

A COLLECTION OF POEMS IN COMMEMORATION OF EIDUL-ADHA, 1441AH.

ALADODO ABDUS-SALAM TAOFEEK AYEYEMI (ASWAGAAWY)

LADAYNA MAZEED (There is more)

A collection of poems in commemoration of Eidul-Adha, 1441AH.

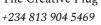
LADAYNA MAZEED (There's more) || 9 DHUL-HIJJAH, 1441AH (July 30, 2020).

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LADAYNA MAZEED (There's more) || 9 DHUL-HIJJAH, 1441AH (July 30, 2020).

DEDICATION.

To Allah: Who taught the pen and what it writes.

To the best of mankind: whose words and deeds are perfect templates.

To you: the Amrayn family.

FOREWORD

In the name of Allah; The Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. May His peace and blessings be upon the noblest of mankind; Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Allah directs the affairs of the believers. He made one supreme and honourable to another on the basis of *taqwa* (piety), just as He has made some days and nights and months of the year better than another. The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are the best days of the year - the golden days with Allah. These days are filled with rewards for those who care to mine deep and immerse themselves in the pool of servitude. In His magnanimity, He deemed it fit to reward whoever engages in commendable acts with goodness and even more (ziyaadah), and on the day of judgement, they will have a garden as wide as the heavens and the earth – filled with whatever the soul desires and what delights the eyes. Upon attaining all they have ever longed for, Allah then gives "mazeed", and that is nothing but the countenance of

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casting a humble gaze at His blessed face. This is the affairs of the believers, and the affairs of the believers are always good.

As a way of expressing our profound gratitude in ways we might not get to if told to speak, this is a collection which emit volume regarding commendable acts of goodness that one can engage in apart from the compulsory acts, and also the things which are condemnable and can easily bring us to our doom.

It is our hope that you will find this collection as a reminder; for it is what it is.

> Aladodo Abdus Salam & Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy).

IN HIS NAME

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

When the voice of thunder cracks and the sight of lightning strikes, they do so, abasing themselves to the Lord of the worlds.

The Angels kowtow in praise, the heavens and the earth genuflect in worship, exalting the name of the Most High.

The queue of ants, swarm of bees colony of bats caravan of camels clowder of cats pit of snakes

parliament of owls army of frogs convocation of eagles pride of lions ambush of tigers and everything that exists all exalt His name; but we know not their exaltations.

With His words we start this journeyand with His words we will end it (if He so pleases).

For if all the trees are pen and seas are ink with which to write, the words of Allah remains inexhaustible.

THE LAST TIME I SHOUTED ALLAHU AKBAR IN THE MARKETPLACE,

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaaawy)

I picked poisonous eyes from my skin, enough to send mankind into extinction.

It's not a lie to say my turban carries a stench of insurgency.

In this poem, a sweet statement of religious reverence becomes

a gong of war. And I am a town crier. The city knows my voice.

I am a Muezzin. I paint the town with the cadence of this declaration.

I still wonder how it becomes trumpet of terror in the mouth of terrorists,

I wonder how this testimony

dissolves on their tongues like ice

when it should burn them, when it should make them

the recompense of the warriors of *Abraha* who withered into the leftovers of oxen.

The last time I shouted *Allahu Akbar* in the marketplace, I escaped

a train of angry mob, bitter and bleak, for this light has been displayed by bigots

as fire burning birds in flight. And God watched them, did not

broom them down like flies, like a choir of mosquitoes.

I wonder if a day would come where I'll shout Allahu Akbar in the marketplace and return home with a cupful of creamed coffee.

HOW TO GET TO PARADISE FROM THE GATE OF DHUL-HIJJAH.

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

You start each day by acknowledging / that your soul has transcended / beyond where your legs can reach / that it has been to palaces / centuries / cemeteries / ages of the rise & ruins of men / but it was returned so you could do more & dream more / so you could be thankful //

You walk towards the minaret / kissing its ground with your toes / palms / knees / nose / hinds / & forehead / you flip pages of the scripture written fifty thousand years before the heavens were introduced to the earth soothing / reflective / pondering //

You lighten your tongue / with words that outweigh the Divine scale / your mouth oozing the stench of musk / your stomach roars of hunger / yet you beam contagious smile in the marketplace / you spill the blood of a twohorned animal / tell its tale with your orifice / you do not serve a bloodthirsty god / or a liver-demanding one // You say farewell to your progeny / to your wealth / polishing boots / sheathing swords / pocketing knives / seeking paradise / in the field of battle //

and,

when you open your eyes / you're beside *al-kaothar* / sipping from the pond of fresh milk / of purified honey / of unaltered water / of delicious wine / sitting beside the blessed of mankind / finger beside finger //

HOW DO YOU ANSWER THE QUESTIONS?

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

You lift your body and pour yourself into the sea and wants the headlines to read: "a sea drags a boy into its bowel,"

You hang a rope on a thing – call it a tree, call it a fan rod, call it a pole, call it anything that hangs a mother's dream in the air, dangling – wear it around your neck and wring out your grief through your stiffened neck; your squeezed throat, popped eyes and flattened tongue dripping of rues.

You forget that life is a mixture of grief and bliss. Yes! depression is real appreciation is a real deal mental illness isn't intentional but suicide is a big sin

The news may read pity, we may read it with pathos but in the eye of the Owner of the soul you spilled, the headlines will read "a boy polluted a sea, overburdened a tree, and turned homeless the soul that never belonged to him";

Your spirit thus has a cargo of questions to answer before Him.

WHY DO YOU THINK YUNUS NEVER GAVE UP WHILE IN THE DARKEST OF PLACES?

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

Oh! and Ayyub: who lost his family & wealth to a flu? whose body became a country of illnesses, a community of crawling things.

Muhammad? persecuted in *Makkah*; pelted in *Tāif*, called a madman, named a poet, branded a sorcerer, lost his wife and uncle in a year his body craved them most. And others you know among Prophets and men who cried but never flinched, who were saddened but never backed down.

Isn't it because they knew that no one can settle the storm, calm the waves and rewrite the scrolls of hard times, except Allah?

So, why do you despair?

You've sinned and erred? You've invested & lost? You've given so much only to be dissappointed? If your life is a drought, why not wait for the arrival of rain?

Despair not. Allow your lips part gently with the words of your Lord:

"And it is He who sends down the rain after they had despaired and spreads His mercy. And He is the Protector, the Praiseworthy". -Sura Ash-Shura, Ayah 28.

HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

These men making scales have questions to answer, but let's talk about these men weighing people's fate with the scales.

How do you sleep at night after sending to prison a man who should go home, who should smile, who should hug his family saying "I've been vindicated?" how do you sleep at night?

There's a way you make a side of a scale go up and the other come down, when your palms are rubbed with the oil of fitna. And when we mention the word "corruption", your ears take the shape of a dog, hearing the whistle of the hunter, your mouth a bottle of filththat will eat you up one day.

A butterfly passes by but you think a sword is made to whistles by your ear: a memory of the number of breathes you've ended with your pen, your pronouncements, your gavel when it makes the sound of firecrackers, these sounds are your cries echoing from the future.

your mouth a bottle of filth. your mouth a bottle of filth. your mouth a bottle of filth.

SEVEN TYPES OF GRAIN

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

i.

a grain grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains, bound to multiply at Allah's will;

a man / who gives a part of his heart / to another / does no good for them / that's just him planting a grain of deed / to harvest seven hundred grains of reward / if not more / if not much more

ii.

a grain in the darknesses of the earth: tiniest of grains, and clad in the blackest of kimono;

a man / thinking his secret is a puzzle / to the world / but never knew he only spread them / on the scattered crystals of June-July rain before the omniscient eyes / of One with keys / to the corners of the land & depth of the sea. // a boy rolls his tyre / into the mouth of whirlwind & comes out / as a fallen leaf: / the wet & dry land in the earth of his skin are crafted in the motherbook

iii.

a grain hidden within the body of a black rock of sinful garment;

a man / drunk in the gallon of wrongdoing / only buried his filths away from people's eyes / shall get them exhumed / on the last day / even if tinier than mustard seed / & blacker / his history shall be ploughed before his eyes / reality shall be enlivened under his nose.

iv.

a grain (despite weightless) ushered into the scales is never overlooked;

a man / slaughtered a man / in his dream &

wake up to the towncry of his death/ while he strolls down the street / with a heart foaming of fearlessness yes. dreams are overlooked / but a single sneeze with your eyes open / shall enter the book of the accountants / then into the scale

v.

a grain arranged in layers tearing out the body of the earth on days the rain serenade into it;

a man / basking in the afterglow / of his harvest thinks it's his doing / yet acts in disbelief to his Lord / & forgets that / he is dwelling in the jacuzzi of His grace

vi.

a grain that grows husks & scented plants for the dwellers of Paradise;

a man / feast on these with his eyes / tongue / and nose / because he, in his yesterlife, stepped / over his bowl of greed / & whims breaking them into pieces endurance / & steadfastness

vii.

a grain buried into the soil and grows into greeneries how man rises after death

a man / thinking the last day is a joke will / on that day in his fear be choked.

THE INTERPRETATION OF PEACE

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

I tiptoed into the room warm and fresh, a fragrance of the occurrence rented the air.

Thousands of scratches littered the walls like graffiti, with rumpled clothes lying lifeless.

She said to me: "This was where it happened" tears embroidering her cheeks, voice breaking like thunder, & her hijab moping her tears.

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I asked: "& you say he is a man of peace, clothed in piety & walked with ease?"

"I thought he was for his smile was golden & his words were harmless." She said.

"But this is not the peace I know" I muttered to myself.

THE WRETCHED

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

وللذين كفروا بربهم عذاب جهنم و بئس

المصير

And for those who disbelieved in their Lord is the punishment of Hell, and wretched is the destination. (Suratul Mulik, verse 6).

In my progenitors' unwritten books, I read there are things that swallow one in the storm of shame than stealing, but not a single page points at any.

And like a squirrel, searching the field for peanuts, I snake down the chapters of The Book, So from Baqarah to Tabaraka, I found the colour of shame on the skin of many verses, iridescent with terror and grief – Thirty-nine verses uttering and muttering one & same language.

That's proverb of a man who struts and frets in life, butterflying between evil and righteousness, and on the last day, the rapacious shark of his vices swallows the dolphins of his virtues; and wretched is he in his shameful end.

SEVENTY-TWO VIRGINS.

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

What will be their reward when they desecrate the sanctity of life, with every soul — seeming like fireflies in their blood-hungry eyes?

What will be their reward when they disrupt the peace of gatherings, wreaking havoc on those who choose not to

raise an arm to harm or defend?

What will be their reward when they hold a dagger to the neck of innocent beings screaming ''Allahu Akbar'' as they slit their throats, cutting them off from the rest of the world?

What will be their reward when they defile the naive ones,

with the cursed rod in between their thighs?

What will be their reward

when they kit in grenades and

wired boxes, blowing themselves

away with numerous innocent souls?

They pride themselves

saying paradise awaits them with seventy-two virgins at their fingertips. But Nay! I say waiting for them is a beautiful hell, consuming & regurgitate them

everyday for their misfortune; With thorns as food & scalding water— to quench their thirst.

For he who kills a soul unjustly, has killed the whole of humanity.

LA'IB WA LAHW

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaaawy)

مَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَعِبٌ وَلَهُوْ وَلَلدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

And the worldly life is not but amusement and diversion; but the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah, so will you not reason? (Surat Al-An'aam, verse 32).

the first poem i learnt taught me / how to say chocolate in the way it crashed on my tongue: "fi síbí jẹ," i can remember how we ate gods / in our candies: where is "èkánná gowọn," i've missed the brittle sweetness of "bàléwà" / & how it coloured our tongues / into plaques of rainbow growing up / i was richer / owning an estate built at the backyard of bàba múkáílà / i had the most beautiful wife /dámilólá / & no one contested her with me / cos good things are for the brilliant boys.

today we've grown / but sadly / i still see men rolling tyres on the street / in the advanced way (lahw - diversion) / of how they did as boys (la'ib - amusement)

they bask in the pond of ignorance / that hādimu ladhāt is the shadow / that follows them everywhere / & the day it will rise on its feet / so they may take the place of shadow / they'll shout / seeking for an extension of time / to put their life in order / but then;

لَن يُؤَخِّرَ اللهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهَا ݣَ

وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

Never will Allah delay a soul when its time has come.

And Allah is acquainted with what you do. (Surah Al-munaafiqoon, verse 11)

HOW TO GIVE

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

Isn't the most edible food one taken from the purest source & processed to please the eyes, sweeten the mouth, & soothe the bowels?

Or of what use is a dish digging out our salivary gland in disgust & utmost displeasure with a stone for every bite?

Sadaqah should be given with heart of gold, tailed by a smile and the urge to give again and again.

Sadaqah is Sadaqah when the limbs and hinds are hearty, when the mind is configured to seemingly unending enjoyment, & hands above detest to be crushed to nothingness.

Sadaqah on the deathbed, with conflicting instructions: ''Give this to the nightwatch men, Give this to the one-eyed man, Give this to this Give this to that'' is no sadaqah.

For Sadaqah is a bird dousing its two wings in an ocean, & as it seeks to take its flight, the drops from the wings are cleansers—

erasing the previous sins, and the ones to come.

WHEN I MEET MY MAKER

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

When the sky cracks apart; dispersing like snowflakes. When stars fall like shards on earth; When the Sun loses its light and the earth crumbles.

When seas and rivers, oceans and lakes wrap into anotherreduced to nothingness; When the mountains, valleys and rocks go puff!

When life is given to remains of men buried beneath the earth: skulls, thumbs, pinkies and femurs, will assemble themselves in place.

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When the scale weighs heavy and light deeds alike with hidden secrets, stripped for all.

When bodies are clenched in chains, thrown down an abyss of furnace shrieking incessantly out of pains, in the pits of Jahannam.

When I am called forward to account for my deeds; the good, bad and the ugly, my heart will freeze my soul will shiver: in fear and in hope.

When I meet my Maker; hoping for His countenance, I will kowtow in humbleness

38 LADAYNA MAZEED (There's more) || 9 DHUL-HIJJAH, 1441AH (July 30, 2020). and genuflect in praise For I am but a sinner seeking His benevolence.

A HUNDRED SUN

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

O you who have believed, seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient [Baqara - Aya 153]

> ten pounds of worries in the heart a hundred sun burning under the singlet & they say patience is a ship bringing a thousand gold ashore for the patient how do we wait to be burnt or sank how do we carry the dust of the past into our new streets, unwashed when the threads holding the fabric of our patience has weakened into cobwebs waiting to be blown away by angry wind

like a stranger knitting himself into the body of a host with water even a gentle wind will crash it see, there is more to patience than "life is hard, not unbeatable"

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُم بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوع وَنَقْص مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ^{َنَّ}وَبَشِّرِ

الصَّابِرِينَ

And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient, [Quran chapter 2, verse 155]

but

what is patience if not a whetstone sharpening your axe for an instant cut what is waiting if not a grindstone

crushing your mount into grains what is patience if not a cloak pass giving access to every recess of mercy

أولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ

Those are the ones upon whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are the [rightly] guided. [Quran chapter 2, verse 157]

WHAT IT MEANS TO OPEN & READ THE QUR'ĀN

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

When you flip open the pages of the scripture, you flip light, upon light.

Your tongue: a butterfly flapping its wings in joy.

The verses: paintings of your mood reflections of your inner self, echoes of your past, present, and future.

and when you speak an alphabet, you speak tenfold of rewards, and ten, and another ten—

till you lose count.

43 LADAYNA MAZEED (There's more) || 9 DHUL-HIJJAH, 1441AH (July 30, 2020). For^j is an alphabet and J is an alphabet and م is an alphabet.

WEAVING PRAYER INTO TAPESTRY

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

Allahu Akbar! Let this moon kindle my night into an iridescent rainbow. By this i mean let be worn around the night's neck a lapel of milky ways.

Allahu Akbar!

Let the stars weave themselves into tapestries of enamelled ornaments around our wrists.

Sami'aLahu liman amidau! Let us be strolled from days blessed with mud. sweat. blood. & tears where cloud filled our breathe and rolled into nights of dates. musk. milk. silk. rivers. flood. & pears. Allahu Akbar! Let these gates be opened to the promised garden. I have memorized its rivers like I did my names.

Allahu Akbar! I have memorized the colour of its trees, the fruitless and the fruitful.

Allahu Akbar!

I want to call their fruits and see them juicing into my cup before I'm done. And see them instructing my heart to forget the days of storms and eruptions.

Allahu Akbar! Isn't this what Jannah will be like?

As-Salam Alaykum warahmatuLahi!

Do you feel this statement as if you sending benediction to your co-dwellers of the Jannah as you move your head to the right, then to the left?

For Salat is a kayak taking you there, And that's the welcome message from the Angels as they open the revered doors of Jannah to you saying; Salamun alaykum, kataba Rabbukum ala nafsiHi rahmah.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BOLT-UP

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

...and who restrain anger and who pardon the people and Allah loves the doers of good; (Sura Aal-E-Imran, Ayah 134)

> When you bolt-up the rage in you allowing the phlegm of unrefined words to stick in your throat without spewing, you become a sun; bathing by the seashore on a mild midday.

When you halt the rock of ages, gathering in your mind from rolling and crushing another to death by keeping your tongue in place, you become an activist; fighting with words & silence. When you look around & find nothing better than to smile to the one who has wronged you, whilst saying ''You're forgiven'', you become a moon; kowtowing to the sea on a silent night.

For swallowing up anger which has been sliced up your throat, & pardoning one you could have reprimand makes you an 'Ali (RA) who forgave a broken ornament.

It makes you a companion, heeding to the words of Rosullullah: "*La Taghdab!*"

"La taghdab" means "Do not get angry".

etymology

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

& we break ourselves	
	this morning, i told
in a way that becom-	_
, ,	my nightmare to dad
as irranlassable in	my mgnemare to aud
es irreplaceable. in	
	he released a sky of
the name of unequi-	
	soothing words on
vocal colour of God.	C
	ma hutindaan ha'a
	me. but indoor, he's
God is not rainbow.	
	found blowing a
His colour is love.	
	cloud of worries into
The Drephet is not	
The Prophet is not	
	the palms of his
a dictator ripping	
	hands in a way that
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us of our identity	
suggest to the blind	
in the name of	
that things are	
sunnatic. for	
tearing. apart.	
sunnah is not that	
& father said, "don't	
thick. yesterday.	
read the wrong sides	
a lady left her parent	
of the Book. & bcos	
because they won't st-	
there's nothing	
op asking her to kneel	
wrong with/about	
to them while greeting.	
the Book, don't read	
i asked her what is	
the Book wrongly."	
urf. qiyas. ijma.	
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this is how we hold till now she's still the Love in our hearts searching for answers with our blood flowin the wings of ing & connecting passing birds.

(with) the world.

the etymology of us as broken wings & burnt feathers / of religion / is us trying to erase our etymology / as human. / & we become disjointed / like the arms of this poem. / we are much for nothing / like a sea of bubbles / what can they do to a forest of fire? / these forests of fury!

WHAT IT TAKES TO FALSELY ACCUSE A WOMAN.

Aladodo Abdus-Salam

Women are fragile vessels / they were fashioned to be // And to speak ill of one who is covered in bashfulness / is to set yourself on the path of doom // To look down on one who is divinely honoured / is to throw yourself for the wolves to devour // A woman is not an object / not a thing // A woman is not who you roar at / a woman is not who you tear apart at any opportunity // A woman is not who you trample upon just because you can / a woman is not who you wipe off her chastity / because the world will believe you when say it // A woman is not who you falsely pelt with the stone of waywardness / and if you do / then you're cursed / cursed on earth / and in the seventh heaven // For a woman is not an object / not a thing / not an item of tomfoolery //

VANITY.

Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

I roll my cats / as if the night is shading me into a dung beetle / I sip a coffee / even my cats know the language of bittersweet / & because a dog is not to be eaten / doesn't make it an Iblis / to be stoned / to be beaten / to be banished into the latrine of hatred // Whoever deforms the creatures of God by words or actions or inactions touches God where He turns waves into tsunami / and wind into tempest // Vanity is / haughtiness / is arrogance / is empty pride inspired by an overweening / conceit / of man's personal attainments / or decorations / is an excessive desire for / notice / or approval / is ostentation / is idle show // This poem is / a bulletin / telling you to lower your wings / to animal / much less fellow human / to shed your skin of / pride / before it lowers you into the bottomless pit of rue / of His wrath / to deflate your mind over this feeble ground a million has acquired before you / Remember shaytan? / What version of him are you?

ABOUT THE POETS

Aladodo Abdus-Salam is a graduate of Islamic studies. creative. He writes and а for knowislam.com.ng; a body dedicated to telling the Muslims' narrative (as it is). His work has appeared or is forthcoming in Brittlepapers, The Mamba, Stardust, Wales Haiku Journal, The Quills, ISWOT, FitrahReview, Al-Bayaan, Ar-Risaalah, Medium.com, ForReadingAddicts UK, WRR, Youth Shades International, and other platforms and or literary publications. He is the Chief Strategist at Mobile Caps Mall (a startup dedicated to keeping alive the dress sense in men through befitting indigenous caps), and Co-Founder of Amrayn Poetry Series. He tweets @dodo lelevi.

Taofeek Ayeyemi fondly called **Aswagaawy** is a Nigerian lawyer and writer with works appearing or forthcoming in Lucent Dreaming, Ethel-zine, the QuillS, The Pangolin Review, Minute Magazine, Modern Haiku, Hedgerow, Acorn, Akitsu Quarterly, Seashores, contemporary haibun online and elsewhere. He won Honorable Mention Prize in 2020 Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Prize, 2019 Morioka International Haiku Contest, 2019 Soka Matsubara International Haiku Contest, 1st Prize in 2018 PoeticWednesday Poetry Contest and 2nd Prize, 2016 Christopher Okigbo Poetry Prize. His chapbook "Tongueless Secret" (Ethel Press) and fulllength book "aubade at night or serenade in the morning" (FlowerSong Press) are forthcoming in 2021.

OTHER WORKS FROM THE POETS

Co-authored works:

- Lu'lu'an Manthurah (Scattered pearls)
- Lu'lu L– Maknun (Preserved pearls)
- Numero Uno (Number 1). To order for a copy, click: <u>here</u>
- Al-Khabith (The evil)

Solo publications:

- Listen! Aladodo Abdus-Salam
- Oro n bo (dripping words) Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)
- This will help Aladodo Abdus-Salam
- Bayelsa taught me how to li(ea)ve Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)
- Sacred Jewels Aladodo Abdus-Salam
- Tongueless Secrets Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy).

ABOUT THE POETS

Aladodo Abdus-Salam is a graduate of Islamic studies, and a creative. He writes for knowislam.com.ng; a body dedicated to telling the Muslims' narrative (as it is). His work has appeared or is forthcoming in Brittlepapers, The Mamba, Stardust, Wales Haiku Journal, The Quills, ISWOT, FitrahReview, Al-Bayaan, Ar-Risaalah, Medium.com, ForReadingAddicts UK, WRR, Youth Shades International, and other platforms and or literary publications. He is the Chief Strategist at Mobile Caps Mall (a startup dedicated to keeping alive the dress sense in men through befitting indigenous caps), and Co-Founder of Amrayn Poetry Series. He tweets @dodo_leleyi.

Taofeek Ayeyemi fondly called Aswagaawy is a Nigerian lawyer and writer with works appearing or forthcoming in Lucent Dreaming, Ethel-zine, the QuillS, The Pangolin Review, Minute Magazine, Modern Haiku, Hedgerow, Acorn, Akitsu Quarterly, Seashores, contemporary haibun online and elsewhere. He won Honorable Mention Prize in 2020 Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Prize, 2019 Morioka International Haiku Contest, 2019 Soka Matsubara International Haiku Contest, 1st Prize in 2018 PoeticWednesday Poetry Contest and 2nd Prize, 2016 Christopher Okigbo Poetry Prize. His chapbook "Tongueless Secret" (Ethel Press) and full-length book "aubade at night or serenade in the morning" (FlowerSong Press) are forthcoming in 2021.



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