

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



**A**s writers, our primary responsibility is to reflect and interpret happenings in our society; we must also provide inspiration and guidance in our writings. Our job therefore, is to inform, to explain, to narrate, to entertain and to persuade. The function of a committed writer is also to reveal the world so that every reader loses their innocence and assumes all of the writer's responsibilities in front of it. The major aim of this anthology is to combat violence against women, using writing for sensitization and awareness. Also, the anthology aims at changing community attitudes to violence against women. This project is also an experimentation challenge given to members of the Nigerian Society of Campus Writers (NSCW) whose membership cuts across different universities, polytechnics, monotechnics and colleges of education. Their major task is to coordinate, arrange, proofread and edit this educative and informative anthology. This is aimed at preparing them for future publication and editorial tasks. Rape and sexual violence against women are currently the two major problems militating against the growth and development of youths in Nigeria. These twin vices are like epidemics gaining popularity and causing restlessness and concerns for Nigerian parents and governments, both at the local, state and federal levels. In 2015, UNICEF reported that one in four girls and one in ten boys in Nigeria had experienced sexual violence

before the age of 18. According to a survey by Positive Action for Treatment Access, over 31.4 percent of girls reported that their first sexual encounters had been either rape or forced sex of some kind. Hopefully, with this anthology, we believe we have made our modest input and contributed our quota in the fight against rape and sexual violence against women.

**Wole Adedoyin**

Director, IHRAF Africa

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# POEMS



## BEAST

BABATUNDE ABDULHAKIM ADEKUNLE



One thing defines a cock among hen.  
Two things disguised as beasts among men  
A male who rid skirts without female consent.  
A man whose libido is hell-bent.

Beast has one thing in common;  
Inflicting torture without measure,  
Preying; invasion of treasure.

Three things can depress a woman,  
And defines not a man,  
Violence against women, abuse, molestation.  
And a being who can't tame his erection.

Three things are common to a thief and rapist.  
Four things parallel a rapist to a beast;  
To steal, to kill, to destroy.  
And leveraging with diverse play.  
One thing defines cock among hen.  
Two things disguised beasts among men;  
A male who rid a skirt without female consent.  
A man whose libido is hell-bent.

## ON HOW MY LIGHT IS SPENT

ABUGU, CHUKWUDALU MARIAROSA



You know the clear sky reminds you of clear things,  
of water and emptiness and full, how your mind should  
surely return to oblivion, but full: how you cannot.  
There is no clear thing here, the water is bleak and salty  
just like this room of misplaced ejaculation, lost dreams &  
tales on owning mangoes in your chest.

Mother likes to say that the holy spirit owes our body,  
she also says most times that the earth wants a piece of her.  
You would first meet with the spirit in your father,  
he would say 'I owe you' & you in hell, the exact one you felt  
when you sat on mama's *tatachi*, would think,  
yes mother would want this.  
Forgive me for attributing pain to you, dear reader,  
it is only for a little battery for my light.

After father, I've met with spirits on the street, in mama's brother,  
ones that their mother's taught to provide change  
for empty tummies.  
Maybe, I'm just like mother, everything wants a piece of me.  
time reminiscence imprints, dents, love letters and thirst,  
the wind sings epitaphs.  
Every day, time reminiscences, the wind sings.