

ISSN 0976 - 8165



THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

11th Year of Open Access

**Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed
Open Access e-Journal**

Vol. XI, Issue-5 (October 2020)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite
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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

Savage Souls

Raphael Chukwuemeka Onyejizu
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Of these are the savage souls
In which time invokes a memory.
I render them like cryptic verse
Intrepid certainty deserts this horizon.
Gloomy though, I make to recall
That man once danced the sacred dance
Of seasoned blood from earthen skulls.

And at dusk's sleepy corners
They prod in currants of colours
Delighted at the twirl of symbols
Threading soulfully to tom-tom drums
Of *ikolo**, *udu*** and *ogene+*
Whose nights of insipid passions
Betray the phony tales of rebirth.

Then in their flights of invocations
They formed a tract that birthed
Beastly forms, beckoning on Beelzebub
In blade-twisting rites of initiations,
Plodding loudly, on spirited immolations
Where quickening tempers in hallowed
Chambers, honour the horrid paths of doom!

Ikolo* - A wooden slit drum beaten with two sticks and used largely in parts of Igbo land and West Africa.

Udu** - A pot-like musical instrument used by the Igbo tribe for traditional performances.

Ogene+ - A large metal bell used by the Igbo tribe for music and other live performances.