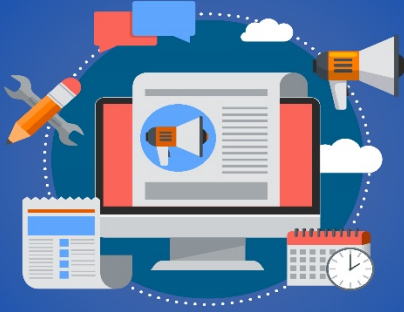


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Spread the Mat for a Returning General

Ndubuisi Martins

Let the mat spread through this path
as we hail the general who returns, four times denied,
now emerges with the heads of his four enemies
under his armpits, for the Aso-isle carnival scrub,
the flavor of a repeated song still on civil lips.

Let the martial music begin for a return,
a second coming to re-christen the garrison
commander whose barrack tone cracked overnight
to become half- tranquil, hesitant stream
where colourful metaphors trap many ears and
cucumber coldness is a hint of a murmuring army,
waiting to leave its stench yet again.

We now step into the new baptism of CHANGE,
Strolled through the NEXT LEVEL another maxim
perennially renewed to woo all long-benumbed ones,
we whose sense of history is the very life
of amnesia, we, who leave wound to fester flies
until our neighbours cope with the frequent fragrance
That defines our homeland.

We snore and snort for we are here at this Rome
where our rearguard Vicar is now a repentant democrat,
ready to enthrone silence and give swords to the air,

promulgate decrees and claim the see of spirit, ready
to cure the darkness on the land with the grief of Egypt.

Fourteen gunshots for the general who belongs to nobody
and for everybody, who must answer the surname of herds
valours of his 97% votes and kinsmen of the RUGA dream.

Author's Biography:

Ndubuisi Martins (Aniemeka) former adjunct lecturer at McPherson University, Seriki-Sotayo, Ogun State, and currently teacher of Use of English and Writing with the Centre for General Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, is a poet, columnist, editor and literary conversationalist. He is also an emerging literary (poetry) theorist, critic and scholar. His work has appeared in *Lines from the Rock*, *Bewrite.com*, *Africanwriter.com*, *Ngiga Review* and *Wreaths for a Wayfarer (An Anthology of Poems in Honour of Pius Adesanmi)*. Ndubuisi Aniemeka has also had his essays published in local and international peer-reviewed journals. Ndubuisi resides and writes from Ibadan.