

When I die (a poem Sobukwe might have written)

When I die
may my funeral (like my life) be political
and serve the struggle
toward liberation.

May my people
use my coffin as a platform
to raise the banner of freedom

When I die
may my body be used
to awaken the indifferent and complacent tribe
my eyes, to trace dreams and hopes
shattered by injustice,
my ears be used as drums
to recall the cries
of the dispossessed and downtrodden

When I die
may fiery speeches and freedom songs
replace passive hymns
may the Green and Gold and Black
flutter freely from every mountain

May my loved ones take up the torch
and destroy the lies
written into our history
so that a new Brotherhood may emerge
to embrace our land

When I die
may some poet
write of the agony
and deep spiritual pain
that followed my days
and the inhumanity
of my captivity.

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[Oscar Ruddy]

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