

AFRICA HAIKU PRIZE 2021 RESULTS

AFRICAN CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE

shrine ritual
a toad's solo deviates
from the incantation

Gabriel Awuah Mainoo, Ghana

This haiku expresses the cultic belief system of people as it equally reinforces the worldview that religion is a group-related function. In fact, its simplicity complements its sharp but animative story it tells with some atmosphere of eeriness. Let's say it's the first light of a haiku genius that first meets the curious eyes of readers. The above poem holds its originality to a perfect observatory account much familiar to the story told although from the third person's point of view. The first phrase wakes up the unspoken concern but this could only lead the mind to a rather dry humor of an interceptive onomatopoeic 'incantation' of a toad. Yet, the subtlety of this haiku hides away in the twofold story it offers readers. This sets the poem up as a gem yet to be discovered again and again.

Adjei Agyei-Baah
February 2022

SECOND PRIZE

refugees' night--
the camp filled with battle cries
of mosquitoes

Anthony Itopa Obaro, Nigeria

I sort of smile at the inconvenient truth which lodges itself in-between this haiku. Factually, one needs not live, necessarily, at the peripheral sides of life itself to come into grim contact with the scenery poetically described. The inbuilt message seems the biggest particle of an untold story many war-torn countries, in and out of Africa know much like life itself. I sure feel the coming irony much painfully in the night-long feud between the displaced refugees and their unforgiving frenemies. Maybe, the refugees have long learned to put up with the rivalry since home itself is now but mowed down rubble. This haiku deserves its laurel. At the selection stage it warmly passes the scrutinous pick of all judges as well as their appraisals. However, the working story within slides off just slightly from the traditionally identified themes.

Justice Joseph Prah
February, 2022

THIRD PRIZE

rainy day
her thirst
for sunlight

Priscilla Arthur, Ghana

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

1.

Independence Day --
the chicks wander around
without mother hen

Oluwasegun Adesina, Nigeria

2.

misty morning
a thousand valleys
hide their secrets

Pralini Naidoo, South Africa

NON-AFRICAN CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE

pyramid shadow
an ant drags
the moth's wing

Alexander Shytkovskiy, Ukraine

The haiku “pyramid shadow” gives credence to one of the iconic edifices of African civilization and the proof thereof about the existence of a material culture of people. The juxtaposition between the moth's wing and the mere shadow of a pyramid may be imperfect, but this has only found reality in a poem. Thus, the ant may look tiny yet it's able to haul away a food far larger than its size. This may have turned the curiosity of the poet on to further observe and write. To me, the industriousness cum the resilience of the ant are the attractive sides of this haiku.

Justice Joseph Prah
February, 2022

SECOND PRIZE

dry riverbed
a boat in the mud awaits
rainy season

Zoran Doderovic, Serbia

The story of humanity is that of hope. The dream that all expectations would be met in the near future. It is this element, unspoken yet blatantly lying behind these images presented in this haiku that pulls one in and makes it deserving of its spot. It has the African story in it, which is the dry season. But what is striking is that we all know it's not the boat waiting for the rainy season. The shift of that need from humans to the boat prevents the writer from putting himself in the poem and yet succeeds in putting all of us in it, or at least the hope of a fishing community waiting on the rain.

Kwaku Feni Adow
February, 2022

THIRD PRIZE

jungle safari
all necks stretched up
towards a giraffe

Teji Sethi, India

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

(In No Particular Order)

1.

savanna at night
stars, stars, stars
and hyena eyes

Zelyko Funda Varazdin, Croatia

2.

Africa Day
an elephant's silhouette
drinks sunset

Richa Sharma, India

night snowfall -
 photos of the Sahara
 keep me warm

Helen Barysheva, Russia



DETAILS OF CONTEST

Judging Panel	Adjei Agyei-Baah, Emmanuel J. Kalusian, Celestine Nudanu, Justice Joseph Prah, Kwaku Feni Adow
Compiler	Kwaku Feni Adow (Africa Haiku Network, Secretary)
Participating Countries & Number	We received 406 haiku submissions from countries including: Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola, Tunisia, India, Serbia, Ukraine, Croatia, USA, UK, Canada, Romania, Italy, Germany, Philippines, The Netherlands, Australia, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Scotland, Poland, Belarus, Belgium, New Zealand, Russia, Hong-Kong, and France
African Category	
1st Prize	Gabriel Awuah Mainoo, Ghana
2nd Prize	Anthony Itopa Obaro, Nigeria
3rd Prize	Priscilla Arthur, Ghana
Honourable Mention	Oluwasegun Adesina, Nigeria
Honourable Mention	Pralini Naidoo, South Africa
Non -African Category	
1st Prize	Alexander Shytkovskiy, Ukraine
2nd Prize	Zoran Doderovic, Serbia
3rd Prize	Teji Sethi, India
Honourable Mention	Zelyko Funda Varazdin, Croatia
Honourable Mention	Richa Sharma, India
Honourable Mention	Helen Barysheva, Russia