

## I Overheard Your Name

*Agbomma Ekilibè eje olu*  
*Agbomma Ekilibè eje olu*  
*Agbomma Ekilibè eje olu*  
*Agbomma Ekilibè eje olu\**

I overheard you name  
through the ears of my longing heart  
I overheard your name  
through the cracks in the kitchen wall  
as the evening smoke  
stroked the cheeks of the setting sun  
and hurried noiselessly  
to roost in the darkening sky

\*Paragon of beauty whose admirer  
cannot find time for any other business

## In The Crackle of the Kitchen Fire

I clearly heard your name  
in the crackle of the kitchen fire  
in the volley of a thousand stars  
as mother stoked the fire  
with the left hand  
and with the right  
battled *bambara* beans  
to coax dinner  
out of the chatter  
of the pestle and the mortar.