

Winter Poems¹

Ndaba Sibanda²

Wildlife Around Waterholes

Winter in Zimbabwe is lovely, dry days
from June to August. Beasts nearby ponds.

There is reason to meditate on a season
of sorrow, for beyond it is a tomorrow . Spring.

Winter shouldn't be a time to wallow in sadness
forever. There is a horizon, hope is ready to spring

into action. The potential for a fresh start, a new life
and page. A time to be ripen and rupture forth into relevance.

What Does Seasonality Mean?

What does seasonality
mean for connections and reconnections?
What happens when we follow cyclical patterns?
For instance, we sing or love from sunrise to sunset?
We party from a new to a full moon, swing from growth
to harvest, whisper into the sharp ears of the cycle of life,
embark on the journey of life, count the seasons of life?

A glimpse into relationships that accompany
one through a clear and critical period of one's life,
of connections that bring one delight and development,
think of the season of spring which springs into rapid growth,
optimism, new beginnings and opportunities where relations
flower and flourish, and where partners navigate it in style.

Feel the temperature of summer and its emotionality,
spirituality, and physicality , including its emblems

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of progress, its need for security and its wealth
of interruptions; and hence welcome
the coolness of winter, minus its sorrows,
solitude and sicknesses; and the decency of autumn
which is traditionally thought to be older than the word fall,
a term that refers to the leaves falling off trees
and all that marks possible feats and failures.

However, the finality of it all is...
that an earlier name for the season
is harvest, and for that reason,
let's have a deal, a real reap
of boldest, brightest and best waves
in our terms, in our periods, in our times!

As Long As

She had the liberty
to live where thought
the sun, her sun
radiated rays of fun,
where she would not
tomorrow sorrow
of having wandered
off into an infinite dimness,
or into a house whose roof was full
holes and hurt instead of happiness.

She had the right to migrate
like a seasonal bird in winter,
to soar and sing her best songs,
to like the firmament she wanted,
to live an abundant life she desired,
for we live once, we merit the best.

She had the autonomy to serenade
a deeper tune with a life of its own,
to sing a melody of love she favored,
to form and frequent the best nest
she was enamored of and comfy with.

She had the freedom to be a bird,
to fly and cheep high in the sky,

to sing a sundrenched song she desired
and danced to with a voice of vitality,
to sing as long as that voice was hers,
for cynical voices have no cadence,
as long as she took responsibility,
for liability is an heir of maturity,
yes as long as that life was hers,
for it has to be lived and loved,
yes as long as her wise wings
did not act up and spin off
and see her happy heart
hurtle down a highway
of hurt or heartache!

A Dance with Nature and Life

They thirsted for a touch of freshness
A touch to wash away their dryness
A new week ushered in: Sunday morning greeted them in style
A pleased pair of ears received pattering sounds: a dream shower
It poured down and enriched the land. Nature's love was live!
Land was quenched of thirst, plants healed of pangs of dehydration
Rivers roared in celebration, dams hugged inflows in humming ways
Farmers were ready to farm, fauna and flora flourished as if feted

Perfil del autor/a

Ndaba Sibanda is a Zimbabwean-born poet, novelist, and nonfiction writer who has a passion for themes and topics around conservation, nature, development and justice. He believes that he is a poet in prose, and hence he has never looked back since building and marching into the very first poetry pharmacy in the world, where poetry ... and poetry and poetics are the most tonic threesome prescriptions! Sibanda has received the following nominations: the National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA), the Mary Ballard Poetry Chapbook Prize, the Best of the Net Prose and the Pushcart Prize. Sibanda's book *Notes, Themes, Things And Other Things: Confronting Controversies, Contradictions And Indoctrinations* was considered for The 2019 Restless Book Prize for New Immigrant Writing in Nonfiction. Ndaba's book titled *Cabinet Meetings: Of Big And Small Preys* was considered for The Graywolf Press Africa Prize 2018. Sibanda is a three-time Pushcart nominee.

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