

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The African e-Journals Project has digitized full text of articles of eleven social science and humanities journals. This item is from the digital archive maintained by Michigan State University Library. Find more at:

<http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/africanjournals/>

Available through a partnership with



Scroll down to read the article.

Poem: Mother Afrika's Matriots

Micere Mugo

A contribution towards the urgent task of engendering Pan-Africanism, our historical memories, our language and concepts such as "patriots" etc. etc.

(Refrain: Mother Afrika's Matriots)

When we surmount an attack on the unfinished business of historical stock-taking we shall begin with dynamising freezing silences now paralysing our womanful lives.

We shall recount our herstory dramatising it and illustrating it with rainbow colours.

We will pour lavish libation honouring named un-nameable yet to be named Mother Afrika's matriots

(Refrain)

We will sing without counting time

We will dance hearts touching earth

We will map the A to Z of our unfolding epic journey of womanful living

We will compose immortal verse in living praise of Mother Afrika's matriots

(Refrain)

Nefertiti, the ever poised gazelle legendary beauty, granary of culture whose stunning reign rained sparkling stars.

(Refrain)

Hatshepsut, grand political architect who artfully engraved plateaus of human development while Europe still slept.

(Refrain)

Cleopatra, commanderess of matriotic forces strategist of unfathomable battlecraft whose stature not even William can shake or spear.

(Refrain)

Anne Nzinga, proud, stately daughter of the Matamba unconquered queen of Ndongo, abolitionist supreme who etched liberation anthems across Angola's valleys and hills.

(Refrain)

Harriet Tubman, orature artist from Afrika's hearth uncaptured guerilla of the underground railroad whose untiring feet carved corridors of freedom south to north.

(Refrain)

Jane Lewis, detonator of America's dungeons of slavery who engineered highways across Ohio's angry waters navigating slave rescue boats under the enslaver's jaundiced eye.

(Refrain)

Mary Prince, fearless daughter of sustaining Afrikan soil who spat on the virulent crumb-eating housenigger cult burning with each stroke of her pen Caribbea's slave-ridden fields.

(Refrain)

Mary Seacole, Afrikan of undying Jamaican maroon seed whose womanful vision uncovered all male chivalry myths urging sisters to pilot their herstory to newly aimed heights.

(Refrain)

Gertrude Gomez de Avellanda of defiant, revolutionary Cuba who composed a resounding feminist choral poem ages gone since highjacked by plagiarizers and forgers of the feminist text.

(Refrain)

Sojourner Truth, earthquake that shook pillars of racism and sexism
Mary C. Terrell, educator, life-long campaigner for women's rights
Ida B. Wells, journalist-activist, source of liberating consciousness

(Refrain)

Rance Harper, poetess and orator of melodious anti-slavery tunes
Lucy Parson, unsetting sun on black working class life of struggle
Ella Baker, weaver of grassroots networks for civil rights activism

(Refrain)

Fannie Lou Hamer, resister before whose vision Mississippi trembled
Audrey Jeffers, clarion for Afrikana sisters to combat racial assault
Amy Ashwood Garvey, Pan-Africanist feminist who unchained wifehood

(Refrain)

Mary McLeod Bethune, heart beat of Afrikan war drums for freedom
Clara McBride, "Mother Hale", utmost symbol of Afrikana motherhood
Queen Mother Moore, Audley of Louisiana, spine of Afrikana struggles

(Refrain)

Women valiants, whose fighting spirit was a mighty wall of defence
surrounding Afrika, stretching defiantly east to west, north to south
Yaa Asantewa Mihayra Bint Aboud, Queen Aminata, Mamfengu, Ma Rarabe

(Refrain)

Sisters who took over guard, fortifying the wall with gallant resistance
Nyakasikana Mbuya Nehanda of the undying Munhumutapa fighting stock
Me Katilili wa Menza, daughter of Kenya, orator, mobilizer unsurpassed

(Refrain)

Rosa Parks, whose enthroned dignity no racist bigot could unseat
Mary Muthoni Nyanjiru who reignited a retreating volcano of workers
Muthoni wa Kirima, last fieldmarshall of the Mau Mau landfreedom army

(Refrain)

Mother Afrika's patriots will rise with the earthshaking power of:
the Aba women

the Abeokuta women

the Maji Maji women

and the *jua kali* women

They will rise with the roaring fury of:

the Dakar railway strike women

the Defiance Campaign women

and the Black Panther women

They will rise with the sweeping force of Mother Afrika's struggling women

Our patriots will surely rise with the gun salute of the final *chimurenga* picking up the moloto that missed the target last *chimurenga* around aiming with the precision of Afrikana *chimurenga* women of:

Haiti and Cuba

Algeria and Kenya

Mozambique and Angola

Guinea Bissau and Namibia

Zimbabwe and South Afrika.

They will explode imperialist history's incarcerating myths

They will light undying flames of liberating visions

They will accurately shape the A and the Z of our unfolding pilgrimage through herstory

through living

through being.

(Refrain)

When we surmount an attack on the unfinished business of historical stock-taking we shall begin with dynamising freezing silences now paralysing our womanful lives.

We shall recount herstory dramatising it and illustrating it with rainbow colours.

We will pour lavish libation honouring named un-nameable yet to be named Mother Afrika's patriots.

We will sing without counting time

We will dance hearts touching earth

We will feast on nourishing visions, nourishing visions of womanful living through womanful herstory.

We will map the A and the Z of our unfolding epic journey of womanful struggles

We will compose immortal verse in living praise of Mother Afrika's patriots.

(Refrain)