

meme*

The mahangu* fields lay like a green carpet
My mother with the baby on her back
sang softly as she picked up the weeds
Gently wiping off the sweat
that trickled on her face like tears

My mother's tears have dried up
She saw uniformed men shoot my father
Then they shot her mercilessly
and thought she was dead
She cried for my father,
Then my brother,
Another brother.

I watched her
she moved slowly
As if she had all the time in the world
Living in a world I've been deprived of
by the realities of war
which took me to faraway lands
To learn of a new life, a different life
Of the great adventures of life

Oh my mother why are we strangers?
Didn't you carry me in your stomach?
Didn't you see them cut the binding cord?
Didn't you see me cry for the first time?
Didn't you see my first tooth?
And my first steps.

I've lost you forever, meme
It is the price I paid for freedom
However, no one will ever take your place
You are meme and always will be
In joy and in sadness.
THE END.

- Beata de Sales

*meme (mother)
*mahangu (millet)