Ikani's Homestead Short Stories

Five Pictures Poems

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Five Pictures, Five Poems

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I’ve been playing with my camera for quite a while now.

I’m no expert in photography, but taking a look at the pictures I took recently, I suddenly got this inspiration to write some poetry.

What better way to write poetry than have the pictures appear together with the text.

I really hope you enjoy the following pages... Enjoy them, I said!

Have fun!

- Ikani.

1

This Little Old House

Mmm
E be like say[1]
We've woken up to yet another day
In this little old house of ours
Yes, it looks like another fine day
I know, I know, what the wife's going to say
"Where dat ya wallet? I must to enter market today![2]"
Kai[3], take it easy Madam!
I've still rent and bills to pay
Yah, good morning neighbour
Ready for another round of life's toil and labour?
No, I can't help you out with a few coins
I've someone here hunting for my wallet already
I can see that
Maybe
I'm going to have to 'miss' from here quickly
Go to work, do the best I can
Come home with something for the children and Madam
Be thankful at the end of the day
Because
I can, once more, at least sleep easy tonight
In this little old house.

1. *It looks like*
2. *"Where's your wallet? I must go to the market today!"*
3. *Hey*

Be happy with whatever you have.

2

Busy Street

Parrrp! Parrrp!

"Move, my friend!"

Vvrrroooom!

"Jump aboard. Central Market! We're going to Central Market!"

"Get these okada[1] motorcyclists off the road, somebody!"

"Shaddap[2], old man! You're the one driving foolishly!"

"You are a crazy, you hear me?! A very crazy!"

"Spoke proper English. Didn't you ever went to school?"

"Hahaha!"

"Let's go, I have to get to work before my boss does!"

"No rush. Slow and steady..."

"Baby, baby, gimme pounded yam before your love... Oh yeah, baby..."

Screech!

Parrrp! Parrrp!

1. Nigerian slang name for commercial motorcyclists.
2. *Shut up*

Drive safely.

3

Fishing

The floods in Kaduna[1] this year
Took so many by surprise
Never in forty or more years
Came the older ones' cries
Had the River Kaduna been as angry
As adventurous as this
As to break loose of its confining banks suddenly
Frightening many
Amusing the children
As they pranced and danced gleefully
Splashing through the waters bathing their neighbourhood streets
Trickling down their knees, tickling and cooling their little feet
I decided to survey the area
Mine to aid my efforts was the camera
Some thought I was part of a government team
As seen on television, it seems
Out to take pictures of affected parts of the city
Crying desperately
For quick, saving action from the People On Top
Some shock
Here was a farm
Some poor soul's livelihood
Immersed in the river under clear skies and the sun so warm
But look
There's someone fishing with his calabash
A misfortune, but life must go on.

1. Kaduna was one of the major cosmopolitan cities in Nigeria affected by floods in 2003.

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Oh!

So, that's what they mean by "Nigerian Internet Art"!

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4

White Cock Crowing

Animals don't talk the way we do
But look how children can use their imagination
Adults too
About chickens and a cock going cuck-koo-roo-koo
"Come on, it's dawn already, get up and do your work!"
"Look, don't disturb me, hen!
"I'm the cock in this pen!"
"I'm cock in this pen... All the other cocks have been cuck-koo-roo-koo-ing
"While you just sit down here sleeping. Of all the cocks I had to end up with..."
"Allright, allright, I'm going! A cock can't relax in his own roost these days..."
"It pays to rest by night, crow by dawn so the humans wake up on time
"To throw out to us the grains of corn."
"Hmmph, grunt... I'd like to see her climb up here and do the crowing...
"CUCK-KOO-ROO-KOO!"
"Wake up, Adamu, it's dawn! Pray and get down to the farm!"
"Oh, let me finish my sleep, woman!"
"The white cock's crowing, dear husband."
"No, it isn't. Go back to sleep, you're dreaming."
"CUCK-KOO-ROO-KOO!"
"See? Wake up, wake up, wake up! It is crowing!"
"That useless cock! Today I'm throwing you into the pot! Shut up!"
"Grains, eh? I'm doomed already, you silly hen!"
"Why don't you stop crowing, you cowardly cock, and start laying eggs then?"

You have to admire all creatures and creation.

5

African Sunset At Home

The sun comes up
The sun goes down
The world goes round and round
Take a look at the delighting sight
Bathed in the golden effects of the sun
Stay quiet
Not a sound
Enjoy the sights of Africa
Just before the shrouding night.

Sweet greetings from Africa.

And that's all I have to chatter about right now...