

The KK betrayal—A poem from Makena

by Ilutwa Makena

Agreement, Agreement, a marriage of convenience
Yes, the Barotseland Agreement 1964
A marriage made in bad faith
Delivered a still-born baby, unitary state of Zambia
The Barotse nation paid, dearly
A price, of going to bed with a devil,
Yes, we opened doors, wide open,
To a preacher man's son
Hailing from we don't where
A Bible in his right hand, and a
White handkerchief in his left
Faithfully, our King appended his signature
In deceit, the sly Kenneth Kaunda appended his and proclaimed
"One Zambia, one nation" Yes, One nation that never was
A guaranteed entrance to a jubilee of perpetual servitude
A betrayal of our affirmation
Not to have retained our separate statehood
A unitary state was pronounced, but
Which nations came together, Kenneth?
You condemned us, Kenneth,
Son of David Kaunda, the preacher man
To wear a face of severe poverty and stress in perpetuity
You rewarded us, Kenneth, for our faith
With detentions without trial and daunting mental slavery
Contemptuously, you parroted, the Holy Words in deceit
"Do to others as you want them to do to you"
Kenneth! What would you like the Barotse to do to you?
"Love thy neighbor as you love thyself" You lied to Zambia
The worst kind of cynicism, hypocrisy, contradictions and antagonisms
Yet you felt no shame and no remorse, instead
You netted and meted us in chains
For seeking our birth right and unity in diversity
Hoping against hope, In the name of unity
We advocated for restoration of the Agreement the basis of unity
You declined with rage and arrogance, thereby
Throwing away the unitary state of Zambia by your own actions
Tell me "Humanist" Kenneth
Is that the way you love thyself?
Barotseland never claimed an inch of North Eastern Rhodesia, factually
So says history of mankind,
Man East, man West, Man North, man South
Where, then, does this stinking hatred emanate from?

A failed attempt to grab what did not belong to you!
Oø surrogate son of North Eastern Rhodesia
You taught, inhuman teaching, based on humanism utopia
Propagated the Tiyende Pamodzi falsehood, Yes
Propagated one Zambia one nation falsehood, Yes
Tried to build a nation on falsehoods
Based on dogmatic phylosophies and evil õismö that
Being the preacher manø's sonø's weapon of mental destruction.
Out of your vanity, you condemned us to ignominy
But we say to you, from dishonor we shall achieve dignity, Yes
By your own actions, you set us free to actualize our separate statehood.