Title
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Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3dq2q27x

Journal
Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 10(3)

ISSN
0041-5715

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Publication Date
1981

Peer reviewed
TALES OF THE OGRES

All the marimu grandmother used to tell us have two mouths, one at the front like everybody else's and another at the back of the head.

The mouth at the back of the head is kept covered always by long thick hair which the irimu flings hurriedly away to swallow flies when he is hungry.

The front mouth has a tongue that drips words sweeter than the honey of bees inviting, calling, luring softly, gently, friendly while the back mouth is all the time dripping saliva in anticipation of devouring fresh human meat.

While the teeth of the front mouth are bared in an endless smile the mouth at the back the real mouth grimaces snarls teeth clenched especially at the sound of a NO !!!
There is not one
not one single ogre
that survives
the people's anger
and vengeance spirit.

Sometimes brave warriors
stab and slash
ogres to death,
at other times
the monster's own greediness
destroys them
as they try to feast on
burning hot rocks.

And out of the dead irimu's
stomach
walks out
all your relatives
all the clansmen
the greedy ogre
has ever devoured.
yes, no ogre survived
a people's anger

And how else shall we fight
the monsters with two mouths
except by growing two more ears
to catch the faint but constant
growing rumbling of the ogres'
hungry stomach?

How shall we learn how
to fight the ogres
except by sharpening
our eyes on the stone
of HISTORY ???????

By Wanjiki Matenjua