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ANNIVERSARIES

by

NTONGELA MASILELA

We raised our spears to stab the sky
And torrents of blood unleashed a plague.
 No astonishment to memories pregnant with
 Expectancy;
The deliverance was scorched.

And dead metallic bodies stared
At the prophecy of Death.

Their eyes trembling with terror
Gave us light to beam on the
Pleasure Domes of Addis
Where castrated bull-dogs celebrated
The tenth anniversary of their virginity
While suffering devoured a young
Lean land waiting in vain
For the promised libation.

* * * * *

Ntongela Masilela, whose poem was carried in our last issue, is completing an M.A. degree in Sociology at UCLA. He is an exile from apartheid South Africa, and recently had a group of his poems published in Ba Shiru.