IN UHURU LAND

By
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And you, traitors to your people,
Where will you run to
When the brave of the lands gather?
For Kenya is black people's country.

Ngugu Wa Thiong'o

A black man is not safe at home; a black man is not safe abroad.

Ngugu Wa Thiong'o

1

I hid
in "stable" Kenya
in uhuru land
I hid
in front of a wicket
behind a white woman
I hid
behind my wife
I hid
from a black man
I hid

2

He looked at her passport
smiled
no visas necessary
open sesame
because
she from Canada.

3

As if
a mamba snake
were about to strike him
he recoiled
because
underneath her passport
hid
like me
my Somali passport.

4
"He is my husband"
Without hiding
his contempt
he opened it.
Before you could say
J. Robinson!
He closed it
clasped it to his heart

5
beamed
pocketed the single fifty (U.S.) dollar note
beamed again
bowed:
"Bon voyage!"