

# A LETTER TO A COMRADE

You too  
my brother  
I heard  
you wore your smile like a general  
I heard from the chirping birds  
high up in the trees  
that witnessed your march.

You too  
my comrade  
pledged to pick up the spear  
Those present to join in the common resolve  
recall the moment with jubilant gestures  
they smile as if to say;  
Like the gallant warriors of old  
his weapon will never touch the ground.

I too  
my comrade  
will take your patriotism  
to be my lodestar in this march  
For I have drank your brotherhood  
There where the bush shields you  
my heart lies with you  
When your turn comes  
to taste the blood of the enemy  
I bid you courage.

The poems we recited  
together chorusing in unison  
The tears we have seen trickle  
as we simultaneously cried vengeance  
The path we have taken  
balancing on each other's shoulders  
let it not be betrayed  
To the finish!  
let the bond further tie and seal  
our brotherhood has beckoned us  
to the front ranks of our people's war

Edwin Mabits