

Poetry Series

Ian Gathagu

- poems -



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Ian Gathagu is a Kenyan poet and writer whose work is shaped by a fascination with humanity, history, emotion, and the contradictions of life. His writing explores the spaces between darkness and hope, love and loss, silence and expression, often seeking beauty in moments that are difficult to name.

Born and raised in Kenya, Gathagu writes from a distinctly African perspective while addressing experiences that transcend geography. His poetry draws inspiration from history, human nature, faith, society, and the quiet struggles that often remain unspoken.

His style is reflective and evocative, with a particular appreciation for powerful imagery, philosophical thought, and language that carries emotional weight. Whether writing about love, war, mortality, society, or the ordinary moments of human existence, he seeks to leave the reader with something to contemplate long after the final line.

For Gathagu, poetry is more than an arrangement of words; it is a way of preserving thoughts, questioning the world, and giving a voice to emotions that ordinary language sometimes cannot contain.

He continues to write and develop his literary voice, believing that a poem does not merely tell a story—it can become a mirror in which the reader discovers a part of themselves.

The People's Mandate

They came in suits with plastic smiles,

Waving flags and counting miles.

Promised roads and food and jobs,

But left us silence, dust, and sobs.

They shook our hands with poisoned charm,

Then fenced the land, sold off the farm.

We voted hope, we bled for change,

But power played its old, cruel game.



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The ballot spoke, yet guns replied,

With rigged machines and truths denied.

They bought the news, they blurred the line,

While justice drowned in bribes and wine.

But hear us now — the drums still beat,

In every slum and village street.

We rise with words, with fists uncurled,

The youth awake to shake the world.

We are the storm, not just the rain,

We'll plant the seeds, despite the pain.

No longer fooled by sugar speech,

Our dreams now stand beyond their reach.

We want a land where truth can grow,

Where leaders serve, not steal and show.

Where freedom isn't just a song,

But law and love that makes us strong.

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