

This voice

by Doreen Birungi

I roar and I roar with a deep and a silent voice ... voice of a terrified silent woman.
A voice filled with terror!

I roar and I roar with a silent voice ... voice of a silent terrified woman
Tornadoes! Storms! And lightning!
Moving through broken families,
Families of broken women.

Silent voice of a terrified woman.
Mothers and sisters are no more than feathers
Yes, feathers to wipe the dust, dust due to battering, rape, and disempowerment.
Dis-empowerment is no empowerment so don't underestimate
A broken woman who is to maintain an acceptance of being a perfect woman or mother

Voice of a silent terrified woman
From deformation to disgrace
From disgrace to dishonour to debasement
From discomfiture to depression.

Voice of the silent terrified woman
Gender parity is not gender- disparity
Listen! The roaring silence
Are no replacement for women's agency?
Wake up! Respect! Prevent! Respond! Be exemplary!
Yes, I'm talking solutions and ending sexism against women
Ingrained prejudice against women is no foundation of an easement.
And it has to be now.

The Voice of a Silent terrified woman! Yes! Voice of a Silent terrified woman
The roaring voice?
And i would be tempted to be a terrifying woman - the roaring voice of a no-longer silent,
terrifying woman!

Doreen Birungi is completing a master's degree in gender studies at Makerere university in Uganda and works as a gender specialist at Sproutly Support Services (a Women-Consultancy firm, located in East Africa and Nigeria). She is passionate about gender, human rights activism, and feminism. Doreen is also a writer and has published pieces on menstrual health management, on gender-based violence against women in refugee settings, and on men's involvement in sexual and reproductive health during the 42-day lockdown in Uganda.