In Memory of Prof. David James Rubadiri (1930-2018)

Susan Kiguli

Makerere University

Poet prophet friend
Now infinitely loved and lifted up
Touching the glories of another globe
Your face, still in our mind and imagination
Driven on by the vision of true life.

A man deeply involved in the strength of living
Celebrating the word, its sound and sign
A powerful patron of poetry.

A tall distinguished man with charming looks
Entering our class singing freedom
Teaching us the meaning of being human
Showing us greatness walking the world
In simplicity.
A builder, architect, designer
In the great drama of life.

A teacher whose heightened personal consciousness
Of joy and sorrow, of hope and fear
Interacted with the reality of others,
Desiring a precinct for the privileges
Of the downtrodden.

A man with a secret staircase to the soul of poetry
Striding across class with an imaginary nanga
Sometimes lifting a trumpet triumphantly in the air
Causing us all to cheer
A poet a father a performer.

A man of the extraordinary
Shaking hands with Kofi Annan
Then sitting down with a widow
Speaking fluent Luganda
Explaining
That there is a future with words
For her daughter.

Waterfall of wisdom
A sage holding a thousand lights
Giving sensible dignified power
To the familiar.

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