

POETRY

Abdulrazaq Godwin Omeiza

The Rain and the Lost Tires

I once caught the rain with my bare hands.
Not a drop escaped me,
Each one a memory,
A cool thrill dripping down my arms,
Each thunderclap was a laugh we kept
In our hearts,
Tucked beneath our tongues like secret candy.

I rode tires through the streets,
Where the pavement hummed the song of freedom,
My legs flailing like the wings of a bird
That had no name for the sky,
And no fear of falling.

I sat on stacks of plastic chairs,
Wobbling like a fortress made of dreams,
An empire in a backyard.
The world was a giant and I its messenger,
Delighting in the tilt of my gaze.
When I close my right eye, I see a world with the left.
When I flipped and closed my left,
I see a different world with the right.
And laugh at the joke of seeing twice.

But now, the rain falls,
And my hands do not reach for it.
They run from it,
Chasing shelter like a man
Chasing shadows.
The tires are gone,
The streets too narrow for such flight.

I no longer sit on plastic chairs,
But in waiting rooms,
With grown people who have forgotten
How to laugh at their own tilt.
And the eyes I once opened,
To see the world from every angle,
Now, only blink in hesitation,
Wondering if I missed the right turn
Somewhere between the child I was
And the man who left him behind.

I still remember the rain,
But now, I only run from it.
The puddles are no longer my kingdom,
They are just wet shoes
And a cold I never invited.

Author's Note



Abdulrazaq Godwin Omeiza is a Nigerian poet, spoken word artist, and student advocate based in Ibadan, Oyo State. A Grade 11 student at Government College Ibadan, his work explores themes of justice, courage, identity, and human rights. He is the winner of the 2025 Wale Okediran at 70 National Poetry Competition, and his poems have been selected for publication in the *Caucasus Journal of Milton Studies* and the Mocking Owl Roost Literary Magazine. Passionate about education and youth empowerment, Abdulrazaq uses his voice to spark reform, inspire awareness, and leave lasting impressions through raw, purposeful storytelling.