

# Rubadiri

## Moureen Aol

*Uganda*

Growing up with poetry,  
Drums and voices echoed ‘Rubadiri’  
    upon this mountain  
From the cradle of Africa’s culture,  
    to the shadows of civilization  
His fire burned in the hearts of many.  
The African thunderstorm  
    that roared and washed away imperialism  
    with a single blast.  
Imperialists bent to let him pass.  
Out of thousands,  
the king steps forward.  
His stature towers above the black child  
*And why not?*  
He is David Rubadiri.  
The poet, prophet that wrought Africa.  
From him simplicity ruled meter and iambs  
We learned the humaneness of humanity.

September wept!  
Morning did not see his charming eyes.  
The sun stood and watched from a distance  
    how we flinched with the pain of our broken hearts.  
We kept vigil, a true African vigil  
His heart of gold is preserved  
    where decay has no power.  
His footprints are still visible to us  
We, who had no encounter, no second glance at him  
    will wear his shoes  
The Rubadiri mask sits gently on every poet’s face  
His mind holds our pens  
His heart fuels ours

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The ancestors claim his body  
But in every poet, he is reborn  
“A Grain Of Wheat”  
Ngugi Wa Thiong’o might have said  
    In September.

### **The Author**

**Moureen Aol** pursued a Bachelor’s degree in education at Makerere University and majored in Literature and English Language Studies. Aol is a passionate writer of poetry and prose and had an outstanding writing project in the field of creative writing. She is a member and one of the participants in the Females Writers Club Uganda (FEMWRITE Uganda). She is a proud teacher and an alumnus of The MasterCard Foundation Scholars’ program from Makerere University where she attained transformative leadership skills from the psychosocial leadership workshops and mentorship sessions during her study period at Makerere University. She is one of the editors for both the 2018 and 2019 Alumnet Magazine. She worked as a teaching assistant and an intern student at Kiira College Butiki in 2018.