TWO POEMS
BY FEKADE AZEZE *

ON THE VERGE

with words words, words . . .
empty talk
we chased and chased and chased
Beauty and Greenery
Love and Plenitude
PEACE AND RELIEF

AND HAVING FAILED!

here we are carrying our ALMS-BAG
Scintillating with SHAME
Decked in NAKEDNESS
Gracefully SWAYING with WAR
RESPLENDENT WITH CORPSES

(May 1990)

TWIN LOTS

HE TIMES ARE YAWNING!!!

hungry for love
the heart stuffed full of hate.

hungry for peace
stuffed full of war
near-bursting with wrath.

With over-eating . . . With starvation
In the dearth of fullness
Under Twin Trials
THE TIMES ARE YAWNING!!!!

(October 1981)

These poems from Ethiopia, originally composed in Amharic, were translated by Sebhat Gebre Egziabher. (Author's note.)