

Setting the Machete Aside

Rwanda was done, and I was done with Rwanda.

Killing started in April, and I couldn't forgive by July.

It was easier set my country aside.

So much happened, but now peace yields.

Conserve the peace that's grown, and celebrate Rwanda's life.

Celebrate that Rwanda unified.

I see those who killed my family, scarred my body, and still must teach forgiveness?

I teach my children to love, but sometimes only to spare them the burden of hate.

I meet those who killed my family, scarred my parents, and still we are all Rwandans.

I forgive them, and let them know to set the machete aside.

I was too young to raise a machete then, but I feel its weight now

The guilt of an unrepentant father, I'd set aside if I knew how.

I wish those who deny what happened would return from exile

I wish those who deny what happened would let us all reconcile.

Orphans learned love and charity, hopeful principles replacing parents.

This education saved Rwanda from itself, and helps me set the machete aside.

Unity became the lesson of Rwanda.

And education today means a tomorrow for Rwanda.

Education today brings peace

And peace today builds families.

Where peace and families reside,

The machete can be set aside,

And I can forgive despite

Life after the 7th of April.