency are no more
And my life is quickly deteriorating
Yet my life is left far behind
Way too behind to catch up
With this troubled and lonely soul
Wishing for life and its beauties
For mine was a speed track
Filled with to dos
Always moving and never stopping

And today my life is past
I have outrun and outpaced my life
In this quest to be first
First to everything
First to nothing
But first I must
All in the quest to be first

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13. My Honour Challenged

I wake up absent minded
This extremely cold morning
Oblivious to the shrilling cold
Aware of my state of mind
My absent mindedness
I am taken aback, it seems
Way way back
To the hours and minutes gone past
Hours and minutes of last night, yesterday
Evening past, dark fallen past
When I spoke to this my one
And I can vividly remember
The promise I made
On that cold evening
The promise never to be fulfilled
A lie, a liar I have become
But a man can be redeemed
His word is his honour
And my honour is no more
But the Gods have declared
That he who repents, shall be forgiven
Repent I have, and the Gods have warmly welcomed me
Into their fold, as a son of the soil
Human, like any other
Subject to mistakes, stupidity and utter dumbness
Like all of his race
This is my remembrance of my liability
My promise to you, loved one
A promise left unattended
But redeeming myself with these words
That I am fully aware of my crime
And better is he who admits his crime
Than those who hide behind grins of untrustworthiness
And I bid you farewell, my love
Granting you a wish for a better day
Filled with all of the Gods' willing

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14. 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

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I so wished and prayed
That it has not anything to do with you
Beautiful one
Yet time and time again
My heart reminds me
Of your presence
I nearly fell in love
No, we fell in love
Fell over ourselves
Mind, body and soul
Captivated by this magic
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Of your presence

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

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This game is not mine nor yours
We are merely players in the game
That neither you nor me control

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
Everytime 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

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
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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

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

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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
Everytime 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

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15. The Ways of Love

The ways of love
So wonderful and clear
Simple, complex and cluttered
So well understood by the heart
So insistent on the mind
So touching to the soul

How amazing love goes
No strings attached
No logic required
Just the matters of the heart
Splashing through the veins
Electrifying the body
Charging the spirit
And touching the soul

How great that feeling
When the touch of love
And a sprinkle of beauty
Passes my way
So bold, so cute
That I can't ignore
This beautiful feeling
Feeling of love

How gracious love is
That it sees no bounds
Knows no limits
Cares not for the worldly things
It cares only for the soul
Selfish feeling of love

And no soul shall know peace
No mind shall rest
Nothing shall make sense
No speech shall captivate
Until the ways of love
Have been honoured
Respected and trusted
And just let be

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Love may be blind
But love knows no bounds
Love may be blind
But people are not blind
To the ways of love
How truly beautiful
This wonderful creation
That every person on earth
Shall experience and feel
This amazing act of affection

Like me or not, as a person
Like it or not, as a feeling
When love visits me
I must speak to you
When the sparks sparkle
My feelings must be known to you
For peace to rein in my heart

I am a lover
Of beautiful things
And beautiful things I love
So I wholeheartedly submit
Give my whole being
To the ways of love
For love must be felt
And people must be loved

How amazing this love is
That feeling of higher being
Feeling of oneness, of trueness
The ways of love
Know no bounds
Know no limits
Cares not and blind they are
How grateful I am
For the ways of love

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16. Celebrating Celibacy

In celebration of my independence
In celebrating my oneness
Celebration of my inner peace
Me, myself and I
I declare this day
This and every other day
That shall follow henceforth
The day of celibacy

On this particular day
When I feel betrayed, let down
After yet another disappointing episode
My feelings hurt
Emotions high, eyes glowing with tears
Tears of sadness, tears of sorrow
I declare this day
The day of celibacy

I swear to myself
To my spirit and soul
That from this day henceforth
I shall remain pure and untainted
Pure as snow on a cold day
On this my day of celibacy

My heart is broken
My soul lost and my body wallows
From heart aches and pains
From worry and troubles
Brought by the next person
The person I found in my company
On that day, when I declared my love

But over and over again
My love is wasted, spilled and spoilt
On people who seem intend on wasting my love
And I accept no more
Wasted love and lovers
For this my heart has finally caved
Closed up and shut tight
On this day of declaration
My day of celibacy

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I pronounce and proclaim
That these feelings I have
Shall remain mine and mine alone
Embraced, respected and enjoyed
Like only caring people can
To protect this my heart
From these suspect ways
Of them lovers and pretenders

I solemnly declare
To me, myself and I
To the universe, the world
That God gave me myself
And myself I shall protect
From this day forward
This my day of proclamation
This my day of celibacy

Today I shall rejoice
Celebrate and chant
Declare myself victorious
That I have found purity and truth
In me, myself and I
On this day of self expression
This day when I declare
That henceforth, me myself and I
Will forever remain pure
Be celibate, innocent and celebrant
On this day of my declaration
As I venture on my journey
Being celibant, celibacing and celibacy

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17. How Can I Forget

I could never seem to stop smiling
My mouth just twists
My cheeks move
My eyes watery
And laughter just escapes me!

I have tried to pretend otherwise
Engage my mind, engage my thoughts
But my mouth just betrays me
My cheeks just give way
And my eyes just weep
Tears of joy, tears of happiness
I just laugh and smile I do

How much more must I think
How much more vision can I master
Thoughts and dreams of beauty
Beautiful visions and dreams
Dreams about this ntwazana
Just you and you alone

I vividly remember you
Everything about you I remember
Everything in you I can see
Clear as daylight
It is like I relive these moments
And I wish not for them to stop

That white shirt
Elegantly showing your breasts
Those good looking breasts
Art form, African breasts
Breasts like one can embrace
On which trust and commitment emerge
Wonderful breasts of sheer awe

That sweet smile on your face
Little lovely face of yours
With twigs of a sweet voice
Illuminating my senses of hearing
My senses of feeling

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And thy sweet fragrance I inhale!
Inene, uyinzwakazi ntombazana

On your short plump body
I can see the seems of a great mother
Mother like I know from my people
Great mothers who are great people
Great mother to my children, our pride
Our great and wonderful family
Like our ancestors used to be

In you ntombazane
I see wonders and visions
Visions of my future clearly engraved
Clearly written in the face of this earth
In the open skies, blue skies
And in the dark clouds that bring rain
That you are but a great woman

How can I forget all these things
That I see in you
That I dream and see, non stop
In my little world captured by your memories
Oh, how I wish dreams could become real
The simple truth that you have captivated my inner being
And so shall the universe speak
That all great things shall be
And so I shall have this happiness
In your great company

How can I ever forget
This great dream that haunts me
That promises the life of greats
The life of heroes and heroines
Only I am just me, qha!
A man with a great wish
And great vision too
To be one with le ntombazane
Lenzwakazi yasemaXhoseni
How can I ever forget!
I could never forget
I will never forget.

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18. I See You My People

My elders, I see you
I see you and I see you again
Greetings to you wise ones
My Tatabs, my Mas
You on whom our future rested
Heavily weighing on your old shoulders
I see you, I honour you my people

I pay my respects to you
Gods of my people
Gods both living and dead
On this world, the next and the previous one
On all worlds where spirits exist
My sincerest prayers
To you I bare my soul

My eyes rest on you
Women, living gods of Afrika
You upon whom God placed his trust
That through you, his work shall rest
Perpetually creating, putting lives on this earth
Mothers, sisters, our loved ones
I take off my imaginary hat, in your greatness
Great is an Afrikan woman

My soul cries
Most disturbed and deeply troubled
As I look at you, my young ones
You on whom our future lie
You who shall see the worst
That this world can usher
As the cruel and outcast of the gods
Fight hard to have a place on this earth
I weep for you, tears pour down
For all the ills you shall face
Be brave, my young ones

Oh God the Highest
The Highest Spirit known to man
You whom I care not
To know your shape or form
Your greatness need no reassuring to me

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Qamata, Tlatlamatjholo, Nkulunkulu
I bow my face in your greatness

(ululating)

How grateful I am
For all things, living and dead
For all animals and plants
The water, the sun and the air
All lesser Gods of good
Serving me so loyalty
As the Highest Spirit has decreed your purpose
Tribute to you Gods of my land

My people, my race
I humbly honour and respect you all
Young and old, Old and young
Living and dead
Spirit and man
I see you once
I forever see you

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19. Music Man

Running up and down
Fully charged and mesmerised
Wild like a Wise Men
When chanting and dancing
Responding to the higher calling
The sacred call of the Spirits

It has always been
And it shall forever be so
That rhythm moves me
That music touches my soul
That my soul resonates with music

Since the beginning of time
From time immemorial
Pre-history and the stone age
For as long as it can be remembered
My people, my ancestors
Have set the tone and stage
The masters of science and art of rhythm

Look at me closely
And see that I am moved by sound
My body generates rhythm
My feet are light, ready to move
Anytime, anywhere

Music is food for the soul
Like word is to expression
Like sight is to the eye
Like saliva is to the tongue
Just like feelings are to the heart

Many things I may not be
Like science and technology
But rhythm is totally in me
I define what sound is
For I am the music man

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20. The Cycle of Life

Life is but Death
Death is but Life
One only lives to die
One dies to live again

Beautiful is a full woman
Carrying a future
The generation to come
Yet to be born
The cycle of life completed
We have come a full circle

One only lives to die
One dies to live again

That incredible pain
The pain of life, the pain of creation
Greater than any other
Reincarnation complete
A baby born
I hear loud cries, cries that life has began
And so has the clock started ticking
Ticking away at this cycle of life

Taking us closer by the day
By the hour, minute and second
To our sole purpose in life
To live and die
To die and live

Life is but Death
Death is but Life
One lives only to die
One dies to live again

Hope is the greatest illusion in life
An illusion that things aren't what they seem
That life's purpose is not death
But something greater
Something better than death
Whatever that purpose may be
It must be better than death

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For this truth is cruel
That I live only to die
Give birth and die
That is life's purpose
As decreed by the higher spirits

Life is but Death
Death is but Life
One lives only to die
One dies to live again

All I experience in life
Is but life's cruelty
That my purpose I must serve
On this cruel and cursed earth
And harsh life is
To remind me that this life is borrowed
I better serve my purpose and pass on
To future generations this suffering
Cruelty, curses and hardships
Aptly called life
By we the mortals

Life is but Death
Death is but Life

And when all is said and done
When my purpose is done
I shall pass on the next life
Whatever the next life is
Incarceration or the land of the spirits
As the higher spirits command
I shall pass on and never look back
For my purpose in life will be done
And for that there is no reward
Only the cruelty of passage
Known to man as death

For there is life in death
As we mortals remember the dead
Pay tribute, pay respects
To those who came before us
In this cruel sequel called life
Those upon whom peace and respect is bestowed
As the living spirits known to man

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While the cycle of life continues
From birth to death

Life is but Death
Death is but Life
One lives only to die
One dies to live again

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21. What Shall It Take

My young but mature life
Is filled with wonders
Beautiful things that I see
Beautiful things that I experience
Beauty is in my eyes
And my eyes see beauty

The humble soul that I am
Appreciates and adores beauty
The peaceful soul that I am
Embraces all things beautiful
And all beautiful things must be embraced
By this soul that lives in me

Of all these beauties in my eyes
There is one that touches my soul
That captures my inner thoughts
The only one that truly matters
I am truly captivated
And captured my soul is

My soul yearns, it mourns
My thoughts scattered, disturbed
My vision cluttered, obscured
My voice shouting, aloud
For this soul to be heard

For my sorrows to be nursed
For my wounds to be healed
For my spirit to be emancipated
My name, remembered
And my life appreciated

How can a soul be this lost
How can a mind be disenchanting
How can my speech be this slandered
Yet my sight remains perfect!
For these eyes see wonders
And I wonder how much more I shall wonder

What shall it take?
For me to have peace

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For this soul to be restful
For this mind to rest
All because of a beauty
Beauty that I see with my eyes

And woman I ask of you
What shall it take
For you to have a heart
A heart to let be
Two hearts, wondering
Into the wilderness
Where peace and tranquility reins
And hearts are mended

My heart is red with pain
Filled with sorrow
My soul disturbed by thy feeling
For my heart has chosen you
Fallen in love with you
And decided that you are the one
The one to bring peace and harmony
To this soul that yearns
To this spirit that wonders

What then shall it take
For you to take pity on me
For you to heal this pained heart
This blessed heart of mine
That pumps pain and sorrow
Into my spirit day and night
Yearning for freedom
Crying to be freed
The free spirit of love

How much longer must I wait
My patience has run out
For my heart is swelling with pain
Feelings of joy that brings me pain
For my heart yearns for you
My spirit longs for your company
My body aches for your touch
Your tender touch of love

How much more pain
Can I endure for you

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I wonder and wish not to know
For my heart has been pushed
To the limits of love and tolerance
To the boundaries of patience
My being is threatened
By this love I feel for you

What shall it take
For my pleas for love to be heard
For the rumblings in my heart to be heard
Heard and felt, your heart responding
To these tumbling's in my soul
As you embrace love
And life for what things are
Not for what they could be

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22. Tribute to Me

On this cool day
Of breezes and smells
Cool breezes of winter
Sweet smells of plants and flowers alike
Oozing with the liveliness of nature
Scenting the air with sweet fragrances
To the joy of my smelling organs

Happy Friday, happy afternoon
A precursor to what is to be a great weekend
When we pay our respects
To this great man I have become
Celebration of life
That indeed a man I am
Worthy enough to be celebrated

In the many years of my existence
Moons upon moons seen
Seasons upon seasons past
I have seen and experienced
Enough to last me another lifetime
For my life has been a lifetime
A lifetime to me, the only life I know

Today I stand tall and erect
Chest inflated in pride
Thrashing my hand on my chest repeatedly
Announcing my presence
Declaring that indeed I am great
Tribute be paid to me
For all that I have seen on earth

Life has played tricks on me
Rewarding me handsomely with success
Tomorrow crying with sorrow and hatred
And tomorrow yet again, blessed with wonders
Like life is playing hide and seek
Only this is real to me
And the effects are here for all to see
Hardened and all proud
A milestone in a lifetime

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See how handsome I am
Manly and strong
Round tummy protruding
Indicating a well fed and healthy man
How well groomed I am

Today as I celebrate on my behalf
I refuse, totally, to be defined by others
On what my life means to them
Rather what my life means
To me, the owner

So pardon me if today I shall ignore you
If only me shall be the object of my affection
Sitting in the glory of my better self
With a don't care attitude
Because today I truly don't care
Tribute be to myself and only me

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