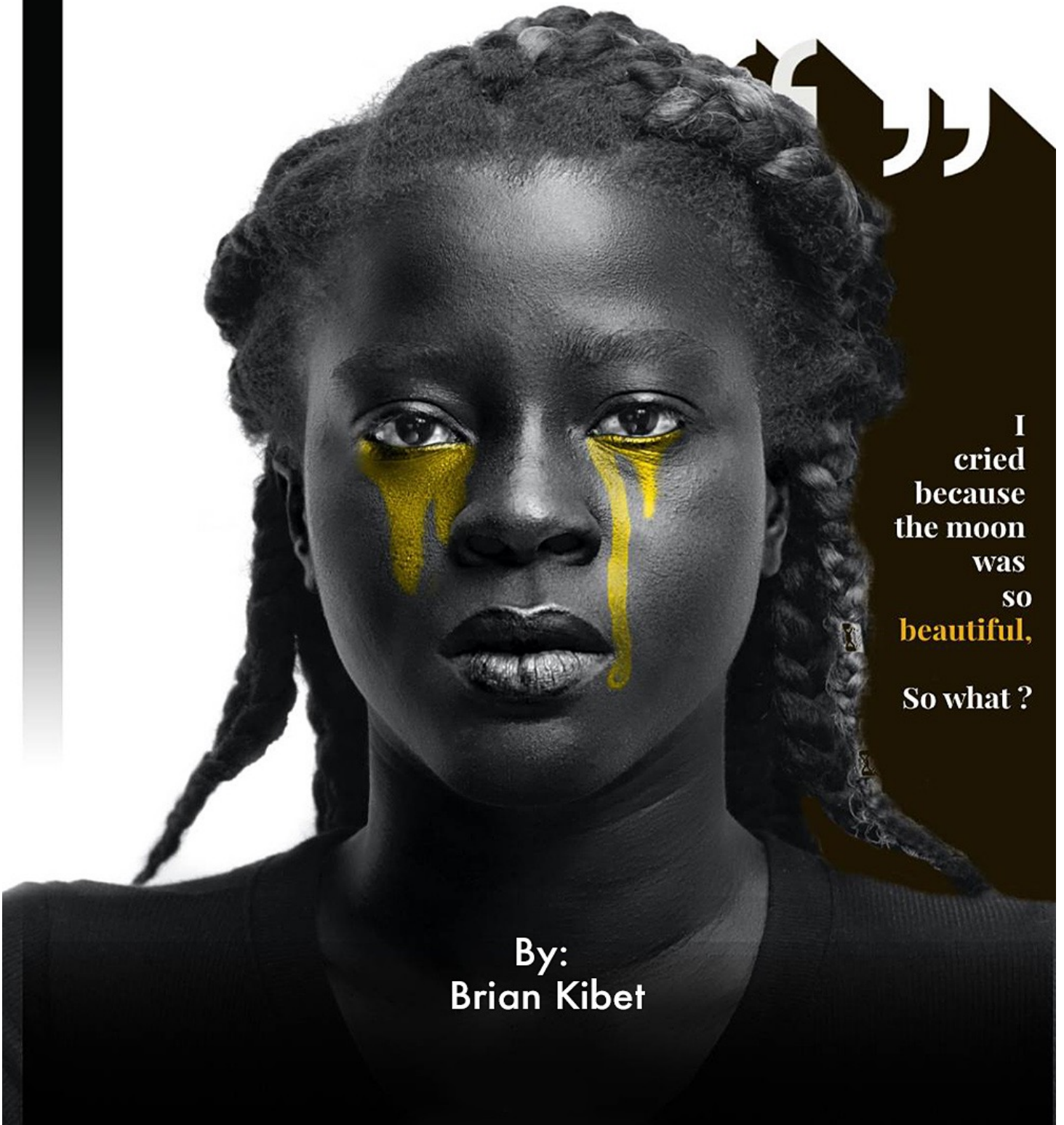


# Aswito Darling

A Poetry Anthology



I  
cried  
because  
the moon  
was  
so  
**beautiful,**  
So what ?

By:  
Brian Kibet

# **Aswito Darling**

**by Brian Kibet**

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## Where are you?

Have you heard the Greek mythology

The creation tale of the white man

They say that humans

Were created

With four arms

Four legs

And a head

With two faces

Zeus the creator

Feared this being

Feared the power it might wield

So he split the creature

Into two separate halves

Now we live our lives condemned

Searching for our other half

Where are you

This other part of me

Where are you

Aswito Darling

## Letter to my brothers

My brothers

My brothers from other mothers

My brothers

Brothers with whom we shared pain

Brothers circumcised together

Brothers bonded by pain

Of losing their foreskins

My brothers

Tell Aswito

That I am a man

That I am a full man

Tell her

That when my foreskin was cut

That I stared into the eyes of the initiator

Without flinching

Without shivering

Tell her

That I faced the pain

Like a full man

Tell her

That I am no stranger to pain  
Tell her  
That I am a man  
That I am a full man  
Tell her  
That I am no stranger to shame  
That once upon a time  
I was a scrawny kid  
That once upon a time  
I was beaten  
By my schoolmate  
Before the eyes of my kid brother  
Tell her  
There is no shame  
Greater than being comforted  
By your kid brother  
Tell her  
That I was an ugly kid  
With a head full of ringworms  
That I had few playmates  
That my head  
Seemed to have small volcanic eruptions

Of ringworm wounds

Tell her

Of my school uniform

The one with yellow patches

To cover a naked buttock

Tell her

Of my second hand shoes

Made of patches of cloth and leather

Tell her

That I know of hunger

That our family

Once had an empty granary

Tell her

That I once slept

On an empty stomach

Tell her

That I know the pain

Of hunger tearing up your stomach

Tell her

That I know shame

Like the back of my hand

Tell her

That poverty  
Was once my middle name  
But now I'm saved  
Tell her  
That once upon a time  
Pain was a friend of mine  
That I have lost family and friends  
To the angel of death  
Tell her  
That there is no pain  
Greater than the passing of a loved one  
Tell her  
That even heartbreaks  
Cannot surpass  
The pain brought by death  
Tell her  
That I have been despised before  
That I have known hate  
Tell her  
That I know of anger  
Tell her  
That I know of love too

Tell her  
Of the love of African mother's  
Tell her  
She once beat me  
As if she intended of murder  
Tell her  
That the love of African mother's  
And the children they love  
Is a complicated matter  
That can never be understood  
By the minds of strangers  
Tell her  
That when they said  
To become a full man  
You had to read their books  
And pass their exams  
Tell her  
That I read well  
That I passed their tests  
Tell her  
That I was admitted to university  
And made something of myself



Tell her

That I became a man

That I am a full man

That I am a total man

Tell her

## Recipe for happiness

Listen Aswito

I know the recipe for happiness

It is the small small things in life

Sometimes happiness

Is made up of peace on mind

Isolation in a quite location

You have to silence your mind

Rid it of all troubling thoughts

Sometimes happiness is borrowed

Have you noticed

How the laughter

Of an innocent young one

Is contagious

Have you noticed

How that happiness

Lights up a room

How that smile

Digs up reels

Of our own happy childhood

From the stores of our memories  
Happiness is not being wealthy  
Riches have it's own problems  
Often  
The journey to lots of wealth  
Is not always a clean one  
It is a journey  
They muddies your soul  
Eat that which you pay with your sweat  
Do good  
And good thing will be done to you  
Make other happy  
And happiness will be your potion  
That is the word of the good book

## Things happen

Listen Aswito

Birds fly because they fly

Fish swim because they swim

It is the way of nature

The way of the gods

Some things in life

We cannot understand

Because they are things

Of the gods

What is for the gods

Man cannot partake

Do not try to find meaning

For everything that happens in life

Some things in life

Are not for us to understand

## Home

Listen Aswito

Home is your mother's hands

Home is your grandma's embrace

Home is the hands of a loved one

Home is your lovers heart

Home is your father's whistles

While he herds his cows

Home is your brother's mischiefs

And the tantrums of your siblings

Home is your favourite cup

Home is your warm blanket

Home is your favourite sweater

Home is the little things

The quirks that make it unique

Home is the people

The people that make it a home

## I'm hurting

Listen Aswito

I'm hurting

I'm hurting so bad

I'm in pain

There's pain in my body

There's pain I'm my soul

Pain is flowing through my tears

I cannot hold them back

There's so much pain

So much

It's leaking through my eyes

There's sorrow in my heart

There is a fire

There is an inferno

Raging within my soul

I'm burning up Aswito

Flames of desperation

Flames

Flames fed by sadness

Flames

Flames fed by hate  
Flames  
Flames fed by need  
Flames  
Flames eating me whole  
There is war within my soul  
A war I'm fighting  
All against myself  
There is a war Aswito  
A battle within myself  
There is a war  
A war I'm losing  
What about love  
What about love Aswito  
Will it extinguish  
These flames  
This fire  
Burning within me  
Burning within my soul  
Will it heal  
These wounds  
Will it stop

This war  
I'm waging within myself  
Is love the answer  
Are you the hand that heals  
The extinguisher  
Of this inferno  
The salve  
To these wounds  
Is love the answer  
To this sadness  
To this madness  
Will love  
Fill the voids  
Within my soul  
Fill the nothingness  
In my heart  
Is love the answer



## People

Listen Aswito

We are all ugly

We are all beautiful

My nose looks this way

Yours looks the other way

My ears

Are elephant sized

Your ears

Are modelled from a rats

Your face

Is egg shaped

My face

Is potato shaped

My stomach

Looks ematiated

Your stomach

Looks like you've been pregnant

For the last decade

Yet it is that strange nose of yours

That makes you different

That makes you beautiful  
That makes you you  
Yet it is that egg shaped face  
That I cant keep myself from touching  
That ugly beautiful face  
That excited my heart  
That boils my blood  
Listen Aswito  
We are all beautiful  
In an ugly manner  
We are all ugly  
In a beautiful way

## Life

Listen Aswito  
Sometimes life  
Is an ugly thing  
Sometimes life  
Is a beautiful thing  
Sometimes I talk to flowers  
In lack of a suitable company  
You're a beautiful thing little rose  
You've bloomed well you peony  
Sometimes I talk to birds  
You're a sweet couple  
Your beautiful doves  
So listen Aswito  
We do what we do  
To remain sane  
Listen Aswito  
Sometimes we get a little bit strange  
So that we can see another day  
Sometimes we talk to the moon  
We tell it how pretty she is

So that some little part in us  
Feels a little pretty too  
We do what we do Aswito  
To make this life bearable  
We become insane  
To escape this maddening insanity  
Listen Aswito  
Do what you do  
To become what you want to be

## Ups and downs of life

Listen Aswito

Life is a see saw

One one side

Health sits

And on the other

Wealth sits

When wealth goes up

Health always goes down

And so often

When wealth is down

Health is high up

Balancing the two

Is a mammoth task

That always needs

The touch of the gods

## Love

Listen Aswito  
Listen my darling love  
I once loved another  
Whom I left  
Because her head was big  
Who left me  
Because my nose was huge  
I once loved another  
Who left me  
Because she hated mother  
Whom I left  
Because my mother hated  
Listen Aswito  
We love till we are tired of love  
Then we create silly reasons  
To commemorate  
The death of that love  
Listen Aswito  
Listen darling  
I will love you with certainty

I will love you for eternity  
This love will strain sometimes  
This love may drain someday  
This love may faint on this race  
But if it dies, this love  
I won't tell you your feet are ugly  
Don't tell me my tongue is too rough

Listen Aswito

If this love dies

Promise me we'll celebrate

The happy times we've had

The smiles we've shared

Promise me

Promise me Aswito

We'll bury this love

With the dignity

It deserves

Promise me Aswito

## The plague

Listen Aswito

I have the plague

I have contacted the virus

The one that makes brains soft

The one that makes hearts beat faster

I have this deadly plague Aswito

This contagious malady of the heart

This deadly plague, my darling Aswito

Demands that i be quarantined

In the prison of love

It demands that there be a lockdown

And i should not interact with other hearts

Listen Aswito

I have the plague darling

I have contacted the deadly virus

The virus of love



## **A wedding**

Listen Aswito

On this auspicious occasion  
That we are made to share a name  
I demand that there be a sacrifice

The healthiest of bulls

Must lose its life

The fattest of goats

Will accompany the bull

I demand the best of drinks

From the best grains

I demand the all gathered

Be at their best

I demand a sacrifice

When I take this solemn oath

That only you I cherish

From now till I perish

## The way of the gods

Listen Aswito

It doesn't matter

How far your eyesight is

It doesn't matter

How hard you gaze into the skies

You cannot see the heavens

Listen Aswito

What the gods can see

Man cannot

Listen my sweet darling

What the gods eat

Man cannot partake

And if he does

He dies

But the gods

Can partake

In that which belongs to man

And cannot be harmed

## Mama

Listen Aswito

Mama owns the galaxy

She pays the stars

To twinkle all night

She pays the sun

So that I can have fun

Listen

My sweet darling

Mama gave me the moon

As my inheritance

Listen Aswito

What more wealth

Can surpass

My mother's gift

## Listen to nature

Listen Aswito

Listen to nature

Listen to the whisper of the wind

Let it caress you

Listen to the wind

Dance with the trees

Sway to the whisper

Sway to the tune of the wind

Listen my sweet darling

Listen to the chirp of the morning birds

Listen to the sweet morning tune

Sweet sweet potato, she chirps

Small smaller biggest

She happily sings

Listen Aswito

Listen to the stream

Listen to music the river stones make

When caressed by the cool waters

Listen Aswito

Nature is never silent

Nature will always speak to you

Nature will always soothe you

Nature will always heal you

Listen Aswito

Listen my sweet darling

## Gravity between us

Listen Aswito

There is a certain gravity

Gravity between hearts

There is a certain pull

A pull between hearts

A pull that draws hearts together

A pull that beckons

A beckoning of a lovers heart

A beckoning that only hearts

That only loving hearts understand

Listen Aswito

Listen my sweet darling

Listen to this pull

This gravity between our hearts

Listen Aswito

Listen my sweet darling

To how our beats

The beats of our hearts

Listen to how they are aligned

Listen to their strange symphony

Listen Aswito

Listen my sweet darling

You are the moon to my earth

And love, my sweet darling

Is the invisible belt

Holding us together

Binding the moon to earth

## Certainly

Listen Aswito

The sun rises without fail

The sun sets with certainty

The the moon is a gloomy one

She rises when she feels like

Listen my sweet darling

The sun and the moon

Are like life itself

Some things happen with certainty

Other things

Other things happen when they happen

Listen Aswito

This is the way of things



## Christmas birds

Listen Aswito

Listen to the song

The song of the Christmas birds

Listen Aswito

Listen to the song

The song of the harvesting season

Hey you

You

You pretty flock

Come down to me

I know where the best grain is

Come down to me

You

Yes, you

Come down to me you pretty bird

The journey is long

The journey is tiresome

Come down to me

Buckets of grain

I have in store

A good night rest  
A bed better than a nest  
Come down to me  
Come down to me you pretty bird  
We will play together  
We will need together  
I know where the berries are  
The best of berries  
The sweetest of berries  
Come down to me  
Just for a night  
Come down to me  
Just for a day  
And a little while more

## Little things

Listen Aswito

The cool morning air  
Is a perfume to the soul  
The picturesque sunrise  
Is the grandest of wallpapers

The sunset

Is an optical nutrition  
The touch of the sun  
The warmth it brings  
Is a delight to the skin

Listen Aswito

Listen my sweet darling

Savour the taste

Feel the touch

Take in the sight

Take time to feel

Listen Aswito

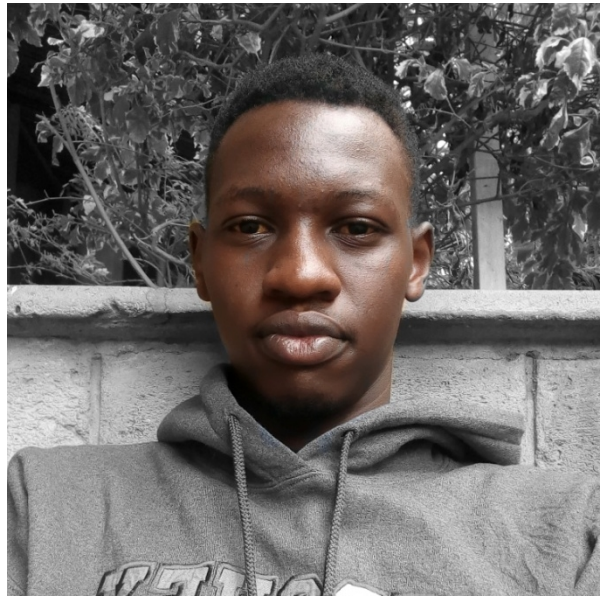
Listen my sweet darling

It is the simple pleasures

That brings happiness

Enjoy the simple pleasure  
For a life without pressure

### About the author



Brian Kibet is the author of the poetry anthology *The Village Belle*. He is a finalist student at The University of Nairobi pursuing Bachelor of Economics

He is an admirer of all forms of art from music to paintings and uses art as an escape from reality. He believes in the words of Friedrich Nietzsche that no artist tolerates reality.

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