

## AGONY OF CHILD MARRIAGE

*Ogunjobi Damilare T.*

*You won't allow me to go to school,  
Driving me into your appalling pool,  
A doctor I wanted to become,  
A lawyer I wanted to become,  
Instead, you made my esteem very low,  
Not permitting my light to glow,  
You wanted to be my friend in my youth,  
And your whispering tongues poisoned my truth,  
Oh yes! I remember.*

*In between the audience of roads and men,  
You allowed me enter the brutal den,  
You took away my pride,  
When you made me an early bride,  
Look! The world of sagacity,  
But you brought me to this harmful deity,  
You left me out there in the cold, raining,  
And my heart left? Wet and trembling,  
Do you remember?*

*Freely I could not walk,  
When in my town, I became the talk,  
In the wickedness of the night,  
You brought this dim line of sight,  
With you, I am not a mate,  
But you brought me to my undeserved fate,  
On my way to eat that cake,  
You applied to me, a brake,*

*Of course, I remember.*

*Early child marriage!!!*

*With words, I burn in rage,*

*A young bright child,*

*Skin, smile, heart and mild,*

*Dreams? I had many,*

*But never fulfilled any,*

*These unfortunate rich and proud men,*

*Love small girls, I learn,*

*Don't you remember?*

*Your fruits are ill-gotten,*

*Murder is your next-of-kin,*

*You shifted the gaze of the sun from my face,*

*After destroying my set-pace,*

*Eating my hunger was my brood,*

*Cursing, brooding was ever my mood,*

*With tongues on paper and sight,*

*For a better world, I write,*

*Always remember.*