

POETRY

Elvis Izuchukwu Uzuegbu

The Wars Within

My fort is unmanned.
Still, with unconscious devotion,
I drag my feet to the white altar,
Pour my worries on the marble floor.
For my path is shrouded with mist.
The snake's fang is buried in my skin.
The same skin I bathed with holy water.

Absurd! I worried over nothing.
When life's purpose sang in rhythm with me,
My dreams echoed with melodious enthusiasm.
When the sweetness of life kissed my lips,
Soft fragrance caressed my being.
I danced naked in the blessed rain,
My soul in warm embrace with nature.
It's all memories now.

Life's brutality intruded.
I got bloodied in senseless warring,
An amateur soldier fighting for a forgotten cause.
Fear digging into my soul like a deaf miner,
I'm left to fight in a profound void.
So, I drag my feet to the white altar,
Pour my worries on the marble floor.
But my heart sags still,
Heavy with unbelief.

Author's Note



Elvis Izuchukwu Uzuegbu is a 19-year-old undergraduate of Nursing Science at the University of Calabar in the Cross River State, Nigeria. As a campus writer, he is interested in exploring man's environment and his physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, and social welfare. In his free time, Elvis enjoys playing soccer, chess, philosophizing, and participating in community service.

His works include poems: *The Forest of Thorns*, *Street Child*, *Prophet of Doom*, *Wailing Mother*, and *Tears for My Country*. He has also written an essay entitled "Ethno-religious violence: A letter to African Youths" and a drama piece called *Ezeigbo*. This drama is based on the political structure and system of governance of the ancient Igbo tribe of Nigeria. *Ezeigbo* translates to 'Kings of Igbo,' and dramatizes the period when the tribe transitioned from several dictatorships to a republic and its eventual disintegration, paralleling the decline of the Old Roman Empire.

Elvis draws inspiration from a multicultural and religious background, and he is driven by his philosophy of making a positive impact and advocating for human rights through his writing.