The First Day After The War

We heard the songs of a wedding party. We saw a soft light Coiling round the young blades of grass At first we hesitated, then we saw her footprints, Her face emerged, then her eyes of freedom! She woke us up with a smile saying, 'What day is this that comes suddenly?' We said, 'It is the first day after the war'. Then without waiting we ran to the open space Ululating to the mountains and the pathways Calling people from all circles of the earth. We shook up the old man demanding a festival We asked for all the first fruits of the season. We held hands with a stranger We shouted across the waterfalls People came from all lands It was the first day of peace. We saw our Ancestors travelling tall on the horizon.

Mazisi Kunene