

GBAGYI VERSES OF CERTAINTY AND EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE.

Abdulrazaq salihu

So many cloud guns to name,
Grass-gods to surname,I count
12 boys floating on a sea,singing
And reciting psalms:the shortest way to
Say water is stone,interred into December's chest;
I count more verses from my heart than from the book
And together we adore a flower that has turned into my father
Sepals and styles are broken mirages until we believe,
Until the clouds turn black and I nurture a scar the size Of this
country
Don't you wish to close your eyes and bullet all the dark spots
Off your skin?
Does a child break a mirror to see his broken body?
Do you water your body from the scalp now to feet
To mend,to heal,to trace this grave skin fading from yours?
I collect a piece of my father from a cloth I've grown into;
I admit the recap is too slow,a boy my age agrees,
A flower births a bee and we all agree,
A man died and there is a lot of gbagyí words stuck in his
mouth,
My father died and the clouds fade;they reminisce on this
broken
Terra-cotta and a Yoruba boy Says the psychology of colour is
black

I memorize two words from my mother's tongue and
count all the
Stones that make a weapon
I count all the energy gathered in one first to annihilate
matter;
My father, his language, and his existence from home
I fly into an afterlife of short sentences
And *nai* and *fi* is body and death in a language that has
interred its offspring.

Abdulrazaq salihu is Nigerian member of the panel for The Nigerian Review, he's a poetry editor at Teen lit journal and a member of the hilltop creative arts foundation. He won the poetry category of the Nigerian prize for teen authors and was the first runner up for the prose category of the same prize in 2022. He won the splendors of Dawn poetry foundation poetry contest and has his works published internationally and nationally, he was the winner of the 2022 MASKS LITERARY magazine poetry award and is currently learning better ways to heal and exist as man. He can be found on twitter @Arazaqsalihu;Instagaram,abdulrazaq._salihu

