

# In Memory of Prof. David James Rubadiri (1930-2018)

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Poet prophet friend  
Now infinitely loved and lifted up  
Touching the glories of another globe  
Your face, still in our mind and imagination  
Driven on by the vision of true life.

A man deeply involved in the strength of living  
Celebrating the word, its sound and sign  
A powerful patron of poetry.

A tall distinguished man with charming looks  
Entering our class singing freedom  
Teaching us the meaning of being human  
Showing us greatness walking the world  
In simplicity.  
A builder, architect, designer  
In the great drama of life.

A teacher whose heightened personal consciousness  
Of joy and sorrow, of hope and fear  
Interacted with the reality of others,  
Desiring a precinct for the privileges  
Of the downtrodden.

A man with a secret staircase to the soul of poetry  
Striding across class with an imaginary *nanga*  
Sometimes lifting a trumpet triumphantly in the air  
Causing us all to cheer  
A poet a father a performer.

A man of the extraordinary  
Shaking hands with Kofi Annan

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Then sitting down with a widow  
Speaking fluent Luganda  
Explaining  
That there is a future with words  
For her daughter.

Waterfall of wisdom  
A sage holding a thousand lights  
Giving sensible dignified power  
To the familiar.

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