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HONOURABLE TEACHER

SEITHY L. CHACHAGE*

1. Honourable teacher
   My friend
     Will you understand this
     Will you
   If you won't
   You ought to be hit
   Knocked hard on the head
   Yes
   These are confused thoughts
   Writings of a boy
   Sick with life
     Knocked with big volumes of
     Bourgeois knowledge
     confused
     In a chaotic state
   A life hungry brat

2. Good
   So you don't understand
   Mmmh
   Ask me
     Two times two equals what
   I know it is one
   fool
   The teacher says I am wrong
     What
     Wrong shit!
     You black headed pig
   I am wrong Jesus!
   damn it
   What is the answer then
     Look here son
   The answer is

* Form Six Arts 3, Mzumbe Secondary School.
How
    Why four and not ten
How do you know that
How do you know that there is four
How do you know
    that it exists
Tell me
    You don't know eh
And what knowledge is that
Y e e s
    You crammed
        from one to infinity
What a fool
    Yes you are a fool
        because
You can't prove it
    You can't give me any answer
even if I asked you
    To prove your existence
3. Tell me
    How do you know
        that you are alive
You can't
    You don't even know yourself
I am asking you
    My teacher
Honourable teacher
        with a cap of degrees
        M.A., B.A., B.Sc., M.Sc. . . .
What do you know of life
    No!
    You don't know
I suppose you are so green
    You are nuts
Your brain is dirty
        full of stinking water
Do you know what life means
4. Why
You teach people
    You make them cram
You make them pass exams
bourgeois exams
  they must cram
  what you teach
You don't teach them
to be critical
You give them
  They take
So the process goes
  You are right
And they are wrong
  You discipline
  And they are disciplined
Say
  is that education
    Why can't you teach them
about dialectics
about materialism
    and
    do you know what these things are
No you don't
  They taught you
and you teach
  They dipped you in civilisation
    a pit full of shit
and shamelessly
  You smear that shit
In the brains of innocent people
  You cause brain decadence
  You are a disease

5. Say
  You call yourself an educator
  eeh
    Did you ever ask yourself
    What type of education you got
Ask a peasant
  What education means
He will tell you;
  "Get educated
    and become a minister"
Exploit people
  Does this liberate people
  Does your knowledge do so

6. Ask me anything
Go to the people
Ask them what they eat
wear the rags they wear
puff the “Goso”+ they smoke
Analyse that
And that is education
Teach the people
about themselves
Teach them to solve problems
Teach them to be critical
Teach me, all the people
to be critical
Teach us to be extreme leftists
not zombies

7. You are confused sir
excuse me
Honourable you
I know you couldn’t listen
You were thinking about your wife
fanning herself
Powdering her armpits
You were thinking
of the delicious food
ready for you
You were drawing a mental picture
of the toybus
You bought for your son
Imported from ENGLAND
you were thinking of big money
promotion
I know
Money means a lot to you
So long as you corrupt people
With your lousy knowledge
You are content
You’ll be earning more money
The sweat of the peasants
Used to corrupt their own sons
For how long will this go on
Say teacher
Say you

8. You are ashamed

+ Goso—home-made tobacco.
I know that
because you have been found wrong
You are supposed to be right
not so honourable teacher
Yes
that is it
Say sir
Will you beat me
Will you sack me out of school
Will you
Because
I have spat on your face
but I say
Down with you
Down with your bourgeois education
We want to learn
How to solve problems
That is education
We want to learn of the people
Eh
did you understand that
if you didn’t, drop dead
It won’t be a loss to us
we down trodden