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**Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies**

**Title**

A Page in the Album

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**Journal**

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 11(2)

**ISSN**

0041-5715

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**Publication Date**

1982

**DOI**

10.5070/F7112017245

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A PAGE IN THE ALBUM

By

Ezenwa-Ohaeto

Incisions in my memory  
And the whirling mind  
Slithers on Slippery life-slices.  
Reminders prompt  
My tactile hands to turn  
Brim full granary of Album pages,  
A harvest of heads.

Here

Innocence of dimpled cheeks  
stream with love.

There

Unfathomable passion of sultry mouth  
Wink beckoning eyes.

But animated mirages

Replicas on sterile paper  
Are empty tortoise shells:

a bundle of sighs  
do not make a smile  
a bundle of smiles  
do not make a laugh.

So a country

Turns its dog-eared pages  
of bullet torn history.

Here

dance starvation  
oozing with hate

There

Flit Gorgon tribalism  
shaking nineteen heads

And our Agbada\* Characters re-enact  
In bloody cyclic custom  
A morbid drama.

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\* *Agbada*: a traditional flowing robe particularly worn by politicians, the seemingly affluent citizens, and very important personalities including high public office holders.