

## “The African Woman”

The African woman or the woman in Africa  
 How should I address you?  
 With consideration and due respect?  
 Or with disdain given your ascribed station?  
 I am your child  
 And I admire your dignity  
 Because despite a life full of turpitude and pains  
 Do you hold your head high  
 Never complaining  
 But always there when needed by the blind, the deaf and the dumb

The African woman or the woman in Africa  
 How long will you continue  
 To bear the burden of a whole continent unaided?  
 You are an eternal virgin  
 Your goodwill a fountain that will never dry up  
 You are at once a mother, a wife, an attentive ear, a nurse and a cultivator  
 Generously giving and never asking to receive  
 A situation comfortably accepted by enlightened men  
 Who foolishly take your silence as proof of your low intelligence  
 And think they are manly because they dictate the law

The African woman or the woman in Africa  
 How soon will you finally come to limelight  
 And have a say in how common goals are set and targets achieved?  
 Then the ruins that have followed long periods of governance by demi-Gods  
 More concerned by their length of stay at the palace  
 Than the eradication of kwashiorkor  
 Will perchance be replaced by a new season of reason  
 Where the proof of what makes a man is not how many opposing heads are fell  
 Nor the number of private foreign mansions maintained by public coffer  
 But the increasing number of children that survive their age

The African woman or the woman in Africa  
 Brilliant, generous, dynamic and just  
 Wholeheartedly committed to treating the wounds of a continent devastated  
 By too many testosterone-induced fights for prizes and reserved territories  
 Unheeded, unsung, unseen, unheard and unsolicited  
 Whereas without you life in the village or the city will be full of want and distress  
 I salute you, dear Mother

And I look forward to the day that soon will be hopefully  
 When to your rightful throne you will finally be respectfully conducted  
 As the light of the dark continent.

Joseph Egwurube

---

## Référence électronique

---

EGWURUBE, Joseph, "The African Woman" (Poem), Revue Miroirs  
[En ligne], 4 Vol.1|2016, mis en ligne le 1 avril, 2016  
<http://www.revuemiroirs.fr/links/femmes/volume1/article10.pdf>

---

### *Auteur*

Joseph EGWURUBE  
Université de La Rochelle  
Chercheur associé au CRHIA : Culture et Territoires, XIX-XXI siècles  
[joseph.egwurube@univ-lr.fr](mailto:joseph.egwurube@univ-lr.fr)

---

### **Droits d'auteur**

© RevueMiroirs.fr