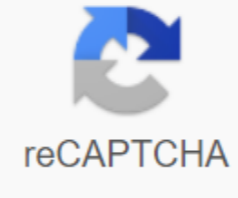




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Meet the poet Ben Okri, a Nigerian poet and writer. Okri is considered one of the leading African authors of post-modern and post-colonial traditions and has been positive compared to authors such as Salman Rushdie and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He was born on March 15, 1959, in Minna, Nigeria, at the age of Igbo's mother, Grace, and Urshobo's father, Silver. Okri's father and then the train station clerk soon went to England to study law. The rest of the family joined him shortly thereafter. Despite young Ben's protests, Okri returned to Lagos in 1965, where Silver Okri established a legal practice. His familiarity with the Nigerian civil war and the culture in which his peers saw visions of spirits at the time, later served as inspiration for Okri's fiction. He founded in the library his father: Aristotle, Plato, Shakespeare, Dickens, Twain, Ibsen, Chekhov, Maupassant and others. This double heritage, the mixture of African myths and European sources and the later influence of contemporary African writers were to be the main inspiration for Ben Okri's work. In April 2014, Okri received an honorary doctorate from the University of Pretoria for his contribution to literature. Okri's literary contribution began writing articles and fiction in 1976, after he failed to get a place at a university in Nigeria. He wrote a novel and a play, working in a paint company, then moved to England, first to study comparative literature at the University of Essex, and then to continue writing in London. His first novel *Flowers and Shadows* was published in 1980. After a short period of time he published *Landscapes Inside* in 1981 in which the main character, Omovo, is a young artist living in Lagos. This novel, which Okri later rewritten as *Dangerous Love* (1996), can be considered an early manifesto. The collection of essays *The Way to Be Free* was published in 1997. The landscapes inside, as well as some of the stories contained in *Temple Incidents* (1986) and *Stars of the New Curfew* (1988) read as stories about a country Nigeria fighting poverty, corruption and sometimes war. These thematic interests were further developed in the *Famand Road* (1991), for which Okri received the Booker Prize. His other famous books are *Starbook*, *Songs of Charm and Amazing Gods*. The poem *African Elegy*, published in 1992, is one of Ben Okri's wonderful poems. This is about the suffering of the African people. The element of hope is also present in this poem. This poem emphasizes that good can be found in the bad. Installation of the poem Nigeria. It's written in a third-person narrative. It consists of 29 lines. It has five stanzas, and each stanza consists of five lines. Elegy is usually written in response to death. He doesn't have a rhyme scheme. It's written. three three woe and praise. The poem is written in plain language. The poet used Western literary techniques, but elements of African culture are also present in the poem. Analysis of the poem Stanza 1 We are miracles that God has done to taste the bitter fruit of Time. We are priceless. And one day our suffering will turn into the wonders of the earth In this stanza the poet says that God created people so that they could look into good and bad times. He used the protoun We used to depict his African culture. We is also used for the peoples of Africa. He says we are innocent people whose suffering will one day change our lives for something good. The poet used stylistic features such as images and impersonation in this stanza. There are images when the poet says, Try the bitter fruit of Time, bitter in this statement means something bad, and the fruit means something sweet. Time can mean life. He tells his people that as time/life go by them, they will face some very bad and sad times and a really good happy time. He also used the impersonation technique. He says: And one day our suffering will turn into the wonders of the earth. The poet compares the suffering of his people with the wonders of the earth. Comparing suffering with the wonders of the earth, and giving the wonder of the earth the human quality of happiness is the personification. Stanza 2 There are things that burn me now that turn golden when I'm happy. Do you see the mystery of our pain? That we carry poverty and are able to sing and dream sweet things In this stanza, the poet says that there are difficulties that we should all face, but no matter how difficult they are; if and when we manage to overcome them, we will feel good. There is always the mystery of the pain we experience as humans, but as humans, we sometimes cannot answer the mysteries of our pain. We may not all bear poverty, but we carry different burdens. Even if we have all these factors affecting us, we still have something to thank for, and we can have sweet dreams for the future. The poet used various literary methods, such as images and metaphors. The poet says: There are things that burn me now. Burning is associated with feelings and is an unpleasant feeling. This means that the narrator is going through difficult times in his life. In the following line the poet also use color images when he says: What a golden when I'm happy. Gold is associated with value and value. This means that storytellers pain will cost after its difficulties. In the following lines, as the poet says: What we carry poverty. The word bear sticks out of the line because it sounds tough. A bear means to maintain or carry the weight of something. The narrator carries the weight of poverty. In the following line the poet also used images when he said: And capable of singing and dreaming sweet Image, Image, these are people having sweet dreams and singing sweet songs. They sing because they are grateful for their lives. Stanza 3 And that we never curse the air when it is warm or fruit, when it tastes so good or lights that bounce gently on the waters? We bless things even in our pain. We bless them in silence. In this stanza, the poet says that the people of Africa do not take things in life for granted. They cherish everything they have. They don't even curse the negative factors that harm them. Their suffering blesses them because suffering cleanses them. In this stanza, warm air is a symbol of suffering, and sensory images and silence is a symbol of their dedication because they silently seek freedom. The words in the line Bless and Pain contrast with each other. This demonstrates their devotion to their belief that one day they will be spared suffering and suffering. Stanza 4 that's why our music is so sweet. It makes the air remember. There are secret miracles at work that only time will bring forward. I heard the dead singing, too. In this stanza, the poet speaks of the fruits of his suffering. He says their sighs of pain will prove fruitful one day. There are elements of hope that they will receive a reward. The poet talks about miracles. He wants to say that at every moment something happens in Africa, and it's not worth it. There are mythical images in this poem. The poet says, Secret miracles work at work. Miracles are usually associated with both God and supernatural elements. This line shows that Africans are very dear to God. These lines also depict how Africans believe that time brings them secret miracles. The poet also used the technique of impersonation. The poet says: I too heard a dead singing. In this line the dead symbol of the dead Africans. This means that the deceased African ancestors have lived a good life despite the poor living conditions in Africa. These lines show that life is good. Stanza 5 And they tell me that this life is good They tell me to live gently with fire, and always with hope. It is surprising that the poet speaks of his ancestors. He says that the dead talk to him, telling him to be grateful and reassuring, because he is still alive and in control of where his life will go; it's not the end for him. The second line of the stanza is ironic. The poet says: This life is good. He talks about the pain and suffering people go through in their lives, and it is ironic how he says that this life is good because technically life should not be good if someone suffers. The poet wants to say that the people of Africa must live happily, despite and there is always something for them to look forward to in the future. The tone of this stanza is satisfying, friendly, hopeful and optimistic. Stanza 6 And there is surprise in all the invisible moves. The ocean is full of songs. Heaven is not the enemy. Fate is our friend. In this stanza, the poet says that they are full of hope that their suffering will never last long. One day they'll come. He used images and metaphors to explain his point of view as he says: In all invisible movements, the ocean is full of songs, the sky is not the enemy. In these lines, the words invisible movements, the ocean and the sky are used metaphorically. Invisible passages refer to the hidden miracles at work that Okri mentions in the fourth stanza. The ocean is a metaphor for the world. songs is a metaphor for life whether human or not. The sky is also a metaphor. This applies to the future; There are endless possibilities of what lies beyond the unknown just like the sky. Fate is also used as a metaphor. The poet says that we can choose our destiny in the same way as we choose our friends. We may not know what our destiny is or when it comes to us, but when it does, we will know whether to let go or follow through. The poet also used biblical allusion in a row, Heaven is not our enemy. Heaven can refer to God and heaven. When bad things happen to us, we should not blame God or make him our enemy. In conclusion, it is safe to say that Africans suffer a great deal, but they are not pessimists. They are hopeful that their suffering and suffering will eventually be rewarded. Their dedication and patience will not cost anything. They, infect grateful hard times that give them the opportunity to rise up and make room in this great world. Thus, one day they will meet their good time and succeed in their goal. Claire's critical reception says I'm a fan of Okri. There were a fair few poems that didn't really talk to me in this compilation however, the whole collection stands just for the first and last: Weeping images and an English friend in Africa. The first appeals to my particular interest (cultural looting), and the latter is just so beautiful to read. Another critic says the thing about Okri is that you have to have your head in the right condition to hear it. This series of poems is short easy to read though, but some of the poems held nothing for me. My favorites They say And if you should leave me an English friend in Africa. They are beautiful words, enough for everyone. I will definitely read this over and over again until I hear everything he tells me. Brilliant and strange, just like Okri. Links www.goodreads.com en.wikipedia.org/Ben-okri www.pinterest.com an african elegy poem summary pdf. an african elegy by ben okri poem summary

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