

Speechless Mabira

My dog doesn't bark and doesn't bite!

Why doesn't my dog bark?

Big as it is...well-bred and fed,
trained right from a tender age.

My dog doesn't bark!

I have fed it bones and meat;
not forgetting the crispy mukene
mixed in the builder's favourite: posho
but it still doesn't bark.

My dog: a strong dog,
well-bred and body
built
and with a statue of a jaguar ready to pounce,
neither barks nor bites but only stares.
It goes into hiding as soon as it sees you!

It reminds me of the great Monalisa painting;
the artist had tried his best in vain
to make the artistic impressions;
but his Monalisa did not smile!

With questions and doubts;
he would be puzzled,
and now I'm asking;
Why doesn't my dog bark?

With bone in its foes,
My dog doesn't bite and doesn't bark!
-of what use is it anyway?

Shall it not bark for the speechless mabira?
When the 1986 beasts fought, they hid in the bushes of Luwero,
Shall you not have where to hide, when you run out of Kampala to the East?
Oh, maybe just maybe it is waiting for the days when there won't be
any rainwater for it to leak?
Oh, yes, maybe that may make sense in its case
Cause thirst and pain by then will be its case!

By Ssesanga Dennis Ernest
...a tribute to Mabira