

This poem was written after hearing a young man's testimony. He struggled to understand who he was and why people hated him before they knew him. His father fled to the Congo during the genocide and never returned. His mother continuously apologized to others for her husband's doings. He wanted people to know him for what was inside, not the burdens his past shared with him.

"Who Am I?"

I am not my father's actions

I am not my mother's apologies

I am not my history's faults

I am not the labels kids spit at me

I am a man of God, a believer in forgiveness

I am a student, eager to learn and understand my history

I am a Rwandan, teaching mercy, forgiveness and love to others.