

ODE TO MADIBA
POEM BY HLENGIWE MOYO

Iqhawwe emaqhaweni (*a hero amongst heroes*)

Indoda emadodeni (*a man amongst men*)

Ubaba wesize (*a father of a nation*)

Ntata Mandela you are our African pride

Though you are no longer with us, the strong pulse of your passion beats in our hearts like the thuds of an echoing African drum

Your love for your ethnicity came with an undoubted authenticity yet you so implicitly loved all humanity

You were not just South Africa's greatest son, you were a worldwide symbol of reconciliation

Our hearts are filled with adoration, in the celebration on the life of a leader of a rising nation

Though your fight was to be physically emancipated, your heart was already liberated

Though outwardly oppressed, you fought to express the freedom that you inwardly possessed

You were a man clothed with tenacity

Branched with dignity

A man of great integrity

Draped with a sense of security

Though 6 foot tall, you were a giant-tenacious, courageous, audacious

Indoda elesibindi (*a daring man*)

Your liberated mind allowed great foresight

You saw beyond past pains and present problems, into a future with freedom, fruitfulness and fairness

Fiery eyed with a rose coloured heart

A strong visionary embodied with meekness

Your humility was not a sign of weakness

But of a strength that could only be projected through kindness

Through selflessness, through soundmindedness

The sound of your voice still reverberates in our minds as we reminisce on the inspired words of a dedicated activist

Freedom- an ideal for which you were prepared to die became a reality in which you lived

Madiba, mighty man of valour

A great leader

ODE TO MADIBA
POEM BY HLENGIWE MOYO

You were called a peacemaker
In our eyes, you were a giant slayer
As you rose up against the giant of oppression, segregation
You stood up against the beast of apartheid, the appetite for imperialism and antagonism
An advocate for peace and forgiveness
A humanitarian who preached fairness
Dare I say, a Hero
A father-figure founded in fertile fields of Africa
The motherland prides herself for birthing a man of such virtuous stature
A liberator
Today we stand in pride of who we are
You fought hard for our future
Through reconciliation came education
Today we are an empowered generation
Having occupations that used to be an unconceivable dream
Jobs, homes, health-all within our conceivable reach
We are no longer bound by the stronghold of inferiority
We are not held by the chains of incapacity
We now stand on towers of possibility
With that, we miss you incredibly
You fulfilled your purpose
Siziduduza ngenyembezi
Sizikhohlisa ngemiculo
Our tears console us
Our music inspires us
Siyakubongela tata (*we are grateful for you*)
Lala ngokuthula baba (*rest in peace*)
We are grateful for your service
Rest in peace baba Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela