Title
All Things are Possible Here, No!, The Stars Have Dimmed Again

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All Things are Possible Here.

Here, Where the soft coo-coo of the dove
Gives way quickly to angry snarls of hyenas
As dusk creeps,
No, as day like in an eclipse
Turns without warning into night,
Into the rata-tata of AK-47,
All things are possible.

All things are possible here,
In this place where
Madness and Dictatorship
Twined by international capital,
Embrace and explode, volcano-like
Into lava streams of blood;

Possibilities abound in these fertile fields
Where Westerners mine gold;
Empty gold mines and fill them with land mines,
To fill the continent with amputees.

Here where the empty stomachs of children
Rumble in rhythm with anthems of dependency—
The Our Father of their fathers—
Listen!
The rhythm of their mothers’ lullabies!
It beats differently—It is the anthem
Of a new world forming in their wombs;
Believe me!
Even a new future is possible here.

Peter Simatei

NO!

The doubt you chose to cast
Lingers;
Thunder splits ear drums
But echoes less,
Yours recurs; resounds like . . . what?
The wails of a fleet of ambulances
Doing mad revs to salvage quake victims
Is still not the simile.
Did you really believe
That the first stone would come from me?

Peter Simatei
The Stars Have Dimmed Again

The stars have dimmed again
And I—
I for whom astrology is Greek
Lie back to make poetry
From unknown forecasts of my fate.

I contemplate the constellation
And peer at the milky way
To search for a solitary star
Which may in its dissolution
Pierce the quiet of this darkness.

But the chilling hoots of an owl
Detract my abstraction
A reminder perhaps, that
Poetry is not all fantasy.

Tonight,
No star shines for me,
Only blinding sparks of distant tanks
And nearby fire-spurts of a rebel’s rata-ta-ta
And smoke from peasant granaries
Define my being;
And now the ground quakes
And in that last hoot
The owl blinds me with a thousand stars
And seals my fate with blood.

Peter Simatei