

POETRY

Our Knowledge

Keamogetsi Joseph Molapong

The knowledge we know now
Is not our knowledge spewed
From the lava of ancestral brew
Nor does it flow with curve
Inside the outline of our DNA

This knowledge does not fit
In the rounded bowls of wisdom
That fed the ancestry of seers
Does not compare to civilisations
Much older than this knowledge

Our heritage is based purely
On experience, trials, tribulations
That was taken by other nations
And like all stolen raw material
Reformed, brought back as new

This knowledge has been placed
To obscure indigenous knowledge
Knowledge not designed, reshaped
From the stolen lives and traditions
And wholesaled as world knowledge

Our indigenous knowledge was not
Packaged and kept inside the minds
And tongues of the selected, the learned
But shared amongst peasants, children
Enjoyed by everybody in the civilisation

About the Author

Keamoetsi Joseph Molapong has been writing poetry since 1990. He was instrumental in establishing the two Windhoek poetry groups, Ama Poets and Kitso Poets in 1992 and 1996 respectively. He contributed to 'We opened the door and saw ourselves' (New Namibia Books, 1998). This was followed by a couple of poetry shows such as 'The Black people I know' and 'The scars on my skin. Part 1.'

Through his company, Township Productions, Keamoetsi Joseph Molapong produced several poetry events; organised Regional Poetry Festivals, High school Poetry Competition and the publication of 'Poetree', a series of poetry publications. He has published and contributed to poetry publications such as 'Poetically Speaking' (Gamsberg Macmillan Publishers, 2000), 'Come talk your heart' (New Namibia Books, 2005), 'In search of questions' (BAB, 2005) and lately [The scars on my skin](#) (Township Productions, 2014). In 2012, Molapong contributed to 'No serenity here' (World Knowledge Publishers, Beijing, 2010). The poems in this anthology were translated into Chinese In 2009 and 2010, Keamoetsi was part of the 1st and 2nd SADC Poetry Festival held in Windhoek and Gaborone respectively. Molapong has also participated in international festivals like the 11th Poetry Afrika Festival (2007) in Durban, South African, Poesie Berlin Festival in Germany (2009) and Bare ene ere Poetry Festival in Maseru, Lesotho (2014). The last festival Molapong participate in was the Poetavango International Arts Festival in Maun, Botswana in 2016.

Through the activities and programming of Township Productions, Keamoetsi Joseph Molapong has edited three others poets in the form of Habaitapeli Hendricks Macaba, Lunah Ramphaga, Julia Amukoshi and recently Prince Kamaazengu Marenga I. He has also co-edited and contributed to, 'In search of Questions' with Dr. V. Winterfeldt and Christi Warner. He has also contributed to 'Afrika im Gedicht an anthology' by Al Imfeld (2015). Lastly, Molapong has been instrumental in the establishment and facilitation of the annual World Poetry Month in Namibia with the 4th Edition successfully held in 2017. For the past three years he initiated and facilitated the Bi-monthly Poetry Project with support from the Goethe-Institut Namibia. Two of his last offerings are titled [A poem to the president: a poem in 50 parts](#) (Township Productions, 2020 and Amazon, 2022) and [When words are few](#) (Amazon, 2020).

Keamoetsi Joseph Molapong has participated in two virtual poetry festivals, the Moscow Biennale 2021 as part of the World Poetry Day on the 21st March 2021. This day also coincided with the 31st Independence celebration of Namibia. On 13 August 2021 Molapong participated in the Medellein 31 Poetry Festival hosted by World Poetry Movement in

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Colombia. Through Township Productions, Molapong recently compiled and edited [Walking from the self](#) (Amazon, 2020) and [Naming the tomb](#) (Amazon, 2021)

Mola has published his third anthology of poetry [A conversation: the African in ME](#). At the same time, he has recently published a new anthology of his own poems on gender-based violence [The heartbeat of pain](#), coinciding with 16 days of activism in November/ December 2022. The 36 poems make a challenging read being a harsh indictment of the ongoing scourge of this form of violence in Namibia. They are graphic and moving, sometimes subtle, often ironic.

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