

THE POETRY MARKET

Back then in the age of slavery, slave masters considered educating slaves a serious danger. Inside their hearts lived a strong conviction. And that conviction was the reality that we seeing slowly fading away in our generation. That conviction was the truth that when you educate a slave you free them both in mind and in heart and the chains that remain hanging on their physical bodies do not count as long as their conscience is impregnated with knowledge. It is for this reason that slave owners trembled at the thought of exposing books to the slaves. The fear was that sooner than expected the pregnant minds would give birth to bouncing baby “Revolutions” that would grow to see the end of slavery.

But sadly, the current train of events alerts that we may be traveling back to the past should the present attitude towards books and literature linger longer with us. It is for this fearful reason of returning to the past that the Poetry Market was opened!

The “Poetry Market” is a young people’s platform staged to share poetry, the powerful specie of the written word, in all its distinctive forms. The group aims at helping the youth build each other’s ability to write and present poetry by exchanging poems from across the globe. This, in reciprocating order, will help hold high the banner of poetry and the significance it has long held in the diversities of human heterogeneity.

The plights in African countries of the 21st Century have major links to the poor attitude towards the written word and high levels of illiteracy. It is therefore our hope that the “Poetry Market” will be a thought of change in the mind of that youth who thinks books had their importance yesterday or that child, chained in the darkness of ignorance, and programmed to think that his only hope is in following the masses with their back-bone of water, bending to the status quo! We hope that the Poetry Market will be a re-igniting of the almost dying flames of the written word!

So what are you waiting for? Come! Let us buy and sell poetry without price right here on the Poetry Market.

By: **Muunda Mudenda**