

POETRY

Muganderedzi re tlo Mugunda (We Shall Defeat the oppressors)

We come a long way,
locked in battle against capital
between the spiders of poverty
and the webs of hunger.
We said explosively:
No to malnutrition in the sea of wealth!
No to ignorance imposed in the golden age
of science!

We come a long way,
dogs and batons salting our wounds,
Sharpeville and Matola peppering our anger,
but massively in defiance we chant:
Mugandaredzi re tlo mugunda!
Yes to the Freedom Charter!

We relive the spoiled Dimbaza of our memories
and the poisoned nectar of Limpopo.
From Soweto to Bulhoek
we are the sons and daughters risen
against the granary of thieves in Pretoria!

We come a long way,
we sprouted from the command towers of Isandlwana
flowering in the battle-fields of Wankie,
we flourished in the ravines and gorges of Sipolilo
where our spears stood poised to sever the jugular vein
sucking the juice of our motherland.

Mugandaredzi re tlo mugunda,
we shall defeat the oppressor!
We rock Koeberg,
Eina! Kwakhal 'umiesies
We pound Sasol in blazing infernos,
Kuvuth 'umlilows.

Re tlo vagunda, re tlo vagunda!
We hear rumbles of fear in the belly of apartheid,
cold sweat of panic bathe the brows of generals
in Voortrekker
but we, M K, with deadly precision of T N T's
and bazookas
are shattering the night of repression,
certainly, *Muganderedzi re tlo mukunda,*
and Tambo is leading us to the shrine of victory!

— Makhanda Senzangakhona —