

you resemble my father's younger brother

Siphosethu Phikelela

Uyafana noTanci

Undikhumbuz'utat'endingazange ndambona

Uhamba nembali emilenzeni yakho ayicimeki

Makube unlilo owaphuma kuwo uvutha naphakade

Ndiyatsha ziitlantsi ezisemehlweni akho

you remind me of my faceless father
 your walk depicts the inerasable history written on your legs
 the fire that birthed you burns forever
 I am burning from the sparks sent by your eyes
 I am trying to put out a fire I didn't start
 I am water
 you refuse to part ways with me

I
 don't want to lose myself
 my mother-in-law says I must bear the treatment she
 endured from your father in 1990

it's 2017
 my eye is out of its socket
 my mother-in-law says the church will fix everything
 but when she rebukes demons she forgets your name
 the bond of *Inimba*¹ must be sentenced –
 it's one of the perpetrators of women abuse
 the gall! punching me with fists
 and then call me *Imbokodo*²!
 I am an open homestead
 you, a dog even during a thunderstorm

1. *Inimba* - the connection between mother and child through labour.

2. *Imbokodo* means "rock" and refers to a popular proverb: "Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo!" (You Strike the Women, You Strike the Rock!).