

Andaiye

Early Morning

*Awake
early morning, June 08
somehow
with a sense of anticipation
indeed exhilaration -
a day of celebration
of a life so honoured*

*The heavy morning clouds
keep lifting
their darkness brightened
giving hope
for a brilliant day*

Just Later

*True to expectation
the beflowered
Convention hall
(in place of Promenade gardens)
spoke to the welcome of women first
then male adherents
to*

Andaiye

*Tributes
by brilliant women
from several countries -
Asha, Margaret, Roberta
and Guyana - Joy, Halima, Denise, Ulele
committed to sustaining
the productive activism
represented in
*Andaiye**

*their inspiration
their leader;
her dynamism*

*their growth
her achievement
their fulfilment*

*more than the sense of loss
there was
the revitalisation
of the spirit
body, soul
a renewal of vision
for all attending
to realise*

*Regrettably
I exited too early
this fulfilling experience
unconventional spiritual expression
regretting
not hearing the praises yet to be sung
by the choir of other
dedicated women in particular
- Mitzi, Vikki, Iyabo -
conducted by the
commanding baton
of the inimitable, all embracing
Jocelyn*

*departing too soon
knowing that
this was no end,
but a new beginning
of
Andaiye's life
of the lives of those
who knew her
of all those who attended
her celebration*

*this was a new day
of vibrancy
inspiring commitment
by all the witnesses
to live for the purpose*

*of fulfilment:
of transcending racial, gender
and cultural boundaries
and bridging the political chasm
in paying our debt -
to
Andaiye*

*Champion for
mothers, sisters, daughters
like
Monica, Vanda, Alissa and Karen
Mentor to
fathers, sons, brothers
like
Rupert, Tacuma, Kevin, Abbyssinian
and me*

*Earl John
June 8, 2019*

