

## Obinna Chilekez

### **You Stand in My Dreams Like Kilimanjaro**

Another year has begun  
And the old one faded away, yet no see  
I only see you in dreams, as we do our dead  
I see you in morning dreams, mid daydreams and night dreams

You are always in my mind  
Standing still like Mount Kilimanjaro  
I have sought the medicine of the white doctor  
To expunge you from me, but  
No hope, no help, there you still stand  
I have sought the medicine of our witch doctor  
To expunge you from me, but  
Still no hope, no help, as you stand there still

I have no sought to see your face  
Once more, to see if it can kill  
This urge to see you again  
But there, standing as a river in-between  
Is coronavirus, that killer virus  
Closer of doors and borders, divider of homes

Soxna, now that a new year has begun  
And hope of seeing you still dim with this virus around  
As you come to me in dream today  
Please untie me, let wonder away from you  
Until we see the end of this virus.

### **Early Year Rains**

The heat had had its way  
For long time of drought  
Agreed, in hot season, we are  
Never had it been this hot

The cloud darkens  
Hiding the face of the sun  
And gentle winds sail across  
Leaving a gentle touch on the face

It began to rain ...

You cannot image  
This smile on the faces  
Of leaves, under the showers  
Of this mighty fall of rain

See the little bird nwanza\*  
Soaring and dancing in the rain, not alone  
The fowls, insects and others all  
Taking their first bath of the year.

## **Night Rain**

Night falls in rain  
As night became darker than usual  
Minutes later it rained, bucketful, everywhere, and  
The stars ran too into their homes, for fear  
Of flashing lightning, with no control  
Across the dark face of night

The thunders too at war, roaring and rolling,  
This night, unsafe, of moonlight steps  
The moon calls of its shine, we call off our dance  
For the ground slippery with mist and fear  
The rain 'd taken off the moonshine, taken off our moonlaughters  
Night has fallen in rain, fall in pains.

## **Another Day of Thanksgiving**

The sun appeared majestically  
On my window-pane  
With a burning-like silver  
Bright, a beauty to behold

The dusk on its way home  
Oh the day is past spent

It's been a great day  
Of dreams achieved, delayed and wasted too  
I look up  
Oh another day of thanksgiving is gone.

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\* Is the smallest bird in Igboland where the poet comes from

### **About the Poet**

Obinna Chilekezi was born at Diobu Port Harcourt, Nigeria on 22nd August 1965. He had his primary education at Nwair Ud Deen (Moslem) School although a Christian in 1972. Obinna has a background in Library Science, Marketing and Insurance. He has written poems that have been published in anthologies like *Twenty Nigerian Writers*, *For Ken For Nigeria*, *New Voices*, etc. His works have also appeared in *Rigorous*, *Better Than The Starbuck*, etc. He has three published collections which are: *Son Chikeziri too died*, *rejection and other poems* and *Songs of a Stranger in the Smiling Coast*. One of his insurance texts won the 2016 African Insurance Organisation Book Award. He has currently left the insurance industry to pursue his dream in writing.