

**UCLA**

**Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies**

**Title**

Hope '93, Contrast, Trial

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/79t4c660>

**Journal**

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 25(3)

**ISSN**

0041-5715

**Author**

Oyebade, Adebayo

**Publication Date**

1997

**DOI**

10.5070/F7253016639

**Copyright Information**

Copyright 1997 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

**Hope '93**

*For the Maradona  
Who erased a fledging dream  
From history's calendar*

Words dance  
Like acrobatic masquerade  
To the drumbeat of your mouth.

But the sugar of your tongue  
Is very bitter.

It writes  
And then erases.

\*

Ah!  
The hidden agenda  
Of the fowl's arse is out!

Now we know  
The galloping thunder  
In the jungle of your mouth  
Is deceit.

Adebayo Oyebade

**Contrast**

## Contrast

Is when solid gold  
Paves the highway  
And smoothens your air-conditioned  
Red-carpet ride  
To the General's private mansion  
While dusty pot-holed pathways  
Dying to taste a little tar  
Meander you on a bumpy rickety-trip  
To the flourishing poverty  
Of the sprawling ghettos.

Adebayo Oyeade

**The Trial***(For a corrupt politician)*

He thought he could set sail  
With his elephant size loot  
To distant land  
Beyond the soaring seas  
Beyond the reach of nemesis' cold hands

But they arrested his dream of hasty flight  
They x-rayed his sagging stomach  
And found inside  
An overdose of stolen treasure  
Fingered from the nation's coffers.

So they drew the curtains  
In his face  
For twenty-one calendar years.

Adebayo Oyeade