

The National Library of Poetry

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VIP #P0438913-026

June 24, 1996

Wonderful verse!
Select Muhammad Usman's poem
for the 'Sound of Poetry.' -- CS

Muhammad Usman
OVC FUT PMB 65
Minna-Niger State,

'YES'

1/9/96

Re: Portraits of Life

This publisher's proof represents your poem as it is now scheduled to appear in print. Please carefully review the publisher's proof . . . check carefully for typographical errors . . . indicate any changes directly on the proof, and return it to us in the enclosed envelope. If your poem is correct as is, please initial the proof and return it without changes. Please note that you must certify the accuracy of this proof by making appropriate changes. Only initial the proof if everything is correct. By returning this proof, you authorize us to publish your poem with corrections, if necessary, as indicated below.

NOTE: This proof must be returned postmarked no later than July 26, 1996, so we can make our scheduled publication date. Poems must be 20 lines or less. Only one entry per contestant.

Plight Sunshine

Once upon the Earth, Serenity
Beneath the surface, waters
Precious minerals, solid, fluid and gaseous
Much of everything for human kind and all life
Gracious gifts of nature's abundance
Forth family, friendship, fish, farms, forests, fuels and falls
For life to flourish not to vanish and terminate
Listen, but not to me only automotive babel
Look about, oh! Man's civilization, shapes and all
Human faces, faeces, forces and farce
Sprawled mountains upon hills upon heaps
Excavations, dungeons, decrepit landscape scattering games
Blinking sewers, oily spillage, smoky skies and fiery rockets
Much to bring not milk only "Green House" heating muddy waters
These motions, missiles carrying pollution not pollination
Dignity wasted not watered by human devastation
Halt the degradation to guarantee longevity
Earth's resources spring existence, recycle
Yet again, the Environment for exploitation
Alas! Children gaze beyond the agenda, not horizon

Muhammad Dattijo Usman

1/9/96

Editor, POETRY

*This shall come to you
via the post. It came to
me only today - 2 months after
it left Baltimore 1/7/96. Please
accept the 2nd copy as certified
true copy pending the time
you receive the original by
post. I thank you for
everything. And I am truly
encouraged. My orders for
both the typed and the
will be made without change
in due course. Thank you
again.

as scheduled pub

1/9/96