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Author

Nwoga, Ezi-Nwanyi Patricia

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BIKO!*

by

Ezi-Nwanyi Patricia Nwoga

I remember ... once
When woven cloth was sold in village markets
To lend beauty to slim bodies.
Now folds of thick flesh are girdled
In naira-powered silk.

I remember ... once
When ears were light
Pierced with fragments of winged coconut shell.
Now lobes collapse
Dragged to despairing lengths
By obese patterns of heavy gold.
Eyes too big - hearts too small
Biko!
Let's reverse the order.

*Igbo lang. for "I beg."