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***Yusuf Bala Usman: Departed Body; Living Soul**

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Is your departure now be other
than a Visitation of Divine Anger for
our Samud-like heedlessness
O' Great Thinker?

The Mass of the People bewailed
your lost not on the streets marching
to be the Tyrants' game, but in the sanctuary
of their hearts scheming
the actualization of your teaching

Though you're of royal blue blood,
you refused to conserve those ways
of your ilk at the pain of your people,
Instead you sought for a society
where humane justice and liberty reign.

Yusuf, in your whole life you stand by
and for the Truth ;
You toiled for the Truth
against those Gorgons
who wanted to stand down the Truth,
even though they succeeded in standing
between us and your vision,
they failed to break You,
as they have broken many pretenders to
your ideals.

Now the darkness is so palpable,
as the absence of your illuminating
presence has benighted our mind;
our land.

Dear restless mind in search of
Perfection, Rest. Rest, even if

we run bald pulling out our hairs
or wailed ourselves dumb in a mark
of self-inflicted grief.

May you find that Ultimate Comfort
which you sought for many distressed souls.

**Dr Yusuf Bala Usman, late, was a renowned and revered academic and scholar-intellectual.
He was of the Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.*

About the Author:

Muhammad Tahir Mallam holds a PhD in English literature from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria, where he teaches literary theory, English Romantic Poetry and African Poetry in English in the Department of Modern European Languages and Linguistics. His poems have been published in many anthologies and academic journals across Nigeria.