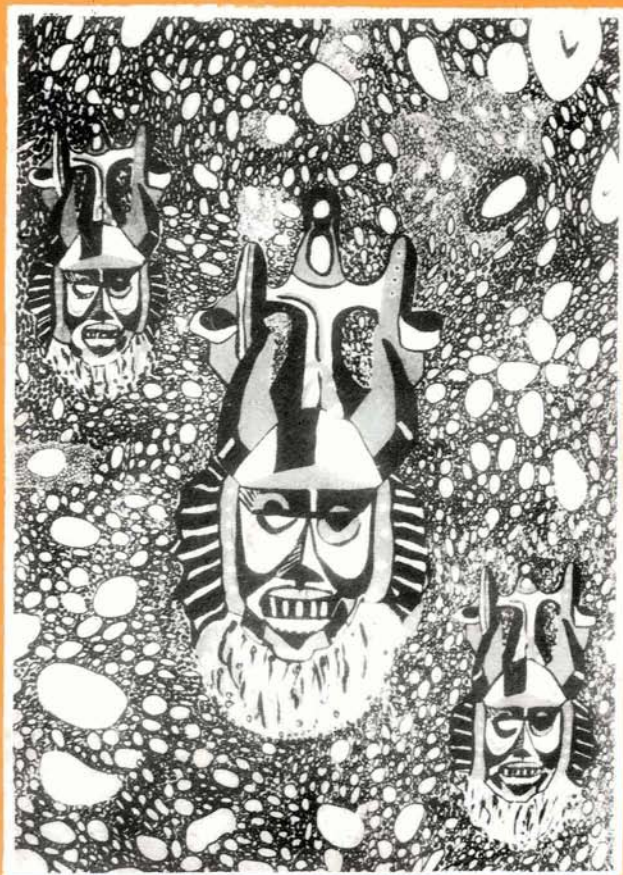




OKIKE

AN AFRICAN JOURNAL OF NEW WRITING



O K I K E

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NUMBER 46, OCTOBER, 2000

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To our Subscribers, Contributors, and Readers

Okike Management regrets that it has not been able to maintain its publication schedule over the past few years, and has decided to complete the series up to October 2000 with *Okike* Number 46. The series will resume with Number 47, to be dated February 2003. Please, bear with us.

GINIKA ENEKWE

Life

Life is like crossing a dark deep blue sea
to fetch a fortune.

Life is as sweet as honey
and as bitter as gall.

Cross it without grudges.
without a frown,
for as fortune drops on your frozen palm,
a smile shall return to the lips.

When it is sweet,
don't be a peacock.
When bitter, manage
for tomorrow's sun
might wear a big smile.

Making Decisions

To decide
is like sinking mama in a river
and leaving baby on the shore.

To decide
is to trample weeds
and leave disturbed plants to grow.

To decide
is to hurt others and please oneself
or the other way round.

To decide
is to meditate
and make situations just and fair.

To decide
is to forego a lot
and forget the past.

To decide
is to sit down,
think and weigh.

To decide
is to stop being a goat
but to see the colours as they are.

DON BURNES**Satara Sky at Night
(for Jose Bacelar)**

nowhere have I seen
a night sky like this
the vast South African sky
dances its batouque
flashes of illumination
as if all the paradise flycatchers
and all the malachite kingfishers
and all the lilac breasted rollers
the most beautiful birds
were turned into stars
and galaxies of parrots
bedazzle the imagination.

