

CELESTINE KABONGE

COLLECTED THOUGHTS

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I

NECESSITY

When we are young, we are taught that our relatives are our world.

As we grow, life tests that belief.

When the storms come, few—sometimes none—are there.

So we adjust. We learn. We survive.

Later, they ask why we became distant.

I didn't change.

I adapted—because you weren't there when I needed you most.

BECOMING

I was wrong about one belief that shaped my whole life: that I would only become someone after achieving something.

For years, I delayed living, thinking real life would begin after a degree, a success, or some milestone.

I've learned, the hard way, that life isn't waiting for us—it is lived in the moments we have now.

Each day holds its own weight, its own meaning.

I must live today fully, as the person I am becoming, not as someone waiting to arrive.

I must build, create, and be—right now, not later.

Life is meant to be lived, every single day.

BIG VISIONS

They always say the cemetery is a place where many dreams were buried before they could be lived.

I think it is easier to succeed when our vision is narrow than when it is big.

Big visions invite delay.

We stop thinking in days and start thinking in years.

We stop focusing on small improvements and wait for outstanding ones.

Maybe this also explains why it sometimes seems easier to succeed with little education than with much of it.

Education widens the vision, and a wider vision can reduce our willingness to implement things ourselves.

IV

INTERFACES (I)

It takes effort to be original.

Everything around a person
is meant to be an interface
which they should implement.

We end up implementing
functions we are not meant to,
tightly coupled
with who we are not.

That is why we are stressed.

I am not meant
to implement interfaces.

v

INTERFACES (II)

I am meant
to form strong interfaces
for my family and society.
It is funny
how we act original,
when we are all implementing interfaces—
education systems, religions,
everything meant to control
how we create our own world.

VI

PERMISSIONS

We go to school

Just to get permission to go to college.

We go to college

Just to get permission to work.

We work

Just to get permission to get what we love.

We fight for what we love

Just to get permission to live.

We seek permission to live

Just to get more days

To chase our purpose

However,

Purpose depends on none of the above to be accomplished

VII

MIND AND BODY

It's so underrated how a body can adhere to what the mind has already decided.

The best way is to let the mind go ahead of the body, not the body ahead of the mind.

VIII

THE VOW

As the urge to dial her number occupied my mind,
Her final words echoed in my heart.

“Don’t invest your time for my sake.
I refuse to stand as a tall wall to love.
I implore you to make one solemn vow:
Never let a substance ever touch your lips again.”

Little did she realize,
On those silent nights,
When my calls went unanswered,
I drowned my sorrows in the very thing she pleaded me to forsake.

IX

THOUGHTFULNESS

I think I am a very thoughtful person when I'm on substances.

I love how I think about you

When all my senses are numbed.

x

IMPERFECT LOVE

I think I am imperfect when it comes to love.

I feel all the butterflies.

I can feel completely obsessed with your moves.

It can seem real

It only feels that way when I'm on something.

XI

DARK MOMENTS

I was feeling so down.

I just...

just wondered how.

I had to take one,

then another.

Suddenly, all I feel

is myself again.

Sadly, this isn't what's going to last.

XII

WISHES

I wish I could take everyone to this level,
Where rejection feels like a ladder.

You might think you said you don't need me,
But what I actually heard
Was that I need to take myself to higher levels—

Levels where you will never freely
Get to experience my presence.

XIII

OBSERVATIONS

There are no more previous things
Than watching people,
Just watching what they say,
How they silently walk and disappear like nothing,
How they act like ghosts,
Like nothing really goes on in their lives like ours and they just disappear,
Disappear into their own darkness.

XIV

ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

Sometimes I wonder why,
Why only when I'm in my abnormal conditions
Am madly in love with you,
But you know it's hard to say it
How I actually feel,
When all my eyes see are moving objects,
When you are the only one standing,
Immovable by the chaos of the universe.

XV

WARS

Wars teach me something,
They don't care about what's right for everyone.
They only care about what's right for them. Always.

That's life.

You won't be judged because you were right.
You'll be judged by how you made people feel right about you.

OVERTHINKING

Sometimes I do think
that is what overthinking actually is.
But in reality, whatever can be thought
is not just something to let pass.
By engaging with thoughts,
as if they are real entities rather than illusions,
one can attract anything
anything that can be imagined while living.
Thoughts are powerful forces.
One has to learn to overthink without overthinking