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## Despair

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I write in despair  
Beside a fireside,  
Rendering these thrilling lines  
Dripping from my pen  
Of a black country,  
Swinging precariously  
In a pendulum of ruin.  
I sing in despair  
The sacred songs of sorrow,  
Spurned within dark waters  
To preach to our heroes,  
Questioning these pharoses:  
What hope lays glimmering?  
I sprawl in despair  
The sprawl of a lonely wanderer,  
Baffled by multi-pathways  
Uncertain the road to sail  
I dream in despair  
The daunting dream of doom.  
The dance of countless doom-steps  
Entreating sober insights  
To *deus spiritus mundi*

Who wills our many forms  
And formed our rational will.  
I pray in despair:  
Peaceful to daily penitence  
Daily to peaceful reticence,  
Our fingers fixed skywards  
Mocking his hooded tempers,  
Ignoble is his national calls  
For endless gargantuan CHANGE!  
I drown in despair  
Awaiting the clarion call,  
The call for freedom's vassals  
Denied by *Haramist*\* men.  
*Leah*\*'s noblest essence is lost  
In the acrid wombs of *Haramism*.  
I drench in despair,  
To despair these drenches!  
Terror threatens the Nile,  
Horror delights with wrath  
A passing time beget a loss  
Like murmurs and caldron hues  
From earth's bossomic space.  
I breathe in despair  
The morbid breath of fury  
In her wailing nights of waiting  
A blast heralds a curse  
We marvel in distraught.

I rave in despair  
No respite, no vision!  
Our mandate is stillborn,  
Our heritage is foregone.  
For their litanies of promises  
Unwaged-hopeless graduates  
Are daily-stabbed to depression  
And suicidal jamboree.  
I thrive in despair,  
Undeterred, yet I thrive,  
Within this horrid enclave  
Marveling monotonously  
At this African giant  
Giant of a saddled country,  
Defiled innocence of bloom!  
I shuttle in despair,  
Blinking at their deeds of folly.  
Dreams becoming nightmares:  
The NORTH heralds loud cheers  
The SOUTH unwinds her fears  
The WEST promises her wares  
The EAST threatens to tear  
The mesh, which held us here.  
I speak in despair  
The witty words of old,  
The hidden truths of gold  
Alas! these hoisted fluffy flags

Of green-white-green,  
Of madmen and specialists,  
Of parasites and peasants  
May come someday to revolt.

\**Leah* Sheribu is a Christian Nigerian kidnapped by Boko Haram insurgents.

\**Haramist* is a coinage for Boko Haram group of insurgents in Nigeria.